

## Film News: Terrence Malick's 'The Tree of Life' Leads 2011 Chicago Film Critics Association Nominees

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on December 16, 2011 - 8:03am

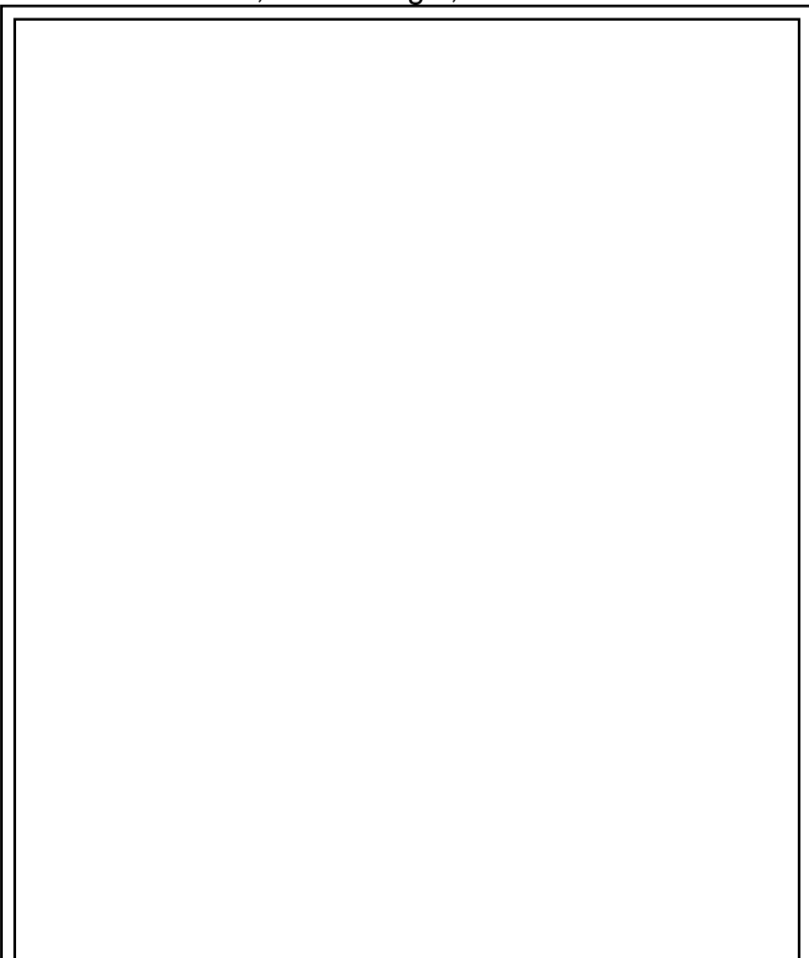
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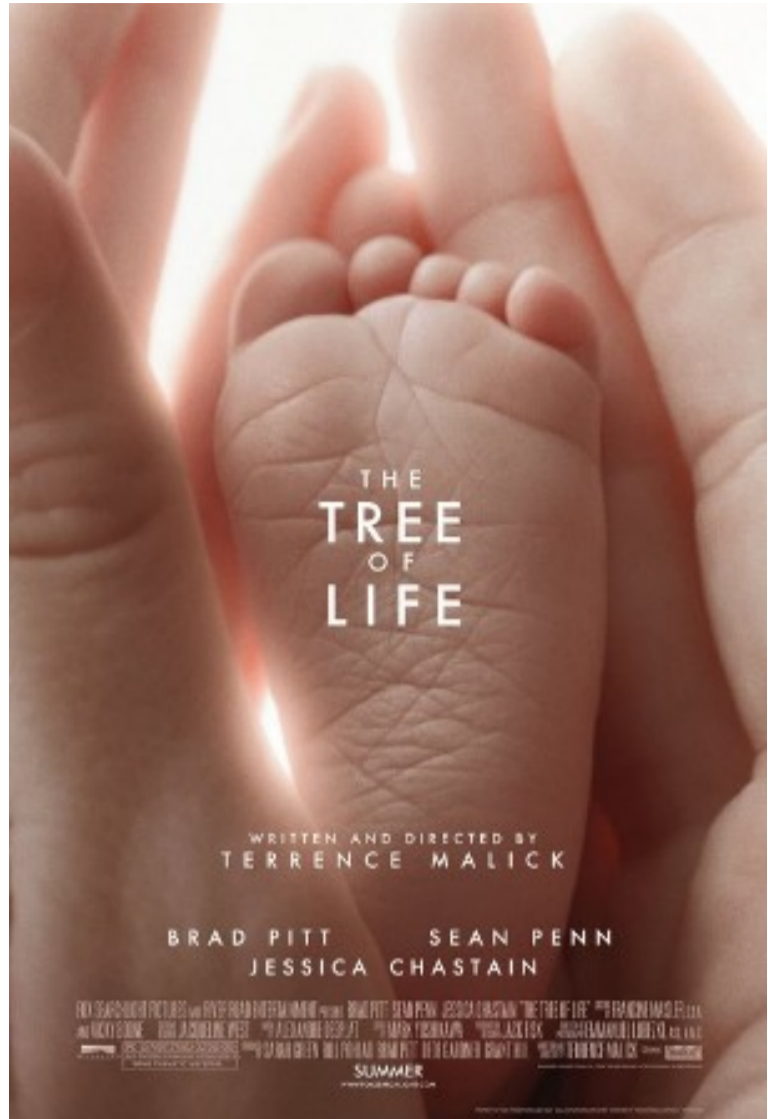
CHICAGO – It may have had a controversial journey to the big screen, but the Chicago Film Critics Association thought that Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life" was worth the wait, nominating it today for a leading seven awards, including Best Picture, Supporting Actor (Brad Pitt), Supporting Actress (Jessica Chastain), Director, Original Screenplay, Cinematography, and Promising Performer (Hunter McCracken). Joining "The Tree of Life" in the race for Best Picture is "The Descendants" and "Drive," each with six nominations total, and "The Artist" and "Hugo." each with five.

Overall, a remarkable 43 films were chosen as some of the best of 2011, with other multiple nominees including "Martha Marcy May Marlene" with four nods, and six diverse films granted a pair of nominations — "A Separation," "Melancholia," "My Week With Marilyn," "Shame," "The Help," and "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

As they often do, the CFCA made some inspired choices, including several unexpected picks. Brad Pitt missed out on a lead nomination for "Moneyball," but popped up in Best Supporting Actor for "The Tree of Life." After a remarkable critical campaign that allowed the film another appraisal, Anna Paquin was chosen as a finalist for her work in "Margaret." And while some have selected the notable supporting performances by Jessica Chastain in "Take Shelter" and "The Help," the CFCA selected "The Tree of Life" as her best. Finally, the great Werner Herzog will compete with himself with two entries for Best Documentary, but face a challenge from the Chicago-based "The Interrupters."

The winners of the 2011 Chicago Film Critics Awards will be announced on Monday, December 19th, 2011. Come back for all the news and stay tuned for more details about the first awards ceremony to be held by the group since 2001, including appearances by Shirley MacLaine, James Earl Jones, Jason Segel, and more.





The Tree of Life  
Photo credit: Fox Searchlight

**BEST PICTURE**

The Artist  
The Descendants  
Drive  
Hugo  
The Tree of Life

**BEST ACTOR**

George Clooney, The Descendants  
Jean Dujardin, The Artist  
Michael Fassbender, Shame  
Gary Oldman, Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy  
Michael Shannon, Take Shelter

**BEST ACTRESS**

Kirsten Dunst, Melancholia  
Elizabeth Olsen, Martha Marcy May Marlene  
Anna Paquin, Margaret  
Meryl Streep, The Iron Lady  
Michelle Williams, My Week With Marilyn

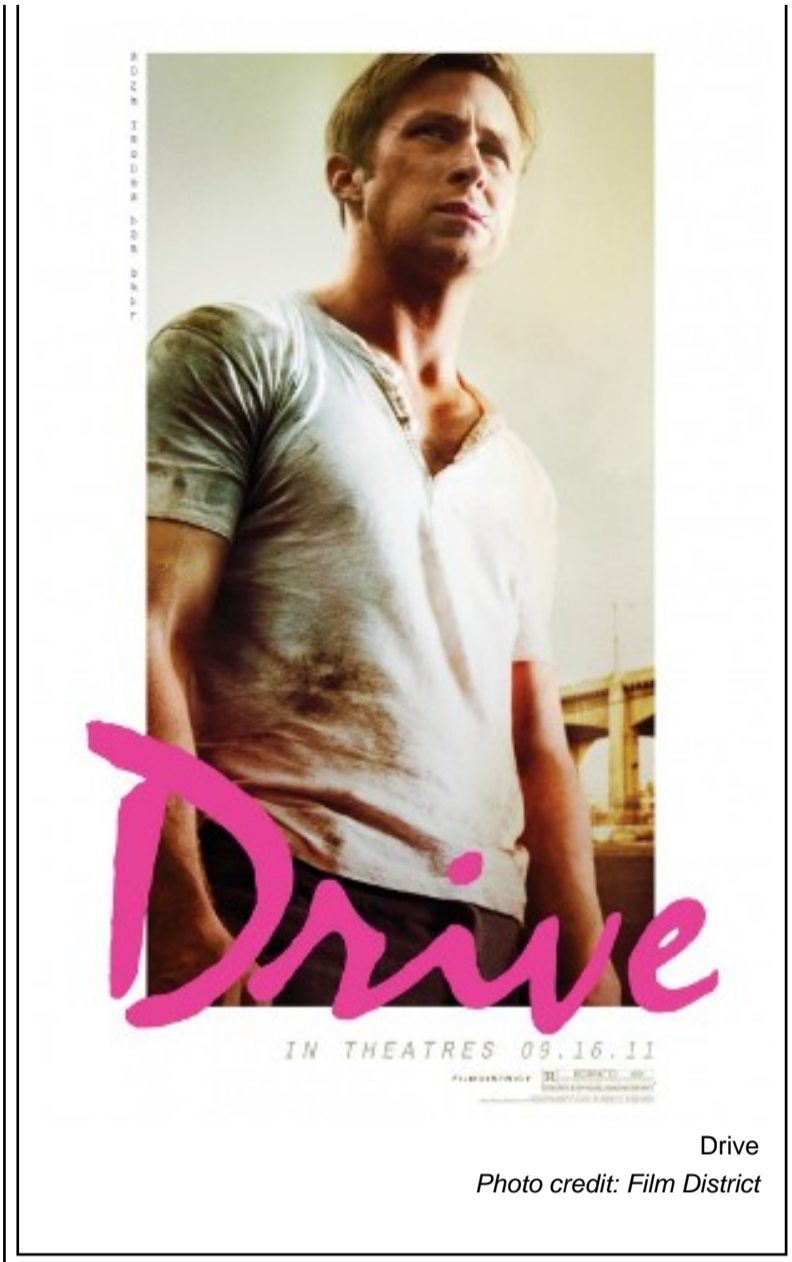
**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR**

Albert Brooks, Drive  
Nick Nolte, Warrior  
Patton Oswalt, Young Adult  
Brad Pitt, The Tree of Life  
Christopher Plummer, Beginners

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS**

Jessica Chastain, The Tree of Life  
Melissa McCarthy, Bridesmaids  
Carey Mulligan, Shame  
Octavia Spencer, The Help  
Shailene Woodley, The Descendants





**BEST DIRECTOR**

Michel Hazanavicius, *The Artist*  
Terrence Malick, *The Tree of Life*  
Alexander Payne, *The Descendants*  
Nicolas Winding Refn, *Drive*  
Martin Scorsese, *Hugo*

**BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY**

*The Descendants* by Alexander Payne, Nat Faxon, & Jim Rash  
*Drive* by Hossein Amini  
*Hugo* by John Logan  
*Moneyball* by Steven Zaillian & Aaron Sorkin  
*Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* by Bridget O'Connor & Peter Straughan

**BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY**

*The Artist* by Michel Hazanavicius  
*Martha Marcy May Marlene* by Sean Durkin  
*Midnight in Paris* by Woody Allen  
*A Separation* by Asghar Farhadi  
*The Tree of Life* by Terrence Malick

**BEST ANIMATED FILM**

*The Adventures of Tintin*  
*Arthur Christmas*  
*Puss in Boots*  
*Rango*  
*Winnie the Pooh*

**BEST DOCUMENTARY**

*Cave of Forgotten Dreams*  
*The Interrupters*  
*Into the Abyss*  
*Pina*  
*Project Nim*  
*Tabloid*





A Separation

Photo credit: Sony Pictures Classics

#### BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

- Incendies
- In a Better World
- A Separation
- The Skin I Live In
- Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives

#### BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

- Newton Thomas Sigel, Drive
- Robert Richardson, Hugo
- Manuel Alberto Claro, Melancholia
- Emmanuel Lubezki, The Tree of Life
- Janusz Kaminski, War Horse

#### BEST SCORE

- Ludovic Bourque, The Artist
- Cliff Martinez, Drive
- Trent Reznor & Atticus Ross, The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo
- The Chemical Brothers, Hanna
- Howard Shore, Hugo

#### MOST PROMISING PERFORMER

- Liana Liberato, Trust
- Brit Marling, Another Earth
- Hunter McCracken, The Tree of Life
- Elizabeth Olsen, Martha Marcy May Marlene
- Shailene Woodley, Descendants, The

#### MOST PROMISING FILMMAKER

- J.C. Chandor, Margin Call
- Simon Curtis, My Week With Marilyn
- Drake Doremus, Like Crazy
- Sean Durkin, Martha Marcy May Marlene
- Tate Taylor, The Help

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