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## **Oscar® Nominations Highlight Films Honored by Heartland Truly Moving Pictures**

*Three Heartland Film Festival Award-winning short films honored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences®, seven Truly Moving Picture Award winners also nominated.*

**INDIANAPOLIS, IND.** – Nominees for this year’s Academy Awards® were announced this morning, with nine films honored by Heartland Truly Moving Pictures making the final list. The Heartland Film Festival is proud to be a qualifying film festival for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ Annual Academy Awards® in the Short Films category. This means that the recipient of the Festival’s Grand Prize for Best Short Film will qualify for consideration in the Short Films category without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

Heartland is pleased to announce that the 2012 Heartland Film Festival Grand Prize for Best Short Film winner, “Head Over Heels,” directed by Timothy Reckart, is on the nomination list, along with two other Heartland Film Festival Award-winning short films.

“We had over 830 short films submitted to the Heartland Film Festival in 2012,” said Artistic Director Tim Irwin, “so to have three of our seven Festival Award-winning short films nominated by the Academy really highlights the artistic integrity of our selection process, and is a huge milestone for the Festival.”

The three nominated short films are:

- “Head Over Heels” – 2012 Heartland Film Festival Grand Prize for Best Short Film  
*Nominated for Best Short Film, Animated*  
After many years of marriage, Walter and Madge have grown apart: he lives on the floor and she lives on the ceiling. When Walter tries to reignite their old romance, their equilibrium comes crashing down and the couple that cannot agree which way is up must find a way put their marriage back together.

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- “Buzkashi Boys” – 2012 Heartland Film Festival Award Winner  
*Nominated for Best Short Film, Live Action*  
Set against the dramatic landscape of contemporary Afghanistan and the national sport of Buzkashi—a brutal game of horse polo played with a dead goat —“Buzkashi Boys” tells the compelling coming-of-age story of two best friends; a charismatic street urchin and a defiant blacksmith’s son, both of whom struggle to realize their dreams.
- “Inocente” – 2012 Heartland Film Festival Award Winner  
*Nominated for Best Documentary Short*  
At 15, Inocente refuses to let her dream of becoming an artist be caged by being an undocumented immigrant forced to live homeless for the last nine years. Color is her personal revolution and its sweep on her canvasses creates a world that looks nothing like her own dark past.

Beyond the independent films nominated within the Short Films category, Heartland Truly Moving Pictures has honored many of 2012’s nominated theatrically-released films with its Truly Moving Picture Award (TMPA). By bestowing the TMPA seal to honored films, Heartland allows studios and distributors to inform audiences of a film’s transformative power and appeal. Oscar®-nominated films include:

- “Lincoln” – Walt Disney Pictures  
*Twelve nominations: Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Cinematography, Costume Design, Best Director, Film Editing, Music (Original Score), Production Design, Sound Mixing and Writing (Adapted Screenplay)*  
In a nation divided by war and the strong winds of change, President Abraham Lincoln pursues a course of action designed to end the war, unite the country and abolish slavery.
- “Les Misérables” – Universal Pictures  
*Eight nominations: Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Costume Design, Makeup and Hairstyling, Music (Original Song), Production Design, Sound Mixing*  
Set against the backdrop of 19th-century France, “Les Misérables” tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption—a timeless testament to the endurance of the human spirit.
- “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey” – Warner Bros.  
*Three nominations: Makeup and Hairstyling, Production Design, Visual Effects*  
This adventure follows the journey of Bilbo Baggins, who is swept into an epic quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor from the fearsome Dragon Smaug.
- “Brave” – Disney•Pixar  
*Nominated for Animated Feature*  
Determined to make her own path in life, Princess Merida defies a custom that brings chaos to her kingdom. Granted one wish, Merida must rely on her bravery and her archery skills to undo a beastly curse.

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- “Chasing Ice” – Submarine Deluxe  
*Nominated for Music (Original Song)*  
Within months of his first trip to Iceland, photographer James Balog conceived the boldest expedition of his life: The Extreme Ice Survey. With a band of young adventurers in tow, Balog began deploying revolutionary time-lapse cameras across the brutal Arctic to capture a multi-year record of the world’s changing glaciers.
- “Moonrise Kingdom” – Focus Features  
*Nominated for Writing (Original Screenplay)*  
Set on an island off the coast of New England in the 1960s, a young boy and girl fall in love and are moved to run away together. Various factions of the town mobilize to search for them and the town is turned upside down—which might not be such a bad thing.
- “Wreck-It Ralph” – Walt Disney Pictures  
*Nominated for Animated Feature*  
For decades, Ralph has been overshadowed by Fix-It Felix, Jr., the good-guy star of their game who always gets to save the day. Tired of playing the role of a bad guy, Ralph takes matters into his own massive hands and sets off on a journey across the arcade through multiple generations of video games to prove he’s got what it takes to be a hero.

Congratulations to all the nominees, whose films have inspired, educated and engaged audiences throughout 2012.

### **About Heartland Truly Moving Pictures**

*Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a nonprofit arts organization, seeks to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. Its flagship event, the Heartland Film Festival®, launched in 1991 and runs each October in Indianapolis, screening independent films from around the world. Each year, the Festival awards more than \$145,000 in cash prizes and presents its Festival Awards to the top-judged submissions. Heartland has awarded more than \$2.5 million to support filmmakers during the last 20 years. The organization’s Truly Moving Picture Award was created to honor films released theatrically that align with Heartland’s mission. By bestowing this award seal to honored films, the award allows studios and distributors to inform audiences of a film’s transformative power and appeal. Heartland is also dedicated to cultivating youth, and thus created the Heartland Institute to provide innovative educational and outreach programs that enrich the minds and lives of youth and aspiring filmmakers. Heartland shares inspiring films year-round throughout the community via the Heartland Roadshow. For more information, visit [TrulyMovingPictures.org](http://TrulyMovingPictures.org).*

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