

Awards for UK films and British talent in 2009

UK Film Council Research and Statistics Unit

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Awards for UK films and talent

UK films and British individuals won 36 major academy and festival awards in 2009. The awards ceremonies and film festivals included in this measure are the Academy Awards®, the BAFTA Film Awards and the major international film festivals (Berlin, Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and Venice). The 36 awards won by UK films and British talent represent 17% of the total number available (awards specific to foreign nationals or films, for example the Toronto International Film Festival's award for Best Canadian Film, are not included in the present analysis). The 36 awards to UK films and talent in 2009 is four more than were won in 2008, when UK films and British talent won 32 awards (15% of the total number available in 2008).

In 2009 the UK film *Slumdog Millionaire* was the most successful film at both the Academy® and the BAFTA awards. This film won six awards for UK talent, including Best Film, Best Director and Best Cinematography at both of these ceremonies (it also won a further two Academy® awards and one other BAFTA award, all of which went to A.R. Rahman, who is not British). Kate Winslet was also successful at the Academy® Awards and the BAFTAs, winning the Best Leading Actress award at both ceremonies for her role in *The Reader*. The documentary *Man on Wire* followed its 2008 success at the Sundance Film Festival by being awarded the 2009 Oscar® for Best Documentary Feature. This film was also given an Outstanding British Film award at the BAFTAs. At the BAFTAs, the Carl Foreman Award for Special Achievement by a British Director, Writer or Producer in their First Feature Film went to Steve McQueen for his film *Hunger*, and Noel Clarke won the Orange Rising Star Award.

Nine of the 36 awards to UK films and talent were won by females. As mentioned above, Kate Winslet won two best actress awards for *The Reader*, and Charlotte Gainsbourg won Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival for her role in *Antichrist*. British female directors and their films also fared well in 2009. Esther Campbell won the BAFTA for Best Short Film for *September* and Andrea Arnold was awarded the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for *Fish Tank*. Four awards were won by British female directors at the Sundance Festival. Kim Longinotto won the Grand Jury Prize – World Cinema - Documentary for *Rough Aunties*, Havana Marking won two prizes, the Directing Award - World Cinema – Documentary and the Audience Award - World Cinema – Documentary, for *Afghan Star*, and Sam Taylor-Wood received a Short Filmmaking Award -Honourable Mention for *Love You More*.

Also at the Sundance Film Festival, the Audience Award - World Cinema – Dramatic was presented to Lone Scherfig for *An Education*. This has not been counted in the nine awards to female talent, as Lone Scherfig is not British. It has been included as one of the 36 awards, however, as the award is for the film, rather than for an individual, and *An Education* is a UK film.

At the Venice Film Festival in 2009, British actor Colin Firth was awarded the Volpi Cup – Best Actor for his role in *A Single Man*.

Table 1, shows a complete list of the 36 awards made to UK films and British talent at the major awards ceremonies and film festivals.

Table 1 UK award winners, 2009

Award ceremony/festival	Award	Recipient	Title
Academy Awards® 22 February 2009	Best Motion Picture of the Year	Christian Colson	Slumdog Millionaire
	Best Performance by an Actress in a leading role	Kate Winslet	The Reader
	Best Achievement in Directing	Danny Boyle	Slumdog Millionaire
	Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material Previously Produced or Published	Simon Beaufoy	Slumdog Millionaire
	Best Achievement in Cinematography	Anthony Dod Mantle	Slumdog Millionaire
	Best Achievement in Costume Design	Michael O'Connor	The Duchess
	Best Achievement in Sound Mixing	Ian Tapp, Richard Pryke (with Resul Pookutty)	Slumdog Millionaire
	Best Achievement in Editing	Chris Dickens	Slumdog Millionaire
	Best Documentary, Features	James Marsh, Simon Chinn	Man on Wire
BAFTA Film Awards 8 February 2009	Best Film	Christian Colson	Slumdog Millionaire
	Leading Actress	Kate Winslet	The Reader
	Director	Danny Boyle	Slumdog Millionaire
	Original Screenplay	Martin McDonagh	In Bruges
	Adapted Screenplay	Simon Beaufoy	Slumdog Millionaire
	Cinematography	Anthony Dod Mantle	Slumdog Millionaire
	Costume Design	Michael O'Connor	The Duchess
		Glenn Freemantle, Richard Pryke, Tom Sayers, Ian Tapp (with Resul Pookutty)	Slumdog Millionaire
	Sound	Chris Dickens	Slumdog Millionaire
	Editing	Chris Dickens	Slumdog Millionaire
	Short Film	Esther Campbell	September
			Wallace and Gromit in "A Matter of Loaf and Death"
	Short Animation	Nick Park, Steve Pegg, Bob Baker	
	Outstanding British Film	James Marsh, Simon Chinn	Man on Wire
	Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema	Pinewood and Shepperton Studios	
	The Carl Foreman Award for Special Achievement by a British Director, Writer or Producer in their First Feature Film	Steve McQueen	Hunger
	Orange Rising Star Award	Noel Clarke	
	Academy Fellowship	Terry Gilliam	
Berlin International Film Festival 5-15 February 2009	Silver Bear, Best Short Film	Daniel Elliott	Jade
	Prize of the Ecumenical Jury – Special Mention	Richard Loncraine	My One and Only
Cannes Film Festival 13-24 May	Jury Prize	Andrea Arnold	Fish Tank
	Best Actress	Charlotte Gainsbourg	Antichrist
Sundance Film Festival 15-25 January 2009	Grand Jury Prize – World Cinema – Documentary	Kim Longinotto	Rough Aunties
	Directing Award - World Cinema – Documentary	Havana Marking	Afghan Star
	World Cinema Screen Writing Award	Guy Hibbert	Five Minutes of Heaven
	Audience Award - World Cinema – Documentary	Havana Marking	Afghan Star
	Audience Award - World Cinema – Dramatic	Lone Scherfig	An Education
	Short Filmmaking Award - Honorable Mention	Sam Taylor-Wood	Love You More
Venice Film Festival 2-12 September 2009	Volpi Cup – Best Actor	Colin Firth	A Single Man

Source: UK Film Council

Note: No awards were made to British talent or films at Toronto in 2009.

Notes

1. Data were obtained from the Academy Awards® and BAFTA websites, the websites of the individual named festivals and the Internet Movie Database (IMDb). British winners were identified from information acquired from a wide range of public sources.

2. Definitions:

A **UK film** is a film that has been certified as British by the DCMS or by the Certification Unit of the UK Film Council (acting on the authority of the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport) or which is a *de facto* UK film by virtue of being made in whole or part in the UK by a UK production company.

An individual is considered to be **British** either by virtue of having been born in the UK or by having gained British Citizenship.

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