

MOVIES

Director boosts Oscar chances for 'Roma'

Patrick Ryan
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — "Roma" is one of the very best films you're likely to see this year. But how far can it go in a jam-packed 2019 Oscar race?

That's the question awards prognosticators have been asking since the movie premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in August and brought audiences to their feet at the Toronto and Telluride fests before landing at the New York Film Festival over the weekend.

On paper, "Roma" has almost everything working against it: For starters, it's a black-and-white, Spanish-language drama with English subtitles. The two-hour-plus film has no recognizable stars in the United States and charts a year in the life of a live-in maid named Cleo (played by Yalitza Aparicio, a first-time actress), who works for an upper-middle-class family in 1970s Mexico. It will be released Dec. 14 in select theaters and on Netflix.



"Roma" will be released Dec. 14 in select theaters and on Netflix. CARLOS SOMONTE

But "Roma" has a silver bullet in Alfonso Cuarón, the visionary filmmaker behind 2013's "Gravity," whose credits also include "Children of Men," "Y Tu Mama Tambien" and "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Cuarón, 56, has long been beloved by critics

and industry peers as one of Hollywood's "Three Amigos" along with fellow Mexican directors Alejandro G. Iñárritu ("Birdman") and Guillermo del Toro ("The Shape of Water"). Cuarón has described "Roma" as his most deeply personal film yet, developed from his memories growing up in Mexico City and based on his childhood baby sitter.

"We were a family together," Cuarón has said of the woman who inspired Cleo. "When you grow up with someone you love, you don't discuss their identity. ... I forced myself to see as this woman, a member of the lower classes, from the indigenous population. ... This gave me a point of view I had never had before."

There was not a dry eye in the house by the end of the film's screening at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall Saturday afternoon, which was introduced by surprise guest del Toro in Cuarón's absence.

"'Roma' is, for me, the culmination of Alfonso's career so far," del Toro said. "I said to him: 'This is not only your best movie, it's one of my top five (favorite) movies of all time. But don't get big-headed — it's No. 5.'"

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CROSSWORD
EDITED Fred Piscop
BY Gail Grabowski

WHEN IN ENGLAND

- ACROSS**
- Flower with floating pads
 - Answered a charge, in court
 - Many a reggae artist
 - Drink with a polar bear mascot
 - Part of a tire swing
 - Leading the pack
 - Pilates class needs
 - Tennis great Nastase
 - Colorful salamanders
 - Sherry in a blue bottle
 - College applicant, usually
 - Install, as a new senator
 - ___ fly (RBI producer)
 - Coolidge with two Grammys
 - Playpen toy
 - Core muscles, briefly
 - Marinated steak
 - Traveler's reservation
 - Place to soak
 - Symbol of bondage
 - Footwear with closed lacing
 - Cotillion attendee, for short
 - "We build. We fight" military member
 - Jannings, the first Oscar winner
 - Play the wrong ball, say
 - Volvo competitor, once
 - Meeting handout
 - Nyquist and Justify, for two
 - Varnish ingredient
 - Flag down
 - The Bee Gees, e.g.
- DOWN**
- Trunk attachments
 - "It matters to me"
 - Allow to join
 - Boot camp affirmative
 - In advance of
 - Hang in a hammock
 - Most Michener novels
 - Fairway mower maker
 - Didn't pay up front
 - Subtle "Excuse me..."
 - Create seams
 - Ankle pic, perhaps
 - Wikipedia's lack
 - Work up a sweat
 - Be deserving of
 - Left one's seat
 - How great minds think, it's said
 - Fanzine figure
 - Workers with antennae
 - Have a go at
 - Left one's seat
 - Square-muzzled dog
 - To this point
 - "What an idiot I am!"
 - Chamber music woodwind
 - Out-of-control crowd
 - Holds a grudge against
 - Highly prized
 - Sent via PC, perhaps
 - Speak silently
 - Post-Mardi Gras
 - Can't stomach
 - How toys may be rated
 - Full of moxie
 - Towels off
 - In unison
 - Gaming table "bones"
 - Bit of deceit
 - Prince Harry's hair color
 - Prohibition ___
 - Financially secure

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
17				18				19					
20			21					22					
23					24				25	26	27		
			28			29			30	31			
32	33	34		35			36	37					
38			39							41			
42				43	44				45	46		47	
48								49					
51				52		53	54		55		56	57	58
			59										
61	62	63									65		
66								67				68	
69								70					71

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Monday's Answer

R	U	N	S	P	I	N	T	O	M	I	G	S	
A	T	O	P	T	I	M	E	A	N	I	D	E	A
F	A	I	R	S	P	O	R	T	S	D	E	S	K
T	H	R	E	A	T	T	O	T	A	S	T	E	
A	B	O	R	T	R	I	T	E	S				
M	O	O	D	E	L	E	V	A	T	O	R		
A	X	I	S	L	A	P	E	L	Z	A			
M	E	L	F	O	E	P	A	L	E	T	A		
A	N	Y	R	A	N	G	E	C	R	O	W		
V	I	R	T	U	A	L	R	O	O	M	S		
E	M	A	I	L	T	R	A	I	L				
T	O	T	A	L	E	D	W	O	O	F	E	R	
H	O	B	B	L	O	B	B	Y	R	A	G	E	
E	L	A	L	L	O	U	I	E	I	R	O	N	
R	A	T	E	A	R	D	O	R	N	E	S	T	

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WORD ROUNDUP
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 10/9

- Find and Circle:
- Four things commonly represented as numbers
 - Three shapes
 - Three four-letter musical instruments
 - Three six-letter languages
 - Three car companies
- Monday's answer: BASIC COMIC CUBIC TONIC TOPIC EPIC / MONTH WEEK HOUR YEAR / ACRE RACE CARE / DWAYNE JOHNSON / BOXER HUSKY

QUICKCROSS
By John Wilmes 10/9

Skidded

South American country

Stratford-upon-_____

Skating place

Sail beam

Strauss of fashion

Steamy subject?

Score from above the rim

Monday's Answer

A	C	I	D
S	U	M	O
S	T	U	N
T	E	S	T

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QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE
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UP & DOWN WORDS
By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 10/9

1. TURKISH

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

SPRINGER

Clues:

Monday's Answer

DAVE	THOMAS
JEFFERSON	PILOT
PILOT	AIRPLANE
AIRPLANE	LIGHT
LIGHT	SPEED
SPEED	UP

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

7	3			5	4	6		8	
				7	8	4	2		
				3		5	7		
3	6		4	9					
				8					
				6	3		9	1	
7	8		2						
2	3	5	1						
5		1	8	4				3	6

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SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE
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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

6	5	1	2		
4			6		
		1	4		5
5	4			1	
		6			1
4	2	5			6

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

Monday's Answer

3	5	6	7	4	9	2	8	1
2	1	4	6	3	8	7	9	5
8	9	7	1	2	5	6	3	4
6	4	8	9	7	2	5	1	3
7	3	5	4	8	1	9	6	2
1	2	9	5	6	3	8	4	7
4	7	3	8	5	6	1	2	9
9	8	2	3	1	7	4	5	6
5	6	1	2	9	4	3	7	8

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TXTPERT

Across	Down
1. 62526883	1. 6465
5. 562	2. 5262
6. 8245	3. 6262833
8. 273	4. 8377437
9. 3876	7. 787
10. 7877	8. 277

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Today's theme: **Animals**

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C... and 5678 could be IOST

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4	C	L	I	P	I	N	G	
O		B						
		Y		U				
I	R	R	I	G	A	T	E	
		E		H				

Yesterday's solution

DON'T QUOTE ME

Scottish poet Andrew Lang offers this criticism.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.

DRUNKEN ILLUMINATION LAMP MAN RATHER STATISTICS SUPPORT

HE USES _____ AS A _____ USES _____

POSTS - FOR _____ THAN _____

Monday's Answer: "I'm going to stop putting things off starting tomorrow." - Sam Levenson

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