



THE ACADEMY
OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

84th Academy Awards Nominee Questionnaire

Chris Columbus / Nominated for: Best Picture for "The Help"

What is your hometown? Where did you go to school?

*Youngstown/Warren, Ohio. John F. Kennedy High School.
NYU Film school. Parents were factory workers,
Father former coal miner.*

What was your first movie-going experience, and how did it affect you?

*Seeing an eclectic double feature of Blazing
Saddles & The Godfather (re-release) at a Drive-In
opened up the never-ending possibilities and
the promise of film making.*

Did you watch the Oscars growing up? Was it a family experience? Do you recall a particular favorite Oscar moment?

*The Oscars were a family event in
my house. My favorite Oscar moment
was Clint Eastwood's "John Ford" comment
following Marlon Brando's refusal of
his Best Actor Oscar.*

When did you decide that you wanted to make movies? What influenced you? Who or what inspired you along the way?

*There was no other option in my life.
I could do one thing well, and that was making
films. If that didn't work out for me, I would
be working beside my Father in an aluminum factory.*

What's the most valuable piece of advice you ever got in your career?

*"Never stop writing." - Haig Manoogian,
NYU Film Professor*

What was the biggest challenge you faced on the movie for which you are nominated?

*Maintaining a level of calm
patience, never losing my cool, even
when things got tense.*

What was your most memorable moment on this movie?

Watching these incredible actresses perform each day's scenes. It was like being a student in a master class on screen acting.

What would be your dream movie project to work on?

A musical comedy teaming The Marx Brothers and The Beatles.

What's the one thing that people would be shocked to know about you?

I look forward to opening a Harry Potter themed restaurant in the English countryside.

Do you use social media? If you tweet, what is your Twitter name?

Never. I'm too busy monitoring my kids' Facebook pages.