

On the Red Carpet

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With the Oscars looming around the corner on February 22nd, we're happy to note nominations for folks affiliated with Columbia. The 12 nominations earned for the 81st annual Academy Awards include 8 for *MILK*, produced by James Schamus, who headed the project, produced by Focus Features.

Nominations for *MILK* include Best Picture; Best Actor (Sean Penn); Best Supporting Actor (Josh Brolin); Best Director (Gus Van Sant); Best Original Screenplay (Dustin Lance Black); Achievement in Costume Design (Danny Glicker); Achievement in Film Editing (Elliot Graham); and Achievement in Music (original score) (Danny Elfman).

Also from Schamus' Focus Features, *IN BRUGES* earned a nomination for Best Original Screenplay (Martin McDonagh).

Two SOA Film alumni also picked up nominations. Courtney Hunt '94, picked up a nod for Best Original Screenplay for *FROZEN RIVER*, a film about a single mother involved with a dangerous smuggling operation. The movie's star Melissa Leo also drew a best actress nom. *FROZEN RIVER* won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Dramatic Feature at Sundance 2008 and a veritable avalanche of other awards.

Maureen A. Ryan '92, who is also on the faculty, was nominated for Best Documentary for *MAN ON WIRE*. The film, about tightrope walker Philippe Petit, has already garnered numerous awards, including Best Documentary from the recent Critics' Choice Awards.