

Movies



Brad Pitt

Killing Them Softly

STARRING Brad Pitt, Richard Jenkins, James Gandolfini, Ray Liotta, Scoot McNairy, Ben Mendelsohn
DIRECTED BY Andrew Dominik
R, 1 HR., 37 MINS.

By Owen Gleiberman

KILLING THEM SOFTLY is a lurid and nasty little nihilistic hitman noir, with an ingenuity that sneaks up on you. It's the first movie directed by Andrew Dominik since *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (2007), and once again he has cast Brad Pitt as a low-key, gimlet-eyed sociopath—and once again, the screen vibrates. The tough guys Pitt has played all possess a brawny physical fearlessness, yet they draw their power from Pitt's intelligence, his quicksilver-cool awareness. In *Killing Them Softly*, he's menacingly good as Jackie Cogan, a Mob enforcer who is called in to clean up the mess that follows an underworld card-game robbery committed by two real bottom-feeders: Frankie (Scoot

★★★★★ PRIZE FIGHTER ★★★★★

An Oscar Race For the Ages—All Ages



Quvenzhané Wallis

PERFORMERS AT opposite ends of the age spectrum could find themselves in the Best Actress race this year: Emmanuelle Riva, 85, who plays a stroke victim in the French-language drama *Amour*, and Quvenzhané Wallis, the 9-year-old wunderkind in *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. Should both get nominations, they'll become the oldest and youngest Best Actress nominees in Oscar history.

Riva (who will turn 86 on Feb. 24, the night of the Oscar ceremony) would top Jessica Tandy, who was 80 when she won Best Actress in 1990 for *Driving Miss Daisy*. But she wouldn't break the record for oldest-ever nominee of any kind—that belongs to *Titanic*'s Gloria Stuart, who

was 87 when nominated for Best Supporting Actress in 1998.

Wallis was only 6 when she shot the dreamlike fable *Beasts* and would succeed *Whale Rider*'s Keisha Castle-Hughes, who snagged a Best Actress nod at 13 in 2003. Wallis wouldn't be the youngest-ever nominee, however. That's still Justin Henry of *Kramer vs. Kramer*, who was just 8 when he became a Supporting Actor contender in 1980.

It's unlikely the other Oscar categories will break age records this year. "You don't see many child-savant directors," says Libby Wertin, a librarian with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Well, at least not until Wallis turns 10. —Anthony Breznican



Emmanuelle Riva



Critical Mass

A sampling of critics from across the country grade 10 current releases.

	TY BURR <i>The Boston Globe</i>	KAREN DUBBIN <i>EW</i>	ROGER EBERT <i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>	LISA KENNEDY <i>The New York Times</i>	MIK LASALLE <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i>	KARINA LONGWORTH <i>LA Weekly</i>	CLAUDIA PUIG <i>USA Today</i>	RENE RODRIGUEZ <i>The Miami Herald</i>	BETSY SHARKEY <i>Los Angeles Times</i>	ALYNDIA WHEAT <i>People</i>	ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY	EW READERS*	CRITICS AVERAGE
KARENINA	C+	B+	B-	B	-	B+	B	-	B-	B+	B-	B	B
D	B+	B+	A	A	B	B+	A	B+	A	A	A	A	A-
HT	B	A	A	B+	B	B+	B-	C	B-	B	A	B+	B+
HCOCK	C	-	B	B	B	C	C+	D	C+	B	B+	B+	B-
OF PI	B+	A	A	A	C-	-	B+	A-	A+	A-	B+	A-	A-
DLN	A-	-	A	A-	A	A-	B+	-	A	A-	A	A	A-
DAWN	-	-	D	-	D+	-	C	-	C-	C	B-	C-	C-
AND BONE	-	B+	B+	B+	A-	B+	-	-	B-	A-	C	B+	B+
ER LININGS PLAYBOOK	B+	A	B+	A-	-	B-	B	-	A	A	A	B+	A-
FALL	-	A	A	B	B-	B-	B+	A-	A	A-	A	A	A-

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