

Get Out is *Sight & Sound's* Film of the Year 2017

Critic's poll reveals *Twin Peaks: the Return* in 2nd place – the first TV series ever to make the top 10 – and *Call Me by Your Name* in 3rd place

Sight & Sound, the BFI's international film magazine, today announces Jordan Peele's debut *Get Out* as the clear winner in the most anticipated and respected critics' opinion poll: *Sight & Sound's* Film of the Year. For the first time film and TV critics, programmers and academics from all around the world have voted a TV series, David Lynch's *Twin Peaks: The Return*, in 2nd place. The show just beat Luca Guadagnino's coming of age drama *Call Me by Your Name*, which received its UK premiere at BFI London Film Festival, and was voted 3rd place. Over 180 critics voted for their top five film, TV and artists' moving image releases from the year and the full results will be available today in the January 2018 issue of *Sight & Sound* and online at www.bfi.org.uk/best-films-2017 from 11 am GMT.

Title	Director
1. Get Out	Jordan Peele
2. Twin Peaks: The Return	Mark Frost, David Lynch
3. Call Me by Your Name	Luca Guadagnino
4. Zama	Lucrecia Martel
5. Western	Valeska Grisebach
6. Faces Places	Agnès Varda, JR
7. Good Time	Ben Safdie, Josh Safdie
8. Loveless	Andrey Zvyagintsev
9. Dunkirk	Christopher Nolan
9. The Florida Project	Sean Baker
11. A Ghost Story	David Lowery
12. You Were Never Really Here	Lynne Ramsay
12. 120 BPM	Robin Campillo
12. Lady Macbeth	William Oldroyd
15. God's Own Country	Francis Lee
16. The Shape of Water	Guillermo del Toro
16. Personal Shopper	Olivier Assayas
16. Strong Island	Yance Ford
19. Let the Sunshine In	Claire Denis
19. Mudbound	Dee Rees
19. I Am Not Your Negro	Raoul Peck
19. Lady Bird	Greta Gerwig
19. Moonlight	Barry Jenkins
19. mother!	Darren Aronofsky

The much raved about horror film, *Get Out*, released in March, addresses race in America in a refreshing, funny and unflinching manner. Cult comedian Jordan Peele has spoken about the timing of his film, following the presidency of Barack Obama and the killing of Trayvon Martin by police,

sparkling race riots and civil unrest. While playing with classic horror film tropes, the film references the taboo of inter-racial couples, the slave trade, suburban racism and police brutality.

Race relations feature strongly in this year's list, including in the documentary *I Am Not Your Negro* which was voted by poll contributors in joint 19th place. Directed and written by Haitian filmmaker Raoul Peck the documentary is based on American writer James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House* which reminisces about the civil rights leaders Malcom X and Martin Luther King Jr. among others. Also in joint 19th is Dee Rees' period drama, *Mudbound*. Set after the Second World War the film centres on legal racism and violence inflicted on black people in the American South. The film stars Mary J. Blige alongside Carey Mulligan, and following screenings on the festival circuit, including its European premiere at BFI London Film Festival, was made available through Netflix last month.

In second place, **David Lynch's *Twin Peaks: The Return*** was highly anticipated following the 25 year wait since the iconic TV programme was last broadcast. Lynch is not the only major film director to be voted for in the poll for their high-end television work. Critics also voted **David Fincher's *Mindhunter***, based on the 1996 book *Mind Hunter: Inside The FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit* written by ex-FBI agents Mark Olshaker and John E. Douglas. The second series of ***Top of the Lake: China Girl*** has also been voted for in the poll and is directed by award-winning **Jane Campion**.

LGBT films continue to make waves in mainstream cinema following *Moonlight's* Oscar® success, ***Call Me by Your Name*** is the third and final installment in Luca Guadagnino's *Desire* trilogy following *I Am Love* (2009) and *A Bigger Splash* (2015). Written by multi-award winning **James Ivory** the film chronicles the romantic relationship between a 17-year-old, Elio Perlman, and his father's American student, Oliver. In 12th place is ***120 BPM*** which portrays the French branch of the AIDS activism group 'ACT UP' with force and passion, the film competed in the BFI London Film Festival's Official Competition. Also in the poll's top 20 in 15th place is BFI-backed ***God's Own Country***. Coined as a 'Brexit Brokeback Mountain', the debut film from Francis Lee follows the relationship of a Yorkshire sheep farmer and a Romanian migrant worker.

Other BFI-backed films recognised by the poll's top 20 include ***Lady Macbeth*** (William Oldroyd) and ***You Were Never Really Here*** for which writer-director Lynne Ramsay won Best Screenplay and actor Joaquin Phoenix won Best Actor at the 70th Cannes Film Festival.

As the focus on gender in the industry continues to make headlines, the poll continues to recognise strong female filmmakers. **Lucrecia Martel's *Zama***, this year's Sight & Sound Gala at BFI London Film Festival, is in 4th place followed by **Valeska Grisebach** in 5th place with her film ***Western*** and **Agnès Varda** in 6th place for the documentary ***Faces Places*** which she co-directed with JR. Other female directed films include **Claire Denis's *Let the Sunshine In*** starring prolific French actors Juliette Binoche and Gérard Depardieu in joint 19th place.

Critics voted Andrey Zvyagintsev's ***Loveless*** in 8th place, following the critical acclaim the film received on the festival circuit, where it won awards from the Jury prize at Cannes Film Festival to Best Film at BFI London Film Festival's. The film will be released on 8 February 2018 in the UK and will receive an extended run at BFI Southbank.

Last year's winner was the German-Austrian comedy *Toni Erdmann* from writer-director Maren Ade, followed by Academy Award Best Picture *Moonlight* directed by Barry Jenkins and in third place Paul Verhoeven's *Elle*, starring Isabelle Huppert.

– Ends –

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Images of the film nominated in Sight and Sound's Film of the Year Poll are available at www.image.net under BFI / Sight & Sound Films of the Year 2017

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- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

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- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

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