

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 Cuaron, 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." Cuaron, 56, has long been beloved by critics

and industry peers as one of Hollywood's "Three Amigos" along with fellow Mexican directors Alejandro G. Inarritu ("Birdman") and Guillermo del Toro ("The Shape of Water"). Cuaron 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," Cuaron 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 Cuaron'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.

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			40					41		
42				43	44			45	46		47		
48							49				50		
51				52		53	54		55		56	57	58
			59					60					
61	62	63					64				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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CROSSWORDS ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

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

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Monday's Answer

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

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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:
1. Sweetened brew
2. Folgers ad
3. Short TV interruption
4. Eat
5. ___ butter
6. "Tom ___"
7. Talk-show host

Monday's Answer

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

THOMAS / JEFFERSON / AIRPLANE / PILOT / LIGHT / 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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SUDOKU

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	

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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Animals

Today's theme

1 aq 2 abc 3 def
4 ghi 5 jkl 6 mno
7 pqr 8 tuv 9 wxyz

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

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

© WIGGLES 3D GAMES 10/9

BOOK REVIEW

An American family suffers in 'Unsheltered'

Mark Athitakis
Special to USA TODAY

The world is crashing down on Willa, the hero of Barbara Kingsolver's earnest and ambitious new novel, "Unsheltered" (Harper, 496 pp., ★★★☆).

Journalism cutbacks have ravaged her income. Her professor husband, Iano, lost tenure when his university became insolvent. Their son's wife has killed herself, leaving behind an infant child. Their daughter is skeptically re-entering American life after a stint in Cuba. Iano's emphysemic father is a bigoted fan of the "Bullhorn" running for president in 2016. And their New Jersey home, built in the 1870s, is rapidly collapsing.



Barbara Kingsolver

"How could two hardworking people do everything right in life and arrive in their fifties essentially destitute?" Willa thinks.

Kingsolver doesn't want you to read that line solely as a cry of despair. She takes the question seriously: What forces threaten to wreck the American family, and what can help stave them off? To answer that, Kingsolver alternates her narrative between 2016 and 1874, where on the same patch of Pine Barrens land a schoolteacher named Thatcher is befriending Mary Treat.

Mary, based on a real person, is an uncredentialed but serious naturalist who has published widely and corresponds with Charles Darwin. But accepting the theory of evolution is all but a crime in town. Cutler, headmaster of Thatcher's school, thunders on creationism's behalf, backed by a mayor

who treats the town like a fiefdom.

"When men fear the loss of what they know, they will follow any tyrant who promises to restore the old order," Treat intones.

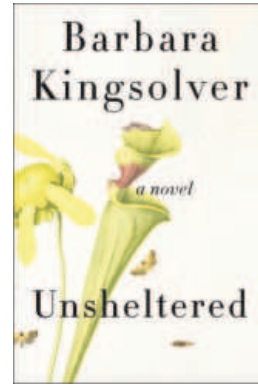
Kingsolver's point is clear: The American experiment, then and now, frays whenever its most fearful citizens take comfort in their own ignorance. Kingsolver, a biologist by training, has been attacking myths about the just-so nuclear family since her 1988 debut, "The Bean Trees," and most powerfully in 1998's "The Poisonwood Bible."

"Unsheltered" works similar thematic turf, and it has the virtues of her best fiction: a compassionate portrait of

parenthood in all its complexity, rich historical detail and a gift for a piercing satirical line.

But the novel also is Kingsolver at her most didactic. Willa's children arguing over global economic policy resembles the luke-warm banter of a think-tank podcast, and extended debates between Thatcher and Cutler are cartoonishly binary. Only the rules of historical fiction prevent Kingsolver from slapping a MAGA cap on Cutler's head.

The book's title suggests a roof gone missing. But it also is a resonant call to be more alert to our social predicaments, to "stand in the clear light of day."



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EDITED Fred Piscop
BY Fred Piscop

GRIN AND BEAR IT

ACROSS

- Squandered, as a lead
- Jared of "Lonely Hearts"
- Credit card action
- Suffix denoting wealth
- Weights, slangily
- Clad like many superheroes
- He caught Don Larsen's perfecto
- Manage to avoid
- Saw wood, so to speak
- Submitted, as a 40-Down
- Send to blazes
- Usual tic-tac-toe result
- Leader of Motown's Miracles
- Reflexology place
- "Born Free" 2-Down
- Neanderthal's abode
- "Finding Dory" studio
- CPR pro
- Maris who surpassed Ruth
- Kept from swelling, perhaps
- Often-buggy software version
- Comics bark
- Rough Riders leader, informally
- Geological stretch
- Manx cat's lack
- Cosmetic that's sometimes flavored
- Shopaholic's binge
- Standard Windows font
- "The Seasons" composer, affectionately
- Barista's artistic creation
- Carrier with blue and white jets
- "Enough ___!"

DOWN

- Baffin and Hudson
- Big cat
- Descartes' "therefore"
- Queer duck
- Factor in club selection
- Drop an easy one
- Grounds for a civil suit
- Running by itself
- First part of an act
- What a surfer may catch
- Device for an Apple Pencil
- Mani-___ (salon job)
- Forbidden fruit site
- Chemistry lab vessel
- BBQ slab unit
- Gibson of "Lethal Weapon"
- In ___ land (spacey)

Answers: Call 1-900-988-8300, 99 cents a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-320-4280.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				16				15					
17			18					19					
20					21			22					
		23		24	25		26						
	27	28					29			30	31	32	33
34			35							36			
37			38			39		40		41			
42						43		44			45		
46				47	48	49				50			
				51				52					
53	54	55	56				57		58		59	60	61
62							63		64		65		
66							67				68		
69							70				71		

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Monday's Answer

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

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WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 10/16

Find and Circle:
Four parts of the eye
Four eight-letter words
Australian state: New _____
Two continents
Throw with effort

Monday's answer: MOCCASIN SNEAKER SLIPPER LOAFER
SANDAL SOCK BOOT CLOG / NORTH SOUTH / EMPIRE STATE / GOLDEN GATE / HUSTLE

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes 10/16

Celestial light
Humorist Bombeck
Celestial light
Part of MIT
"Half" prefix
1982 Disney sci-fi flick
Old Testament book
Marathon tirade

Monday's Answer

L	A	S	T
U	B	E	R
C	L	E	O
K	E	P	T

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UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 10/16

1. GOING

-
-
-
-
-
-
- REEF

Clues:
1. Performing well
2. Typhoon, for example
3. Type of weather bulletin
4. Omen
5. Nonverbal communication
6. Linguistic hindrance
7. Australia has a "Great" one

Monday's Answer

HEALTHY	LIVING	SPACE	MOUNTAIN	LION	KING	CRAB	RANGOON
LIVING	SPACE	MOUNTAIN	LION	KING	CRAB	RANGOON	

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SUDOKU

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

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

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SUDOKU FUSION

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

	1	3		5		
	4	5			6	
	5		6	2		
		2	3		5	
	4			3	5	
			1		6	4

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

Monday's Answer

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

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TXTPERT

Across	Down
2. 73275	1. 62466542
5. 7673	2. 73224
7. 62473	3. 29873
9. 4747	4. 483
10. 86729	6. 73742
	8. 7878

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Today's theme
Colors

1 a.o	2 abc	3 def
4 ghi	5 jkl	6 mno
7 pqr	8 tuv	9 wxyz

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

Yesterday's solution

1	R	E	S	P	E	C	T
2	O	C					
3	W	R	I	T	I	N	G
4	S	N					A
5	B	U	S	K			I
6	E	O			P	A	D
7	L	R			E		E
8	L	E	S	S	O	N	

DON'T QUOTE ME

Baseball player Hank Aaron talks about physical exercise.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
FEEL LEAST SPORT SWEAT UNLESS UP WORK


I DON'T _____ RIGHT _____ I HAVE A _____ TO PLAY OR AT _____ A WAY TO _____ A _____

© WIGGLES 3D GAMES 10/16

Monday's Answer: "Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable." -George Bernard Shaw

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