

Professor Binna Kandola OBE &  
Dr. Jo Kandola

# Analysis of BAFTA Film Awards by Ethnicity & Gender

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# Analysis of BAFTA film awards by ethnicity and gender

The analysis looked at the ethnicity and gender of nominees and winners in eleven BAFTA award categories:

- > Best Leading Actor
- > Best Leading Actress
- > Best Supporting Actor
- > Best Supporting Actress
- > Rising Star
- > Best Director
- > Best Film
- > Outstanding British Film
- > Best Adapted Screenplay
- > Best Original Screenplay
- > Fellowship

The award categories themselves were introduced at different times and have changed over the years. The analysis for several awards dates back to 1969. The Rising Star award analysis dates back to 2006 when it was first introduced. Appendix 1 shows the years included for each award category.

## Key points

White men dominate the nominations and winners.

Overall, for all of the categories, white people make up 94% of nominees.

Men comprise three out of four (73%) nominee in all of the categories. Women are less-well represented in any of the non-acting categories e.g. director, screenplay writer, producer.

When black men and women are nominated it is more likely to be for the acting awards.

When East Asian and Latino/Hispanic individuals are nominated it is more likely to be for the non-acting awards e.g. best adapted screenplay, best original screenplay, best director.

The award with the greatest diversity of award nominees is the Rising Star award. Here, BATFA is responsible for the nominations and the public votes determine the winner.

Of the nine out eleven categories that BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic) women could win awards, they have only won in one: Best Supporting Actress. BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic) women have not won awards in any other category.

## Best Actor/Actress

White men and white women dominate the acting categories. 95% of nominations for Best Actor and Best Actress are white (Table 1).

Table 1: Ethnicity of nominees in Best Actor/Actress

	Best Actor	Best Actress
Black	1.4%	2.8%
East Asian	0.5%	1.4%
Latino/Hispanic	1.4%	0.9%
South Asian	1.9%	0.0%
White	94.9%	94.9%

All of the black, South Asian and East Asian nominees for Best Actor went on to win the award. However only five (three black, one South Asian and one East Asian) actors have ever been nominated. The roles these actors won their award for are all racially type-cast - that is, the lead role could only be played by a black, East Asian or South Asian man (e.g. Gandhi, Ray, The Last King of Scotland, 12 Years a Slave, The Killing Fields).

Table 2: Ethnicity of winners: Best Actor/Actress

	Lead Actor % won (number won)	Lead Actress % Won (number won)
Black	6.0% (3)	0.0% (0)
East Asian	2.0% (1)	0.0% (0)
Latino/Hispanic	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
South Asian	2.0% (1)	0.0% (0)
White	90.0% (45)	95.6% (49)
Totals	50	49

No BAME women have ever won the Best Actress award. There have only been six nominations from BAME women for this category - all for roles which could be considered race-related.

If you are a BAME actor and you want to be considered for an award, the message seems to be to make sure you play a character who is real and could not be performed by anyone other than a minority.

## Best Supporting Actor/Actress

Table 3: Ethnicity of nominees: Best Supporting Actor/Actress

	Support Actor	Support Actress
Black	3.9%	5.3%
East Asian	0.0%	0.5%
Latino/Hispanic	2.4%	0.5%
South Asian	1.9%	1.0%
White	91.7%	92.7%

BAME actors have a slightly increased chance of being nominated for the Supporting Actor/Actress categories than for Best Actor/Actress.

Approximately 92% of nominees in Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress categories are white.

Black actors have been nominated on eight occasions for Best Supporting Actor. Over 60% (five out of eight) of all the nominations were for racially-cast roles. Of the two wins in this category, one role was race-related (a Somali high-jacker in 'Captain Phillips'), the other, arguably, was not (Samuel L Jackson in 'Pulp Fiction'). If you choose to not give the benefit of the doubt, then 100% of the roles are race-related.

South Asian actors have been nominated three times in this category, winning once. Again two of the nominations were racially cast.

Latino/Hispanic actors have been nominated on five occasions winning twice.

No East Asian actors have been nominated for Best Supporting Actor.

Table 4: Ethnicity of winners: Best Supporting Actor/Actress

	Support Actor % won (number won)	Support Actress % won (number won)
Black	4.3% (2)	12.5% (6)
East Asian	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Latino/Hispanic	4.3% (2)	2.1% (1)
South Asian	2.1% (1)	2.1% (1)
White	89.4% (42)	83.3% (40)
Totals	47	48

BAME actresses are as successful as the men in the Best Supporting category. Black actresses have been nominated on eleven occasions and have won on six. Again, most of the roles they have been nominated for and won are all race related.

Only one Latina/Hispanic woman has been nominated and the actress went on to win.

South Asian women were nominated twice and won once. Both of the nominations were for race-related roles.

The one East Asian female nominee who was not successful in winning the award was playing a race-related role.

Overall, the data suggests that BAME actors and actresses are only getting recognised for their work in race-related roles. Whilst BAME actresses have had more success at winning Best Supporting Actress, they have yet to win in the Best Actress category. Black women in fact are more likely to get nominated for both Best and Supporting actress roles than black men in the equivalent categories.

For BAME actors generally, the data raises questions as to whether BAME actors and actresses are getting the opportunities to play significant roles in movies? Are BAME actors and actresses given major roles because only a minority could play them? Are BAME actors



and actresses performances getting the recognition they deserve and so fail to get nominated?

## Behind the scenes roles

**Table 5: Ethnicity of nominees: technical/behind the scenes roles**

	Adapted Screenplay	Director	Best Film	Original Screenplay	British Film
Black	0.9%	0.5%	0.9%	0.5%	1.0%
East Asian	2.6%	2.4%	1.6%	0.0%	0.3%
Latino/ Hispanic	0.4%	3.3%	1.2%	6.9%	1.0%
M. Eastern	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.3%
South Asian	0.4%	0.9%	1.2%	1.0%	2.8%
White	95.7%	92.9%	94.1%	91.6%	94.7%

Table 5 shows that again white people dominate the nominations for technical and behind the scene roles in films- the numbers range from 92% to 96%.

Overall BAME individuals have won only 5% (17 of the 312) awards across all of these categories.

Of the BAME groups, people from South and East Asian backgrounds, as well as Latino/Hispanic individuals seems to have the most success in terms of nominations of all the other ethnic groups. Black nominees are at an even lower level than these groups.

East Asians account for 19 of the overall nominations across these award categories (out of 1470 in total) and have won four times. Ang Lee accounts for seven of the 19 nominations, and has won three out of the four awards given to East Asians.

Latino/Hispanic individuals are the most successful minority group, accounting for 31 of the total nominations across these categories, and winning on seven occasions.

South Asians have a total of 21 nominations, and four wins.

Black people are nominated the least. Across all 5 categories looked at, less than 1% of the nominees were black (twelve people out of 1470). Furthermore, Steve McQueen accounts for four of the 12 nominations, and is the only black person to win across these award categories.

The figures for the analysis, are possibly bolstered by a few BAME individuals who have been nominated on several occasions for awards. For example, Ang Lee has four of the five nominations for East Asians in the Best Director category and three of the seven nominations for Best Film, whilst Alejandro G Inarritu has three of the seven nominations for Latino/Hispanic Best Directors and three of the five nominations for Best Film. For South Asians, Ismail Merchant accounts for five of the 21 nominations and Asif Kapadia for three.

Table 6 shows that nominations for technical/behind the scene roles is dominated by men.

**Table 6: Gender of nominees; technical/behind the scene roles**

	Adapted Screenplay	Director	Film	Original Screenplay	British Film
Female	12.9%	3.3%	15.5%	6.4%	20.1%
Male	86.7%	96.7%	84.5%	93.6%	79.9%

Women accounted for 13% of the nominations (196 of 1470), and 12% of the wins (37 of 312) across all categories.

The position for BAME women is even worse. With just six nominations, BAME women accounted for less than half a per cent (0.4%) of the total nominations and have never won an award in these categories.

## Special awards - Rising Star

Overall, Rising Star has the greatest diversity of nominations. As can be seen from Table 7, black people are nominated most in this category (13.3%) compared to other minority ethnic groups.

Rising Star also has a high proportion of women being nominated (Table 8).

A total of eight black people have been nominated for Rising Star, out of 60 overall nominations. Black people have won in this category twice out of the eight nominations - in both instances they were male. Whilst black women hold 50% of the nominations (four) for black actors they are yet to win a Rising Star award.

Table 7: Ethnicity of nominees: Rising Star

Rising Star	
Black	13.3%
East Asian	1.7%
Latino/ Hispanic	1.7%
M. Eastern	0.0%
South Asian	3.3%
White	80.0%

Table 8: Gender of nominees: Rising Star

Rising Star	
Female	43.3%
Male	56.7%

South Asian individuals only have 3.3% of the overall nominations (two nominations out of 60) and have won once.

East Asian and Latino/Hispanic individuals have been nominated once for Rising Star, and are yet to win.

Three white women, out of the 21 nominated have won the Rising Star award. Six white men have won, out of the 27 nominated. No BAME actresses has in the Rising Star category.

Table 9: Ethnicity of winners: Rising Star

	% Won (number won)
Black	16.7% (2)
East Asian	0.0% (0)
Latino/Hispanic	0.0% (0)
South Asian	8.3% (1)
White	75.0% (9)
Totals	12

## Special Awards –Fellowship

Men are significantly more likely than women to be given the Fellowship award (Table 10) - 49 awards out of 58. Most of the winners are also white (Table 11).

Of all the minority ethnic groups Black and South Asian are the only ones to win a fellowship award (one award each out of 58 fellowship awards). No BAME woman has won the fellowship award.

Table 10: Gender of nominees - fellowship

Fellowship	
Female	15.5%
Male	84.5%

Table 11: Ethnicity of nominees - fellowship

Fellowship	
Black	1.7%
East Asian	0.0%
Latino/ Hispanic	0.0%
M. Eastern	0.0%
South Asian	1.7%
White	96.6%

## Conclusions

This analysis has revealed the lack of diversity that exist in the BAFTA awards. As an overall conclusion, it would appear that BAME nominees have a reasonable chance of winning an award. The bigger issues is the lack of diversity in the nominations.

White actors dominate in the Best Actor/Actress Awards and to a lesser extent in the Best Supporting Actor/Actress.

For the behind the scenes roles the lack of diversity is even more apparent.

This analysis does not show why this is the case. It could, on the acting side, that BAME performances are not given sufficient consideration. On the other hand it may be that BAME actors are not being given substantial roles that would gain widespread recognition.

The same questions apply to the behind the scenes positions.

In drawing attention to the lack of diversity at the Oscars in 2016, Will Smith commented "When I look at it, the nominations reflect the Academy, the Academy reflects the industry, reflects Hollywood and then the industry reflects America"

The same statement could apply to the BAFTAs and to Britain more generally.

## Appendix 1 Data used for each award category

### *Best Leading Actor – analysis goes back to 1969 award ceremony*

1969-1985 - called Best Actor

1986-2007 – called Actor in a Leading Role

2007-present – called Best Leading Actor

### *Best Leading Actress – analysis goes back to 1969 award ceremony*

1969-1985 - called Best Actress

1986-2007 – called Actress in a Leading Role

2007-present – called Best Leading Actress

### *Best Supporting Actor - analysis goes back to 1969 award ceremony*

1969 – 1985 called Best Supporting Actor

1986 – 2007 called Best Actor in a Supporting Role

2008 – present called Best Supporting Actor

No awards 1981, 1982

### *Best Supporting Actress - analysis goes back to 1969 award ceremony*

1969 – 1985 called Best Supporting Actress

1986 – 2007 called Best Actress in a Supporting Role

2008 – present called Best Supporting Actress

No awards 1981, 1982

### *Best Original Screenplay and Best Adapted Screenplay – analysis 1984 onwards*

Prior to 1983 there was only Best Screenplay award.

In 1984, Best Screenplay was split into Best Adapted and Best Original Screenplay.

### *Best Director – analysis 1969 onwards*

Award was first introduced in 1969



*Outstanding British Film – analysis 1993 onwards*

1993-2007 called Alexander Korda Award for the outstanding British film

No award 2008

2009-present called Outstanding British Film

*Best Film – analysis from 1980*

No analysis done pre 1980 since BAFTA website data is incomplete prior to then so difficult to identify the nominees

*Fellowship – analysis from 1971 when the award was introduced*

No fellowship awarded in 1973, 79, 85, 90, 94


Some years multiple fellowships awarded

*Rising Star – analysis from 2006*

Award was introduced in 2006



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	Latimer House Langford Business Park Kidlington OX5 1GG
	<a href="mailto:info@pearnkandola.com">info@pearnkandola.com</a>
	<a href="http://Pearnkandola.com">Pearnkandola.com</a>
	Tel: +44 (0) 1865 399060