

Erin & the Gladiator Battle for Supremacy

“Erin Brockovich” is every bit as tough as the “Gladiator” in public preference for the best picture Oscar, with “Traffic” stuck in a jam.

Thirty-one percent of Americans favor "Brockovich," the true story of a legal assistant's battle against a powerful utility company, for this year's Academy Award, while 28 percent roar for the ancient Roman epic “Gladiator.” The other nominees eat their dust.

Which Should Win?	
Erin Brockovich	31%
Gladiator	28
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon	7
Traffic	7
Chocolat	6

It looks like more people have seen the nominated movies this year – no surprise, given the number of box-office blockbusters on the list. In last year's poll of Oscar preferences about a third had no opinion; this year that's down to two in ten.

While box-office success seems to help, it's not the only factor in public preference for the golden statuette. “Gladiator” whopped "Brockovich" at the box office, \$186.8 million to \$125.5 million as of last week, with "Traffic" and "Tiger" at around \$100 million each.

Of course the actual winner will be chosen by Academy members, not the American public. Last year the public put “The Green Mile” on top, comfortably ahead of “American Beauty,” which ultimately was the Academy's choice.

Men and women disagree over the deserved Oscar winner. More women are pulling for “Erin,” while more men root for “Gladiator.” Older Americans either aren't hitting the theaters as much, or aren't loving what they see: They're far more apt to have no opinion.

Which Should Win?		
	Men	Women
Erin Brockovich	23%	38
Gladiator	38	19

The Oscars air Sunday night, March 25, on ABC.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone March 14-18, 2001, among a random national sample of 1,024 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Dalia Sussman.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

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81. I'm going to name the movies that have been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture this year. Which one do you think should win the Oscar?

	3/18/01
Erin Brockovich	31
Gladiator	28
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon	7
Traffic	7
Chocolat	6
No opinion	21

Compare to:

	3/19/00
The Green Mile	25
The Sixth Sense	22
American Beauty	13
The Cider House Rules	5
The Insider	3
No opinion	32

END