

Off the Rails: Oscars 2026

With Ted & Fred

A Comedy in 10 Minutes

by James Hutchison

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ted: a retired schoolteacher and Fred's best friend.
Fred: a retired salesman and Ted's best friend.

SETTINGS

The Rumpus Room at Ted's house in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

TIME

March 13, 2026

STORY OF THE PLAY

Ted and Fred are enjoying a slice of pizza from this week's sponsor, Slice of Life Pizza in Kensington, while recording their weekly podcast and discussing their Oscar picks. When Fred admits he's only seen one of the ten films nominated that leads, once again, to their podcast going slightly off the rails.

THEMES

This episode of *Off the Rails* explores the Academy Awards and modern movie culture while reflecting on how life is too short to spend time on things you don't enjoy. The series itself follows Ted and Fred, two old friends, whose weekly podcast, *Off the Rails*, becomes a place where conversation, humour, and even disagreements reveal how friendship and human connection gives life meaning.

OFF THE RAILS WITH TED AND FRED: OSCAR EDITION

SCENE: BASEMENT AT TED'S HOUSE

Setting: We are in Ted's basement. A table is in the centre of the room and set up for a podcast. There are two microphones and a laptop set up to record the episode. Cameras or Smart Phones are also set up to record the video.

At Rise: TED and FRED are sitting in front of their microphones. This is a podcast they record in Ted's basement. There is a box of pizza on the table and Ted and Fred each have a plate with a slice of pizza on it. They also each have a mug of beer, and they eat and drink as they chat.

PODCAST THEME UP AND UNDER

TED: Good afternoon and welcome to Off the Rails with me Teddy Flint.

FRED: And me Freddy Martin.

TED: The podcast where we give you our unfiltered views on sports, politics, entertainment, and what ever else has attracted our attention this week.

PODCAST THEME OUT

FRED: And this week we're talking Oscars.

TED: That's right Fred. The Oscars are this weekend, and they're celebrating 98 years of handing out awards to the best in American cinema.

FRED: Well, that's debatable.

TED: Exactly. That's why we're discussing it.

FRED: And our sponsor this week is Slice of Life Pizza, in Kensington.

TED: Mention Off the Rails when you order your pizza and receive a 20% discount.

FRED: So, Ted who do you think is going to win Best Picture?

TED: Should we start with Best Picture? Most people reveal their Best Picture pick last.

FRED: Well, we're not most people.

TED: That's true.

FRED: Have you seen all the films?

TED: I have. And you?

FRED: I saw *Train Dreams*.

TED: And did you like it?

FRED: I did. Best Picture in my opinion.

TED: Oh, you're just going to jump in with your pick before we've discussed the other movies.

FRED: I haven't seen the other movies.

TED: Well, then how can we do an Oscars show?

FRED: I can pretend I've seen them.

TED: That's not really fair. And besides now you've told everybody listening to our podcast that you haven't seen the movies, so why should they listen?

FRED: Because of our witty banter.

TED: Such as.

FRED: Did you know the original title for *Train Dreams* was *Trains, Planes and Automobiles*.

TED: I doubt that's true. But it is funny.

FRED: One might even say witty.

TED: One might.

FRED: So, you've seen them all. *Marty Supreme*?

TED: Yup.

FRED: *Bugonia*.

TED: Watched it last night.

FRED: *Sinners*.

TED: We saw that together.

FRED: Oh, right. I'd forgotten.

TED: So, you've seen two of the ten.

FRED: I guess.

TED: We can't really do an Oscar show if you haven't seen all the films.

FRED: Sure, we can. It's easy. Here are my picks. Jessie Buckley in *Hamnet* for Best Actress. Timothee Chalamet in *Marty Supreme* for Best Actor. And *One Battle After Another* for Best Picture.

TED: But you haven't seen any of those.

FRED: Yeah, but I hear things. Why? Do you disagree with my picks.

TED: No, not really. I don't. But I have heard that Michael B. Jordan might beat out Chalamet for Best Actor.

FRED: I guess we'll find out Sunday.

TED: I guess we will. But even so, you should see all the films before making your predictions.

FRED: At my age I only see movies I want to see. And most of those movies, I didn't want to see.

TED: So, the only movie you wanted to see was *Train Dreams*.

FRED: And *Sinners*.

TED: Right, and *Sinners*.

FRED: *Bugonia* looks interesting. I might give that a watch.

TED: What about *Frankenstein*?

FRED: My only *Frankenstein* is *Young Frankenstein*. I don't think anything can live up to the Mel Brooks Classic. Not that Guillermo del Toro isn't a fantastic film maker. But how many times do I need to watch another adaptation of *Frankenstein* or *A Christmas Carol* or *Hamlet*. I have no problem with them making those films, but I have no interest in seeing them. Life is too short. You know that, Ted. We went to Brian's funeral last week. And a month ago we were at Sarahs. Both our friends dropped dead. Brian while standing in line at the Co-op buying cheese, and Sarah while two stepping at the Ranchman's. No warning. Boom! Gone, just like that. So, my advice. Don't spend time on things you don't want to - if you don't have to.

TED: In principle I agree, but you never should have agreed to an Oscar show if you weren't going to see the movies. I don't think that's fair to our listeners.

FRED: We don't have that many listeners.

TED: Our last podcast had close to a hundred views on YouTube.

FRED: That's not exactly trending, is it.

TED: Oh, no? We're up to 52 subscribers on Spotify.

FRED: Look out Joe Rogan. At that rate we'll reach a million subscribers in what - 20,000 years. We'll definitely have to celebrate that milestone when we reach it.

TED: That we will.

FRED: Do you even watch the Oscars anymore?

TED: I do. Don't you?

FRED: The last Oscars I watched was in 1976. I just remember thinking do I really care if Jack Nicholson wins an Oscar and the truth is, I didn't. So, I haven't watched it since.

TED: And yet you said we'd talk about the Oscars on today's show.

FRED: We are talking about the Oscars. Besides every movie is the same.

TED: What do you mean every movies the same?

FRED: I mean I can describe every movie the same way.

TED: I don't understand.

FRED: Well, give me a movie.

TED: *One Battle After Another*.

FRED: *One Battle After Another* is a high-octane, coming of age, action-thriller about a young girl who learns that in life the most important thing is family.

TED: Oh really. And how would you describe *Sentimental Value*?

FRED: *Sentimental Value* is an introspective, subtitled, coming of age story where a father and his daughters reconnect and learn that in life the most important thing is family.

TED: What about *Frankenstein*? Is it a coming-of-age story?

FRED: It is as a matter of fact. Why don't you give it a go.

TED: Okay. I will. Let me think for a minute.

FRED: While you're thinking I'm going to have another slice of pizza from this week's sponsor, Slice of Life Pizza in Kensington. Today's Pizza is the Canadian featuring Pepperoni, bacon, and mushrooms. My favourite.

TED: Alright, I think I got it.

FRED: I'm all ears.

TED: *Frankenstein* is an electrifying coming of age story where a mad scientist obsessed with conquering death and his monstrous creation learn that in life when all seems lost the most important thing is family.

FRED: There, you see how easy that was.

TED: That was easy. Not exactly true, but easy.

FRED: I didn't say these were true.

TED: Well, is it even worth us talking about the Oscars since you haven't seen most of the films.

FRED: We could talk about *Train Dreams*.

TED: Is it a coming-of-age story.

FRED: No. It's a deep meditation about the meaning of life as seen through the eyes of a simple man. I found it quite moving.

TED: Joel Edgerton and Felicity Jones were fantastic.

FRED: I loved William H. Macy. And the narrator was amazing. Who was that?

TED: I don't know. I'll Google it.

TED checks his phone.

FRED: I don't usually like movies that have a lot of narration, but I thought it worked in *Train Dreams*. It's a good adaptation of the novel.

TED: That's true. Novels let us inside a person's head and usually that's hard to dramatize for the screen but in this case it worked.

FRED: In the movie the narrator is our guide and his voice...

TED: Will Patton.

FRED: Sorry.

TED: The guy who did the narration is Will Patton.

FRED: Will Patton, right. His voice is perfect. In fact, I don't think another voice would work. Could you imagine Chris Pratt voicing *Train Dreams*.

TED: Well, he's voiced just about everything else.

FRED: God knows why.

TED: You think God knows?

FRED: Of course, God knows. He knows everything.

TED: Then God knows who is going to win an Oscar this Sunday.

FRED: He does.

TED: Don't you think knowing everything would get boring.

FRED: Without a doubt.

TED: Of course, those that do believe in God believe that God exists outside of the concerns cares and liabilities of being human.

FRED: Then why does he care if we eat bacon or not?

TED: God knows.

FRED: That he does.

TED: Kind of makes watching the Grey Cup useless, doesn't it. It you know the outcome.

FRED: Defeats the purpose.

TED: Do we even have a purpose?

FRED: God knows.

TED: That he does.

FRED: So, what else has Will Patton been in?

TED: He was in *Silo*. You know with Rebecca Ferguson on Apple TV.

FRED: I love that show. And I love Rebecca Ferguson.

TED: I just finished watching season two and it was amazing.

FRED: Me too. I can't wait for season three.

TED: You won't have to wait long. It's coming out this summer. And good news is they've already shot season four.

FRED: It's got a four-season arc.

TED: I'm so glad we don't have to wait years between seasons.

FRED: Exactly. At our age we don't know how many seasons we've got left.

TED looking at his phone.

TED: *No Way Out, Signs of Life, Armageddon, Remember the Titans.*

FRED: What about them.

TED: Those are some of the films Will Patton's been in.

FRED: I saw *Armageddon*. Don't think I've seen the others.

TED: He's been in lots of stuff. Movies and TV. He was on *Roseanne* apparently.

FRED: The reboot.

TED: No, the original.

FRED: Never watched either one.

TED: Well then, why'd you ask.

FRED: Just curious.

TED: Any-who, that about wraps it up for us today on *Off the Rails* with me Teddy Flint.

FRED: And me Freddy Martin.

THEME MUSIC UNDER

TED: Don't forget to hit our like and subscribe buttons and be sure to check out our Patreon page in the link below.

FRED: Plus, we'd like to thank Slice of Life Pizza in Kensington for being this week's sponsor. And don't forget to mention Off the Rails when you make your order and you'll save 20%.

TED: Tune in next week when we'll have another *Off the Rails* episode where we give you our unfiltered opinion about the world of sports, politics, and entertainment and what ever else happens to attract our attention that week.

FRED: It will be our post-Oscars show.

TED: That's true.

FRED: I guess we'll find out how close our picks were.

TED: That we will.

FRED: TTFN.

TED: See you next week. (*Ends recording on computer.*) And we're out.

THEME MUSIC OUT

FRED: So, what are you going to do with the rest of the day.

TED CHECKING HIS PHONE

TED: I thought I'd go see a movie this afternoon.

FRED: What's playing.

TED: *Project Hail Mary*.

FRED: Oh, I want to see that. I read the book. And I do like Ryan Gosling.

TED: Who doesn't like Ryan Gosling?

FRED: Oh, I'm sure there's one or two who don't.

TED: Oh, sorry. *Hail Mary* doesn't come out until next week.

FRED: We could go see *Marty Supreme*.

TED: You want to see *Marty Supreme*.

FRED: Yeah, I'm curious. I hear it's all about an egotistical ass hole who doesn't give a crap about anyone else and only cares about his own ambition and goals. The worst kind of American in my opinion but a hero to many others. Thought it might be worth a watch. Unless you don't want to see it again.

TED: It's a bit exhausting.

FRED: Not unlike another egotistical American I could name who is constantly in the news and who doesn't give a crap about anyone else but himself.

TED: You mean Chevy Chase.

FRED: Good guess.

TED: Sure, I could watch *Marty Supreme* again. Where's it playing?

FRED: I thought we could just stream it.

TED: Sounds good to me. You want popcorn.

FRED: It's not a movie without popcorn.

END OF PLAY