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## 2012 Emmy Award Predictions from Experts & Users

by Jason Dietz, Metacritic Features Editor  
September 20, 2012

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Updated 9/23 at 10:30a with even more experts and picks; all predicted winners remain the same, with the exception of the outstanding drama category, where *Mad Men* has opened up a slight lead over *Breaking Bad*.

### Who are the favorites heading into Sunday's big ceremony?

Sunday night, Jimmy Kimmel hosts the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards, which will be broadcast live coast-to-coast on ABC beginning at 8p ET / 5p PT. This year's **nominees** include usual suspects like *Modern Family* and *Mad Men* as well as newcomers such as *American Horror Story* and *Homeland*.

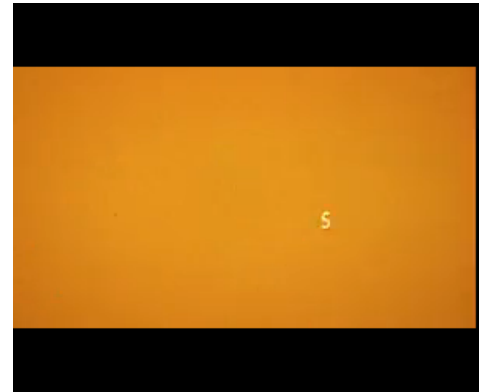


Which of these shows will be busy collecting trophies on Sunday evening? To get an idea of the likely winners in each of 22 categories, we have tabulated the predictions of over 30 professional "experts," including awards show followers, television writers, and critics. Earlier this summer we also asked our users to make their own picks, and results from their nearly 2,400 votes are also included below. For what it's worth, neither group was very reliable last year; the top expert had a 63% accuracy rate, while the user consensus was wrong slightly more often than it was right. Perhaps this year will be different.

The experts included in our survey this year are: [Cory Barker](#) (TV.com), [Chuck Barney](#) (Contra Costa Times), [Robert Bianco\\*](#) (USA Today), [Jesse Carp](#) (Cinema Blend), [Eric Deggans](#) (Tampa Bay Times), [Lynn Elber\\*](#) (Associated Press), [Joyce Eng](#) (TV Guide), [Maria Elena Fernandez](#) (The Daily Beast), [Daniel Fienberg](#) (HitFix), [Maggie Furlong\\*](#) (Huffington Post), [Verne Gay](#) (Newsday), [Tim Goodman](#) (The Hollywood Reporter), [Elena Howe\\*](#) (Los Angeles Times), [Jace Lacob](#) (The Daily Beast), Oliver Lyttelton (The Playlist), [Daniel Manu\\*](#) (Television Without Pity), [Bruce Miller](#) (Sioux City Journal), [Tom O'Neil](#) (Gold Derby), [Joanne Ostrow](#) (Denver Post), [Vinnie Penn](#) (MSN TV), [Gail Pennington](#) (St. Louis Post-Dispatch), [Rick Porter\\*](#) (Zap2It), [Ray Richmond](#) (Deadline), [Matt Roush\\*](#) (TV Guide), [Maureen Ryan\\*](#) (Huffington Post), [Alan Sepinwall](#) (HitFix), [Jill Serjeant\\*](#) (Reuters), [Paul Sheehan](#) (Gold Derby), [Alex Strachan](#) (Postmedia News), [Ken Tucker\\*](#) (Entertainment Weekly), [Kristi Turnquist](#) (The Oregonian), and [Glenn Whipp](#) (The Envelope/Los Angeles Times).

\* Predictions made at [goldderby.com](#)  
Note that some experts did not make predictions in every category. Click on any link above to view individual predictions.









### Comedy nominees




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While it seems obvious to most observers that *Modern Family* will take home its third consecutive Emmy for best comedy series, deciding which of that show's actors will get rewarded this year is a dicier proposition (in that you may as well roll some dice to pick which ones will win this time). Both experts and users give Louis C.K. a slight edge in the lead actor competition, thinking, perhaps, that Emmy voters will use the award as a consolation prize for failing to nominate his show (*Louie*) for best comedy series. (He also has a fighting chance in the directing and writing categories.) While users feel that Amy Poehler will finally get rewarded for her excellent work on *Parks and Recreation*, experts know that Emmy voters cannot resist Julia Louis-Dreyfus; if the latter wins, it will be for the third time, across three different shows.


Outstanding Comedy Series		Experts	Users
<b>30 Rock</b> NBC		0%	7%
<b>The Big Bang Theory</b> CBS		0%	13%
<b>Curb Your Enthusiasm</b> HBO		0%	9%
<b>Girls</b> HBO		3%	14%
<b>Modern Family</b> ABC		97%	54%
<b>Veep</b> HBO		0%	3%


Comedy Lead Actor		Experts	Users
<b>Alec Baldwin</b> <i>30 Rock</i>		0%	11%
<b>Don Cheadle</b> <i>House of Lies</i>		9%	4%
<b>Louis C.K.</b> <i>Louie</i>		47%	46%
<b>Jon Cryer</b> <i>Two and a Half Men</i>		0%	3%
<b>Larry David</b> <i>Curb Your Enthusiasm</i>		3%	7%
<b>Jim Parsons</b> <i>The Big Bang Theory</i>		41%	30%


Comedy Lead Actress		Experts	Users
<b>Zoey Deschanel</b> <i>New Girl</i>		6%	21%
<b>Lena Dunham</b> <i>Girls</i>		3%	12%
<b>Edie Falco</b> <i>Nurse Jackie</i>		0%	4%
<b>Tina Fey</b> <i>30 Rock</i>		0%	12%
<b>Julia Louis-Dreyfus</b> <i>Veep</i>		72%	16%
<b>Melissa McCarthy</b> <i>Mike &amp; Molly</i>		3%	5%


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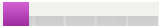

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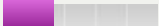
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<b>Amy Poehler</b> <i>Parks and Recreation</i>		16% 	30% 
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### Comedy Supporting Actor

<b>Ty Burrell</b> <i>Modern Family</i>		32% 	35% 
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<b>Jesse Tyler Ferguson</b> <i>Modern Family</i>		0% 	10% 
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<b>Ed O'Neill</b> <i>Modern Family</i>		43% 	19% 
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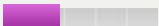

<b>Max Greenfield</b> <i>New Girl</i>		7% 	13% 
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<b>Bill Hader</b> <i>Saturday Night Live</i>		4% 	13% 
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<b>Eric Stonestreet</b> <i>Modern Family</i>		14% 	9% 
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### Comedy Supporting Actress


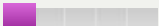

<b>Mayim Bialik</b> <i>The Big Bang Theory</i>		11% 	16% 
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<b>Julie Bowen</b> <i>Modern Family</i>		36% 	18% 
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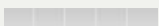

<b>Kathryn Joosten</b> <i>Desperate Housewives</i>		18% 	5% 
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<b>Sofia Vergara</b> <i>Modern Family</i>		14% 	27% 
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<b>Merritt Wever</b> <i>Nurse Jackie</i>		0% 	4% 
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<b>Kristen Wiig</b> <i>Saturday Night Live</i>		21% 	28% 
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### Comedy Writing

<b>Community</b> "Remedial Chaos Theory" by Chris McKenna		0% 	31% 
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<b>Girls</b> "Pilot" by Lena Dunham		56% 	21% 
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<b>Louie</b> "Pregnant" by Louis C.K.		22% 	27% 
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<b>Parks and Recreation</b> "The Debate" by Amy Poehler		11% 	17% 
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<b>Parks and Recreation</b> "Win, Lose, or Draw" by Michael Schur		11% 	4% 
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### Comedy Directing

<b>Curb Your Enthusiasm</b>		25% 	12% 
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"Palestinian Chicken" dir. by Robert B. Weide


<b>Girls</b> "She Did" dir. by Lena Dunham	0%		12%	
<b>Louie</b> "Duckling" dir. by Louis C.K. 	63%		35%	
<b>Modern Family</b> "Baby On Board" dir. by Steven Levitan	13%		20%	
<b>Modern Family</b> "Virgin Territory" dir. by Jason Winer	0%		11%	
<b>New Girl</b> "Pilot" dir. by Jake Kasdan	0%		9%	



## Drama nominees


While *Mad Men* has owned the outstanding drama series category in recent years, it faces even tougher competition this time as it goes for its fifth straight victory. Both experts and users suggest that the ever-building buzz for *Breaking Bad* might finally tempt Emmy voters to switch their votes to that show, while the additions of *Downton Abbey* (previously eligible in the miniseries category) and *Homeland* serve as additional wildcards. The lead acting categories seem set—Bryan Cranston should collect his fourth trophy in four tries for *Breaking Bad*, while if anyone other than Claire Danes wins in her category, it'll be a major upset—and if the experts are correct, there is little suspense in the supporting categories, too (though our users think otherwise).

Outstanding Drama Series	Experts	Users
<b>Boardwalk Empire</b> HBO	0%	2%
<b>Breaking Bad</b> AMC 	31%	51%
<b>Downton Abbey</b> PBS	13%	6%
<b>Game of Thrones</b> HBO	0%	13%
<b>Homeland</b> Showtime	19%	10%
<b>Mad Men</b> AMC 	38%	18%


Drama Lead Actor	Experts	Users
<b>Hugh Bonneville</b> <i>Downton Abbey</i>	3%	3%
<b>Steve Buscemi</b> <i>Boardwalk Empire</i>	0%	6%
<b>Bryan Cranston</b> <i>Breaking Bad</i> 	81%	74%
<b>Michael C. Hall</b> <i>Dexter</i>	0%	3%
<b>Jon Hamm</b> <i>Mad Men</i>	6%	9%
<b>Damian Lewis</b> <i>Homeland</i>	9%	7%



Drama Lead Actress		Experts	Users
<b>Kathy Bates</b> <i>Harry's Law</i>		0%	3%
<b>Glenn Close</b> <i>Damages</i>		3%	4%
<b>Claire Danes</b> <i>Homeland</i>		91%	60%
<b>Michelle Dockery</b> <i>Downton Abbey</i>		3%	8%
<b>Julianna Margulies</b> <i>The Good Wife</i>		3%	8%
<b>Elisabeth Moss</b> <i>Mad Men</i>		0%	17%

Drama Supporting Actor		Experts	Users
<b>Jim Carter</b> <i>Downton Abbey</i>		0%	2%
<b>Brendan Coyle</b> <i>Downton Abbey</i>		0%	3%
<b>Peter Dinklage</b> <i>Game of Thrones</i>		4%	33%
<b>Giancarlo Esposito</b> <i>Breaking Bad</i>		67%	33%
<b>Jared Harris</b> <i>Mad Men</i>		15%	6%
<b>Aaron Paul</b> <i>Breaking Bad</i>		15%	23%

Drama Supporting Actress		Experts	Users
<b>Christine Baranski</b> <i>The Good Wife</i>		0%	4%
<b>Joanne Froggatt</b> <i>Downton Abbey</i>		0%	3%
<b>Anna Gunn</b> <i>Breaking Bad</i>		4%	30%
<b>Christina Hendricks</b> <i>Mad Men</i>		21%	30%
<b>Archie Panjabi</b> <i>The Good Wife</i>		4%	3%
<b>Maggie Smith</b> <i>Downton Abbey</i>		71%	30%

Drama Writing		Experts	Users
<b>Downton Abbey</b> "Episode 7" by Julian Fellowes		50%	13%
<b>Homeland</b> "Pilot" by Alex Gansa, Howard		30%	40%

Gordon, and Gideon Raff			
<b>Mad Men</b> "Commissions And Fees" by Andre Jacquemetton and Maria Jacquemetton		0%	12%
<b>Mad Men</b> "Far Away Places" by Semi Chellas and Matthew Weiner		0%	16%
<b>Mad Men</b> "The Other Woman" by Semi Chellas and Matthew Weiner		20%	18%

Drama Directing		Experts	Users
<b>Boardwalk Empire</b> "To The Lost" dir. by Tim Van Patten		10%	8%
<b>Breaking Bad</b> "Face Off" dir. by Vince Gilligan		20%	58%
<b>Downton Abbey</b> "Episode 7" dir. by Brian Percival		10%	8%
<b>Homeland</b> "Pilot" dir. by Michael Cuesta		60%	14%
<b>Mad Men</b> "The Other Woman" dir. by Phil Abraham		0%	12%



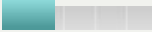








## Movie and miniseries nominees












While users give a slight edge to UK import *Sherlock*, many experts suggest that the topicality of the election-themed *Game Change* (as well as its HBO-ness, of course) would win the day. Two of the latter's stars seem locks in their acting categories, while the former's Benedict Cumberbatch is favored by experts and users alike to win his first Emmy in his first attempt.













Outstanding Movie or Miniseries		Experts	Users
<b>American Horror Story</b> FX		8%	29%
<b>Game Change</b> HBO		50%	15%
<b>Hatfields &amp; McCoys</b> History		25%	13%
<b>Hemingway &amp; Gellhorn</b> HBO		0%	4%
<b>Luther</b> BBC America		4%	8%
<b>Sherlock: Scandal In Belgravia</b> PBS		13%	31%

Movie / Miniseries Lead Actor		Experts	Users
<b>Kevin Costner</b> <i>Hatfields &amp; McCoys</i>		29%	15%



<b>Benedict Cumberbatch</b> <i>Sherlock</i>		47% 	33% 
<b>Idris Elba</b> <i>Luther</i>		0% 	20% 
<b>Woody Harrelson</b> <i>Game Change</i>		18% 	17% 
<b>Clive Owen</b> <i>Hemingway &amp; Gellhorn</i>		6% 	8% 
<b>Bill Paxton</b> <i>Hatfields &amp; McCoys</i>		0% 	6% 

Movie / Miniseries Lead Actress		Experts	Users
<b>Connie Britton</b> <i>American Horror Story</i>		0% 	26% 
<b>Ashley Judd</b> <i>Missing</i>		0% 	6% 
<b>Nicole Kidman</b> <i>Hemingway &amp; Gellhorn</i>		0% 	16% 
<b>Julianne Moore</b> <i>Game Change</i>		100% 	45% 
<b>Emma Thompson</b> <i>The Song of Lunch</i>		0% 	7% 


Movie / Miniseries Supporting Actor		Experts	Users
<b>Tom Berenger</b> <i>Hatfields &amp; McCoys</i>		0% 	12% 
<b>Martin Freeman</b> <i>Sherlock</i>		7% 	35% 
<b>Ed Harris</b> <i>Game Change</i>		93% 	32% 
<b>Denis O'Hare</b> <i>American Horror Story</i>		0% 	16% 
<b>David Strathairn</b> <i>Hemingway &amp; Gellhorn</i>		0% 	5% 










Movie / Miniseries Supporting Actress		Experts	Users
<b>Frances Conroy</b> <i>American Horror Story</i>		0% 	12% 
<b>Judy Davis</b> <i>Page Eight</i>		0% 	7% 
<b>Jessica Lange</b> <i>American Horror Story</i>		100% 	56% 
<b>Sarah Paulson</b> <i>Game Change</i>		0% 	15% 
<b>Mare Winningham</b> <i>Hatfields &amp; McCoys</i>		0% 	11% 

Movie / Miniseries Directing	Experts	Users
<b>Game Change</b> dir. by Jay Roach 	83% 	24% 
<b>Hatfields &amp; McCoys</b> dir. by Kevin Reynolds	17% 	20% 
<b>Hemingway &amp; Gellhorn</b> dir. by Philip Kaufman	0%	9% 
<b>Luther</b> dir. by Sam Miller	0%	13% 
<b>Sherlock</b> dir. by Paul McGuigan 	0%	35% 

## Other shows

Another year, another victory for *The Amazing Race* and *The Daily Show*? The latter is going for its 10th straight win, while the former can win its ninth trophy in 10 tries, and it seems like there is little standing in the way of either show.

Outstanding Reality Competition	Experts	Users
<b>The Amazing Race</b> CBS 	84% 	42% 
<b>Dancing with the Stars</b> ABC	0%	7% 
<b>Project Runway</b> Lifetime	0%	6% 
<b>So You Think You Can Dance</b> Fox	5% 	7% 
<b>Top Chef</b> Bravo	5% 	16% 
<b>The Voice</b> NBC	5% 	22% 

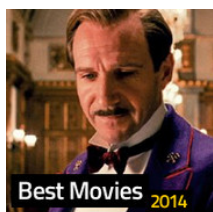
Outstanding Variety Series	Experts	Users
<b>The Colbert Report</b> Comedy Central	0%	16% 
<b>The Daily Show w/ Jon Stewart</b> Comedy Central 	93% 	47% 
<b>Jimmy Kimmel Live</b> ABC	7% 	8% 
<b>Late Night with Jimmy Fallon</b> NBC	0%	10% 
<b>Real Time with Bill Maher</b> HBO	0%	4% 
<b>Saturday Night Live</b> NBC	0%	16% 

## After the ceremony



On Monday morning, we'll return with a full list of winners, and a look at which experts and users had the most accurate predictions. We'll also sample the responses from TV critics to this year's broadcast.

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