Oscar nominees - Best actor



- Joaquin Phoenix: As country demigod Johnny Cash in *Walk the Line*, Phoenix portrays the singer's joyous and gloomy sides, sonorous voice and freight-train guitar rhythms
- 3 Heath Ledger: As a tacitum roughneck in Brokeback Mountain, Ledger portrays unsuspected depths of brooding sentiment over the love he feels for another man
- 4 Terrence Howard:
 Plays pimp-turned-rapper in *Hustle & Flow*. A man on the lower rungs of the drug-dealing and sleaze business who musters all his street smarts to reach for an impossible dream
- Philip Seymour Hoffman: Frontrunner for his performance in *Capote*, capturing author Truman Capote's effete egoism and the dark conflicts that crippled him emotionally
 - 5 David Strathairn:
 A first Oscar nomination
 for playing newsman Ed
 Murrow in his TV showdown against commiebashing Senator Joseph
 McCarthy in Good Night,
 and Good Luck