

Oscar nominees – Best actress



1 Felicity Huffman: In gender-bending *Transamerica*, Huffman portrays a pre-operative transsexual embarking on a cross-country road trip with her troubled teenage son

2 Reese Witherspoon: Plays country singer June Carter in *Walk the Line*, the woman whose love, strength and compassion helped Johnny Cash overcome drug use in his early career

3 Judi Dench: In *Mrs Henderson Presents*, Dench is a delightful mix of dictatorial derision and fickle fancy as a society widow who launches a nude stage revue in prudish 1930s London

4 Keira Knightley: Luminous performance as Jane Austen's heroine in *Pride & Prejudice*, the spirited girl who bucks her mother's efforts to marry her off for money instead of love

5 Charlize Theron: In *North Country* Theron plays an iron-willed single mother fighting against sexual harassment by male co-workers at a Minnesota mining company