

Oscar nominees – Best supporting actor



1 Matt Dillon: Outshone the huge ensemble cast of ***Crash*** as a racist cop who gets a lesson in tolerance and acceptance through a series of traffic encounters with a black woman

2 George Clooney: In oil-industry thriller ***Syriana***, Clooney plays a pudgy career CIA operative who comes to question American government and corporate actions in the Middle East

3 Jake Gyllenhaal: Co-lead with best-actor nominee Heath Ledger in ***Brokeback Mountain***, in which they play rugged Western ranch-hands concealing a gay love affair from their wives

4 Paul Giamatti: Plays Joe Gould in ***Cinderella Man***, guiding depression-era boxer Jim Braddock to an amazing comeback. A source of inspiration for many down-on-their-luck Americans

5 William Hurt: With just nine minutes of screen time in ***A History of Violence***, Hurt is a longshot to win, yet he's dazzling in those few moments as a blowhard mob boss