

#	"Sponsor"	Contestant	Connection
1	M. Night Shyamalan	Frank Marshall	Marshall was a producer on <i>The Sixth Sense</i>
2	The Wachowskis	James McTeigue	Frequent collaborators
3	Cameron Crowe	Amy Heckerling	Heckerling directed <i>Fast Times at Ridgemont High</i> from Crowe's script
4	James Cameron	David Lean	Cameron has cited Lean as an influence
5	Steven Spielberg (DreamWorks Years)	Mimi Leder	Leder's <i>The Peacemaker</i> was the first film produced by DreamWorks
6	Christopher Nolan	Kenneth Branagh	Branagh appeared in <i>Dunkirk</i> and <i>Tenet</i>
7	Kathryn Bigelow	Milos Forman	Forman was a professor at Columbia and supported Bigelow's work when she was a student
8	Paul Verhoeven (Hollywood years)	Adrian Lynn	Contemporary directors of erotic thrillers; <i>Fatal Attraction</i> and <i>Basic Instinct</i> are often compared
9	James L. Brooks	Albert Brooks	Brooks starred in <i>Broadcast News</i>
10	Brad Bird	Andrew Stanton	Pixar
11	Ang Lee	Spike Lee	Friends and classmates at NYU
12	Nancy Meyers	Preston Sturges	Meyers has cited Sturges an influence

13	Tim Burton	Joel Schumacher	The <i>Batman</i> franchise
14	Michael Mann	Ridley Scott	Contemporaries who got their start directing commercials in the UK in the 1960s; both directed Hannibal Lecter movies
15	Hayao Miyazaki	Isao Takahata	Studio Ghibli
16	Jonathan Demme	Paul Thomas Anderson	Anderson has cited Demme as an influence
17	George Miller	Joe Dante	Contemporaries who both directed segments of the <i>Twilight Zone</i> movie
18	Nora Ephron	Penny Marshall	Contemporaries associated with the “chick flick” genre; multiple Tom Hanks collaborations
19	Gina Prince-Bythewood	Ava Duvernay	Contemporaries and friends
20	Robert Zemeckis	Early Spielberg	Zemeckis co-wrote <i>1941</i> ; Spielberg produced many Zemeckis movies
21	Ron Clements/John Musker	Don Bluth	Contemporaries who were at Disney in the 1970s before Bluth left to establish his own studio
22	Elaine May	Mike Nichols	Comedy writing partners and frequent collaborators
23	John Singleton	F. Gary Gray	Singleton had been developing an NWA movie years before <i>Straight Outta Compton</i> ; both directed <i>Fast & Furious</i> movies

24	John Carpenter	Howard Hawkes	Carpenter put four Hawkes films on his <i>Sight & Sound</i> ballot
25	Jane Campion	Kelly Reichart	Contemporary directors of feminist period pieces
26	Sam Raimi	Peter Jackson	1980s spatter horror directors who helmed massive film trilogies in the early 2000s
27	Bob Fosse	Rob Marshall	Marshall directed <i>Chicago</i> , based on Fosse's musical
28	Stanley Kubrick	David Fincher	Fincher has cited Kubrick as an influence
29	Henry Selick	Jordan Peele	Collaborated on <i>Wendell & Wild</i>
30	Danny Boyle	Aaron Sorkin	Boyle directed <i>Steve Jobs</i> from Sorkin's script
31	Buster Keaton	Charlie Chaplin	Contemporaries and co-stars in Chaplin's <i>Limelight</i>
32	Park Chan-wook	Bong Joon-ho	Contemporaries and friends