



**THAT
THING
YOU
DO**

Oscar's Disrupt My Streaming Consciousness

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Every year, all of Hollywood (and a billion others for that matter) comes to a screeching halt for a grandiose event of epic proportions.

That's right, it is Oscar season and many of the world's most beautiful and talented (generally in that order) people are dressed to the nines and ready to enjoy a fabulous night of celebration.

Each year offers its fair share of surprises (see 'Crash' winning Best Picture last year) and not such surprises (see Martin Scorsese never winning but always being nominated).

It is a night of entertainment, a night of celebration, a night of disappointment, a night of long speeches, a night of glamour, glamour, glamour.

As my good friend, Senior Justin Hardy, says, "This is American Royalty."

Welcome to a foray into my semi-conscious observations of the 79th annual Academy Awards.

Opening:

-Ellen DeGeneres, what a great choice for host.

She is the perfect bridge of common man...err woman... to celebrity.

Probably the funniest woman out. So quirky. So human. Perfect. -Oscar hosts are judged by their ability to keep the show flowing with limitations placed on their comedic abilities.

Basically, if Ellen can keep this interesting for 4 hours, she'll probably be back next year.

-Love the joke about dreams coming true. "Aim lower..." what a novel idea.

Just the motivation I was looking for to turn in this McDonald's application.

I'll be cooking pre-processed meat in no time.

-This is a very international show. More than I can recall from past years.

-It's always safe to make fun of America.

-"You don't really know who is going to win... Unless your British and then you know you have a pretty good shot." True.

-"A lot of British nominees...would I say too many? Not here...no. At home in my pajamas and half a box of chardonnay, who knows what I would say." Classic.

-Her awkwardness is priceless. Avoid the subject by talking about the subject.

A whole streamline of "pressure" jokes. Doesn't get any better than that.

-When they pan around the audience it is obvious that if Ellen wasn't there and being halfway funny, these people would be strangely close to doing something dangerous.

Russian Roulette? Dodging L.A. traffic for fun? Hanging out with Britteny Spears?

-Is Peter O'Toole dead? Someone check his pulse.

-AHAHAHAHA...the Al Gore/Jennifer Hudson joke is going to be hard to top. Hollywood loved that one.

The Boring Awards:

-At this point in the show the Academy honestly attempts to interject as many beautiful/funny/cute people as they can fit on stage at a time.

Honestly no one cares about the Oscar for Most Inspiring Gyro-Animation in a Short Film by a Foreign Director who loves to Samba while drinking Pina Coladas on Saturday's in Spring.

-Enter Daniel Craig and Nicole Kidman. Beautiful point proven.

-Cue Will Ferrell and Jack Black. Funny point proven.

-I'm not going to be very popular for saying this, but who cares. Will Ferrell is the new synonym for over exposure. Seriously, I

can't turn on my television without seeing him.

-Ok, I'll eat my words. That was funny. Really funny. Probably the best I've seen from him in a while.

- Enter Abigail Breslin and Jaden Smith. Cute point proven.

-No seriously these are the cutest presenters ever. Jaden is not quite as smooth as his father...yet. Nice rebound though after the blatant screw up.

-Ok, you probably weren't paying attention but I caught this. "The Danish Poet" (Best Animated Short) is in fact Doug Funnie grown up.

Seems Doug still has the blues over Patty Mayonnaise and fled to Denmark to pursue his somber poetry career.

-So I said these awards were boring, but I do like the Best Short Film category, for this reason and this reason only: It usually highlights some up and coming director who just don't have the funds to hit it big yet.

Frankly, I like being in the know. So that, in a few years when he makes some ridiculously cool film, I'll be like, 'I remember when he directed that short film in 2006. We go way back. Yeah that's right, I'm in the know.'

-And the winner is..."The West Bank Story." That looks really, really funny. Seriously. Pretty brilliant actually.

Surprised no one has ever thought of this before. Look out world for Ari Sandal. (Side note: after the show I downloaded "West Bank Story" off iTunes... it's worth your time.)

-Whoa, was it just me or was the Elements and Motion chorale ridiculously sweet? Who knew you could do that many sound effects with your mouth.

-Ok, Greg Kinnear and Steve Carrell could make even the Sound Editing Award entertaining.

-The microphone bit with Kinnear was classic.

-Seriously, why did Jessica Biel get invited? Certainly not for her performances on

"7th Heaven,"

"Stealth,"

"Blade: Trinity,"

"The Texas Chainsaw Massacre,"

a n d

"Summer Catch."

Do

they give out an Oscar for Hottest Least Talented Person in Hollywood? Naa... too many nominees.

Finally Some Good Awards:

-Finally, we begin on the awards the majority of people care about.

-Hmmm... Best Supporting Actor... I'm going to go with Wahlberg on this one. His performance was fantastic among fantastic performances.

-On the subject of Wahlberg, has there been a better career turnaround? From Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch to a totally legit actor? Impressive indeed.

-And the Oscar goes to... Alan Arkin. Hmm... I'm shocked... but pleased. "Little Miss Sunshine" was a beautiful film, there was nothing to not like about it.

-Did he just put the trophy on the ground? Somehow I think the Academy may throw a fit about that one...

-Nice speech, very classy, very humble.

-Ahhh James Taylor. You can never, ever, ever, ever, ever go wrong with JT.

-These sidebars with Ellen are fantastic. The Marty Scorsese Script Bit and Clint Eastwood MySpace pic were hilarious.

-Gwyneth Paltrow is such a classic Hollywood beauty.

-Her hair tonight however, redefines the term "comb over."

-Hmm Robert Downey Jr... this could be interesting.

-Kudos RDJ. I love it when people aren't too proud to make fun of themselves.

-If you are like me, you love Foreign Film. And if you don't, you should.

-Hmmm I'm shocked "Pan's Labyrinth" didn't win. It won every other award it was up for... except for Best Foreign Language Film.

Makes you wonder what goes into making these decisions? Oh well, I still want to see it.

- B e s t Supporting Actress... I'm going with Rinko Kikuchi (Babel) on this one. Her performance was mind blowing.

Sentimental pick is Abigail Breslin (Little Miss Sunshine). Then again, Adriana Barraza (Babel) was brilliant too.

But you can never, ever go wrong with Cate Blanchett (Notes on a Scandal). Anyone but Jennifer Hudson (Dreamgirls).

That movie did not appeal to me and I have a hard time believing some American Idol phenom really outperformed any of the other four. My pick: Anyone but Jennifer Hudson.

-And the Oscar goes to...NO! NO! NO! Not Jennifer Hudson.

Curse the stars and t h e

Academy!

-At this point I'm really wondering if "Little Miss Sunshine" could pull off the shocker of the century and win Best Picture.

It was a beautiful film, but when is the last time a comedy won Best Picture?

-The show has turned into a total Al Gore lovefest. I don't think a period of three minutes has gone by without someone mentioning how Al Gore has virtually saved the entire world this year.

-No seriously though, Al Gore would eat a homeless person if you dared him.

-All kidding aside, I still need to watch "An Inconvenient Truth." Gore has really crafted himself a nice celebrity status.

Quite a rebound for a guy many considered to be "stiff as a board"

during the 2000 Presidential Election. I'll admit, I think he's funny.

-Best Actress. No brainer...Helen Mirren (The Queen). I'll admit, I haven't seen it, but all the "experts" say it's a no brainer, so it must be, right?

It is impressive that Meryl Streep got nominated despite the silliness of "The Devil Wears Prada."

I still can't believe Jennifer Hudson won. I'm legitimately mad about that one.

-And the Oscar goes to... Helen Mirren. No shocker there.

-Remember when Chris Connolly was on MTV? He should have stayed there. His segments tonight have been very Ryan Seacrest-esque.

-Best Actor should be an interesting race. Many consider Forrest Whittaker to run away with this one.

By my count we have 2 Talented Hollywood Pretty Boys, 2 Talented Black Actors and 1 Talented Artifact. My pick: Forest Whittaker.

I still think O'Toole might be dead. I'm not sure if he's actually moved all night, or if the person next to him is just shaking him when the camera pans by to make him appear life-like.

-And the Oscar goes to... Forest Whittaker. Nice pick.

-Very moving speech. He just encapsulated the true beauty of film wonderfully.

-Alright, this is what everyone has been waiting for all night. Best Director. Can Marty Scorsese (The Departed) finally win the big one?

Does up and comer Alejandro González Iñárritu (Babel) bring home the gold? Can Clint Eastwood (Letters from Iwo Jima) do it again?

Is Stephen Frears' "The Queen" more than just a beautiful performance? Will Paul Greengrass (United 93) steal the sympathy vote?

Deep in my heart I want Marty to win one. Just because he deserves it. But I just don't think I saw a better film this year than Babel. My pick: Alejandro González Iñárritu.

-And the Oscar goes to...FINALLY! FINALLY! FINALLY! Marty did it. Eh, what do I know about film anyways?

-What a beautiful moment. The entire audience gave him a rousing round of applause. Well deserved sir, well deserved.

Leonardo DiCaprio's life goal of getting Scorsese an Oscar is now complete. He can go back to starring in movies such as "Titanic."

-Man, they are steamrolling to the finish. Got to get the depressing local news on air.

-Alright, Best Picture. My heart wants "Little Miss Sunshine," but I see little to no shot of that happening.

Departed was fantastic, but I don't know that it carries the social implications of the other films nominated.

I think Babel takes this one, it is just one of those defining films... -And the Oscar goes to... "The Departed."

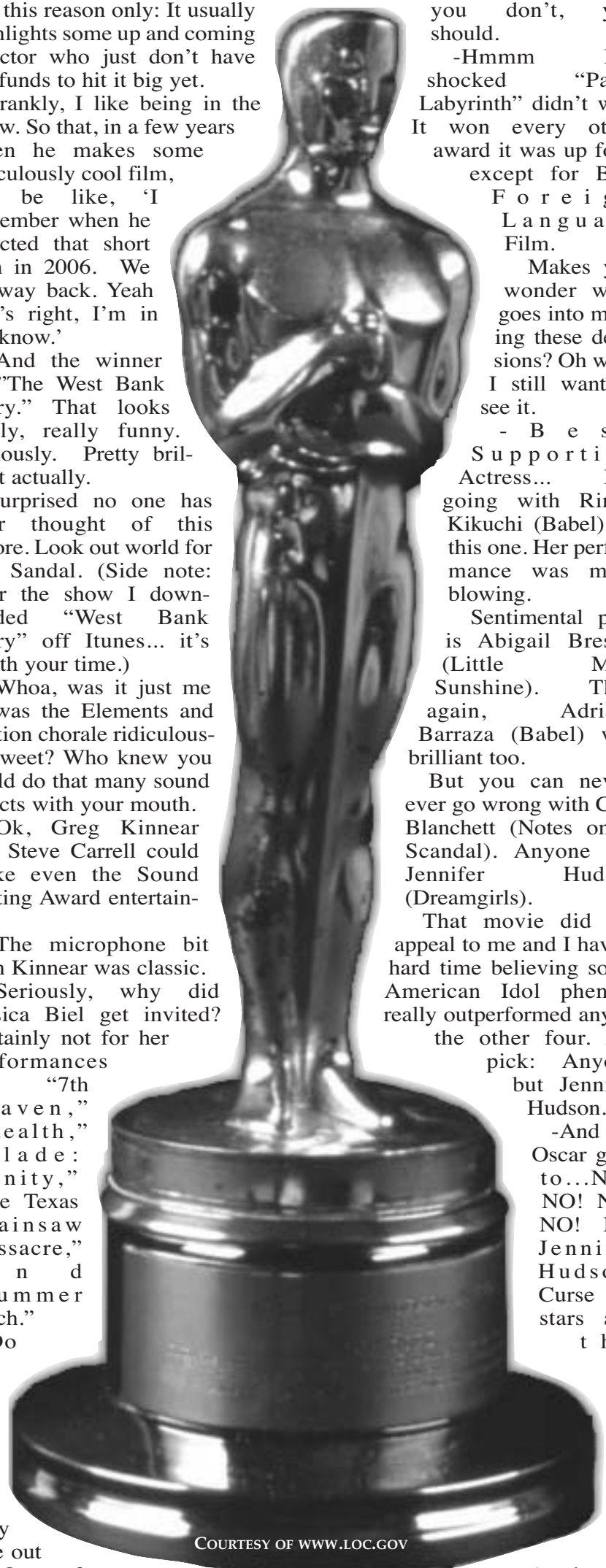
I'm relatively shocked. This movie received a lot of buzz (and deservedly so), but I wasn't sure it could reach these type of accolades.

An all-around good night for Marty and crew. He can actually celebrate this time instead of just bitterly congratulating the winners.

-All in all it was good show. Ellen kept the flow nice, I expect to see her back next year.

I got to see Marty win his first Best Director (which is akin to the Red Sox winning the Series in '04). Did Jennifer Hudson really win?

I still haven't recovered from that. All right Hollywood, get to cracking again. I'll see you next year...



COURTESY OF WWW.LOC.GOV

- MUSIC**
- Digby Bell Memorial recital**
7:30 p.m.
Mar. 8
Yarborough Auditorium
- Claudia Walte guest recital**
7:30 p.m.
Mar. 29
Yarborough Auditorium
- Kara Roberts senior recital**
3 p.m.
April 1
Yarborough Auditorium
- Tabitha King senior recital**
7 p.m.
April 3
Yarborough Auditorium
- Claire Clifford senior recital**
7 p.m.
April 5
Yarborough Auditorium
- YSCO Concert Choir and Youth Choral concert**
3 p.m.
April 15
Yarborough Auditorium
- OBU / Shawnee Community Orchestra concert**
7:30 p.m.
April 17
Potter Auditorium
- MacArthur String Quartet concert**
3 p.m.
April 22
Yarborough Auditorium

- THEATRE**
- OBU Theatre dept. presents Brer Rabbit Tales**
7:30 p.m.
Mar. 2-3
Craig-Dorland Theatre
- College Players Presents**
7 p.m.
Mar. 9
Sarkeys

- ART DEPT.**
- Elisabeth McClung senior art show**
Feb. 27- Mar. 8
Art building
- Rebecca Cade senior art show**
Mar. 9-18
Art building
- Autumn Casey senior art show**
Mar. 26- April 4
Art building

- MISC.**
- Live at the Black Box**
9 p.m.
Mar. 30
Sarkeys
- Over the Rhine Concert**
9 p.m.
March 9
GC