

Sunday, January 15, 2006

Chicks, Flicks, and Tittie Picks: 2005 Edition

2005 has come and gone, as have we. With this entry, we commemorate the finest of the female form on film in the past year. After all, you can't spell 'matinee' without T & A.1. Sin City - Carla Gugino as the lovely lesbian Lucille2. Wedding Crashers - all those fleeting montage mamas3. The 40-Year-Old Virgin - the speed-dating gal with the, um, wardrobe malfunction4. Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang - the ever-adorable Harmony Faith Lane (Michelle Monaghan), among others5. A History of Violence - Maria Bello as Edie Stall, wife betrayed and bare6. Mrs. Henderson Presents - the bold cast of the Windmill Theatre, with the notable exception of Bob Hoskins7. The Constant Gardener - Tessa (Rachel Weisz), an activist equally fiesty and pregnant8. Broken Flowers - Alexis Dziena, queen of eyebrow elevation9. Munich - the local honey trap, whose robe just might have a few stains in it10. Brokeback Mountain - the cameo of Anne Hathaway's admirable assets, which leads us to...Honorable Mention: Havoc - so this direct-to-video may suck more than a Hoover, but it does indeed feature more of Ms. HathawayThe "We're Waiting" Award: (tie) Rachel McAdams and Elizabeth BanksThe "Wham, Bam, No Thank You, Ma'am" Award: Keira Knightley (for Domino, among others)

Posted by William Goss in Award Season at 12:31

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Globetrottin' With The Hollywood Whorin' Press Association

The Golden Globes announced their 63rd annual nominations this morning and provided about 63 years worth of confusion into this year's Oscar race. Giving life to film's that were dying a slow death in the race and ignoring others probably cause they didn't see them until late or their brains couldn't process everything in time to make their pencils work. They have continued to give strength to Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain*, again leading the pack with 7 nominations after taking top prize from the LA & NY critics. Two of this year's expected front runners, *Munich* and *King Kong*, both failed to receive Best Picture nominations yet Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson each received a nod for Best Director. *Munich*'s screenplay was nominated as was James Newton Howard's rush-job score for *Kong*, an odd choice considering it may be the most unnoticeable aspect of the film. If you want some statistics or just a fan of the show *Numbers* (as I am), this doesn't necessarily bode well for both films to come away with a Best Picture nod at the Oscars.

With 10 films in two Picture categories to choose from, 6 of the last 10 years have seen the five finalists cobbled together from the Globes' 10 choices and 2 of those years saw four of the choices. This year those choices are (with my own odds of their chances) *Brokeback Mountain* (EVEN)*The Constant Gardener* (8-1)*Good Night, and Good Luck* (3-1)*A History of Violence* (15-1)*Match Point* (10-1)*Mrs. Henderson Presents* (25-1)*Pride & Prejudice* (4-1)*The Producers* (6-1)*The Squid and the Whale* (100-1)*Walk the Line* (2-1) Was *Squid and the Whale* really a comedy? Where in the hell is *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* in all of this? I must credit Collin Souter who surmised that the group "probably thought the movie was making fun of them." *Walk the Line* steals a slot in the comedy category by default because it happens to have songs in it and if it manages to win, it's a lock. Not that I don't think it isn't already, but only 3 times in the last ten years have both Drama and Comedy/Musical winners failed to each get a nomination. Also shut out of the big categories are hopefuls *Capote*, *Cinderella Man*, *Crash* and *The New World*. *Memoirs of a Geisha* and *Syriana* continue their death march, although the latter picked up a couple surprising nominations for Supporting Actor and Score. The acting categories are a bit less stable in the past decade. In a bit of reversal, only three times have all five Oscar nominees come from the Globe picks, although five times there has only been one absentee from the Globe list. This year, your 11 choices are: Russell Crowe, *Cinderella Man* (8-1)Philip Seymour Hoffman, *Capote* (EVEN)Terence Howard, *Hustle and Flow* (6-1)Heath Ledger, *Brokeback Mountain* (2-1)David Strathairn, *Good Night, and Good Luck* (5-1)-----Peirce Brosnan, *The Matador* (100-1)Jeff Daniels, *The Squid and the Whale* (15-1)Johnny Depp, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (25-1)Nathan Lane, *The Producers* (10-1)Cillian Murphy, *Breakfast on Pluto* (50-1)Joaquin Phoenix, *Walk the Line* (3-1) No Eric Bana for *Munich* and no Tommy Lee Jones (*The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*) who could show up as a late underdog. Other than that, few surprises. As for the ladies, 6 of the last 10 years have shown up with the Globes getting 5 of their nominees Oscar nods. This could easily be 7 out of 11. Judi Dench, *Mrs. Henderson Presents* (3-1)Keira Knightley, *Pride & Prejudice* (4-1)Laura Linney, *Squid and the Whale* (25-1)Sarah Jessica Parker, *The Family Stone* (100-1)Reese Witherspoon, *Walk the Line* (EVEN)-----Maria Bello, *A History of Violence* (10-1)Felicity Huffman, *Transamerica* (5-1)Gwyneth Paltrow, *Proof* (8-1)Charlize Theron, *North Country* (6-1)Ziyi Zhang, *Memoirs of a Geisha* (12-1) No Joan Allen (*The Upside of Anger*) and clearly everyone has forgotten about Julianne Moore and *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* by now. Also no Q'Orianka Kilcher for her turn as Pocahontas in *The New World*, so either the Hollywood Whorin' Press Association didn't get to screen it in time or they are thinking sensibly that the film is absolute garbage. Kilcher isn't bad though, so she may drum up some late heat from the Malick slurpers. The Supporting categories get very sketchy. Only twice apiece for the actors and actresses have the Globes gone 100%. Without two categories going for them, I only see a few close-to-locks in here. George Clooney, *Syriana* (10-1)Matt Dillon, *Crash* (3-1)Will Ferrell, *The Producers* (25-1)Paul Giamatti, *Cinderella Man* (2-1)Bob Hoskins, *Mrs. Henderson Presents* (6-1) Clooney is going to get honored behind the scenes for *Good Night and Good Luck*, so I'm fairly confident to strike that choice. After all, William Hurt (*A History of Violence*) is going to get somebody's place. And of all the performances in *The Producers*, do you really think the Academy is going to nominate Will Ferrell over Matthew Broderick, Gary Beach or Roger Bart? I doubt it. Speaking of which - where is UMA?!!! My choice to win the Oscar this year (singing - dancing - accent) ignored by these morons? Well, in 2002 the same thing happened to Catherine Zeta-Jones for *Chicago*. No Globe nomination. She gets the Oscar nod and wins it. Also getting no love was the supporting cast of *Munich* (Geoffrey Rush, Daniel Craig, Ciaran Hinds, Michael Lonsdale). Someone is due from that group. Clifton Collins Jr. (*Capote*) must have been completely forgotten about as he hasn't received any notices yet during award season. Scarlett Johansson, *Match Point* (2-1)Shirley MaLaine, *In Her Shoes* (8-1)Frances McDormand, *North Country* (5-1)Rachel Weisz, *Contant Gardener* (6-1)Michelle Williams, *Brokeback Mountain* (EVEN) Catherine Keener had great supporting work in four different films this year, yet she's ignored. Amy Adams (*Junebug*) looks like the

Little Engine That Could, unless its run by the HFFA. Some were chalking up a win for Diane Keaton (The Family Stone) but she's nowhere to be found. Maria Bello went lead, so she may still come back here for Oscar night. These 5 have all been on the Oscar Eye depth chart for some time now, so its hard to blindly eliminate any of their chances. I'd still only bet on Williams and Johansson as locks though. Best DirectorWoody Allen, Match Point (5-1)George Clooney, Good Night, and Good Luck (4-1)Peter Jackson, King Kong (10-1)Ang Lee, Brokeback Mountain (EVEN)Fernando Mereilles, The Constant Gardener (8-1)Steven Spielberg, Munich (2-1) You want sketchy? Welcome to it. Spielberg and Jackson get nominations but their films don't and I already suspect that Munich and King Kong will get Best Picture recognition, but Jackson will fall short since he just won two years ago. That being said - not once in the last TEN YEARS have all of the Globes' directors gotten nominated. Only 4 times has 4 of the 5 received nominations and in the three years when 6 directors were nominated, the Oscars picked out 2 (1995), 4 (2001) and 3 (2002). Those six are going to be hard to weed out, even with the potential of James Mangold (Walk the Line), David Cronenberg (A History of Violence) and Terrence Malick (The New World). Best ScreenplayBrokeback Mountain (EVEN)Crash (EVEN)Good Night, And Good Luck (2-1)Match Point (EVEN)Munich (EVEN)While only once since 1995 has all five Globe nominees received slots amongst the 10 Original and Adapted scripts, this may undoubtedly be the second. Brokeback and Munich should be locks in the Adapted while Crash and Match Point look like gold in the Original category. Good Night and Good Luck, by the slimmest of margins could be the odd man out if someone can't thinks its original status is hurt by a good chunk of the film being based on transcripts and television footage. With limited slots, scripts ignored include (original) Broken Flowers, Cinderella Man, The Family Stone, Hustle & Flow, Mrs. Henderson Presents, The Squid and the Whale, The Three Burials of Melquaiades Estrada and (adapted) Capote, The Constant Gardener, A History of Violence, King Kong, Memoirs of a Geisha, The Producers and Walk the Line. Finally, anyone who has ever heard of Best Original Song nominee - Christmas in Love - they are lying. Cause no one has heard of it.

Posted by Erik Childress in Award Season at 21:19

Golden Globe nominations announced. Hollywood Foreign Press remains weird.

The Golden Globe nominations for 2005 are out, and the list is, how we say in French, le fucked up. In the Best Drama category, there's no sign of Syriana, Munich, North Country, King Kong, Capote or Memoirs of a Geisha. The Constant Gardener, which is good but not great, gets a nod, as does the largely floppish A History of Violence. Brokeback Mountain, Good Night and Good Luck and Matchpoint round out the category.Despite Brokeback Mountain scooping much of the pool on nominations this year, Jake Gyllenhaal has been overlooked in the Best Supporting Actor category (George Clooney, Matt Dillon, Will Ferrell, Paul Giamatti and Bob Hoskins took the five available spots), and also disappointing is the fact that, apparently, the Hollywood Foreign Press don't watch Arrested Development. Bastards.The full list of nominations follows the fold.

Best Motion Picture - Drama

Nominees:

Brokeback Mountain (2005)

The Constant Gardener (2005)

Good Night, and Good Luck. (2005)

A History of Violence (2005)

Match Point (2005)

Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy

Nominees:

Mrs. Henderson Presents (2005)

Pride & Prejudice (2005)

The Producers (2005)

The Squid and the Whale (2005)

Walk the Line (2005)

Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama

Nominees:

Russell Crowe for Cinderella Man (2005)

Philip Seymour Hoffman for Capote (2005)

Terrence Howard for Hustle & Flow (2005)

Heath Ledger for Brokeback Mountain (2005)

David Strathairn for Good Night, and Good Luck. (2005)

Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama

Nominees:

Maria Bello for A History of Violence (2005)

Felicity Huffman for Transamerica (2005)

Gwyneth Paltrow for Proof (2005)

Charlize Theron for North Country (2005)

Ziyi Zhang for Memoirs of a Geisha (2005)

Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy

Nominees:

Pierce Brosnan for *The Matador* (2005)

Jeff Daniels for *The Squid and the Whale* (2005)

Johnny Depp for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005)

Nathan Lane for *The Producers* (2005)

Cillian Murphy for *Breakfast on Pluto* (2005)

Joaquin Phoenix for *Walk the Line* (2005)

Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy

Nominees:

Judi Dench for *Mrs. Henderson Presents* (2005)

Keira Knightley for *Pride & Prejudice* (2005)

Laura Linney for *The Squid and the Whale* (2005)

Sarah Jessica Parker for *The Family Stone* (2005)

Reese Witherspoon for *Walk the Line* (2005)

Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture

Nominees:

George Clooney for *Syriana* (2005)

Matt Dillon for *Crash* (2004)

Will Ferrell for *The Producers* (2005)

Paul Giamatti for *Cinderella Man* (2005)

Bob Hoskins for *Mrs. Henderson Presents* (2005)

Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture

Nominees:

Scarlett Johansson for Match Point (2005)

Shirley MacLaine for In Her Shoes (2005)

Frances McDormand for North Country (2005)

Rachel Weisz for The Constant Gardener (2005)

Michelle Williams for Brokeback Mountain (2005)

Best Director - Motion Picture

Nominees:

Woody Allen for Match Point (2005)

George Clooney for Good Night, and Good Luck. (2005)

Peter Jackson for King Kong (2005)

Ang Lee for Brokeback Mountain (2005)

Fernando Meirelles for The Constant Gardener (2005)

Steven Spielberg for Munich (2005)

Best Screenplay - Motion Picture

Nominees:

Brokeback Mountain (2005) - Larry McMurtry, Diana Ossana

Crash (2004) - Paul Haggis, Robert Moresco

Good Night, and Good Luck. (2005) - George Clooney, Grant Heslov

Match Point (2005) - Woody Allen

Munich (2005) - Tony Kushner

Best Original Song - Motion Picture

Nominees:

Brokeback Mountain (2005) ("A Love That Will Never Grow Old")

Christmas in Love (2004) ("Christmas in Love")

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2005) ("Wunderkind")

The Producers (2005) ("There's Nothing Like a Show on Broadway")

Transamerica (2005) ("Travelin' Thru")

Best Original Score - Motion Picture

Nominees:

Brokeback Mountain (2005) - Gustavo Santaolalla

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2005) - Harry Gregson-Williams

King Kong (2005) - James Newton Howard

Memoirs of a Geisha (2005) - John Williams

Syriana (2005) - Alexandre Desplat

Best Foreign Language Film

Nominees:

Joyeux Noël (2005) (France)

Kung fu (2004) (Hong Kong)

Mo gik (2005) (China)

Paradise Now (2005) (Palestine)

Tsotsi (2005) (South Africa)

Best Television Series - Drama

Nominees:

"Commander in Chief" (2005)

"Grey's Anatomy" (2005)

"Lost" (2004)

"Prison Break" (2005)

"Rome" (2005)

Best Television Series - Musical or Comedy

Nominees:

"Curb Your Enthusiasm" (2000)

"Desperate Housewives" (2004)

"Entourage" (2004)

"Everybody Hates Chris" (2005)

"My Name Is Earl" (2005)

"Weeds" (2005)

Best Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television

Nominees:

"Blackpool" (2004) (mini)

Empire Falls (2005) (TV)

"Into the West" (2005) (mini)

"Sleeper Cell" (2005)

Warm Springs (2005) (TV)

Best Performance by an Actor in a Mini-Series or a Motion Picture Made for Television

Nominees:

Kenneth Branagh for Warm Springs (2005) (TV)

Ed Harris for Empire Falls (2005) (TV)

Bill Nighy for The Girl in the Café (2005) (TV)

Jonathan Rhys-Meyers for "Elvis" (2005) (mini)

Donald Sutherland for "Human Trafficking" (2005) (mini)

Best Performance by an Actress in a Mini-Series or a Motion Picture Made for Television

Nominees:

Halle Berry for Their Eyes Were Watching God (2005) (TV)

Kelly Macdonald for The Girl in the Café (2005) (TV)

S. Epatha Merkerson for Lackawanna Blues (2005) (TV)

Cynthia Nixon for Warm Springs (2005) (TV)

Mira Sorvino for "Human Trafficking" (2005) (mini)

Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series - Musical or Comedy

Nominees:

Zach Braff for "Scrubs" (2001)

Steve Carell for "The Office" (2005)

Larry David for "Curb Your Enthusiasm" (2000)

Jason Lee for "My Name Is Earl" (2005)

Charlie Sheen for "Two and a Half Men" (2003)

Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series - Musical or Comedy

Nominees:

Marcia Cross for "Desperate Housewives" (2004)

Teri Hatcher for "Desperate Housewives" (2004)

Felicity Huffman for "Desperate Housewives" (2004)

Eva Longoria for "Desperate Housewives" (2004)

Mary-Louise Parker for "Weeds" (2005)

Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series - Drama

Nominees:

Patrick Dempsey for "Grey's Anatomy" (2005)

Matthew Fox for "Lost" (2004)

Hugh Laurie for "House, M.D." (2004)

Wentworth Miller for "Prison Break" (2005)

Kiefer Sutherland for "24" (2001)

Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series - Drama

Nominees:

Patricia Arquette for "Medium" (2005)

Glenn Close for "The Shield" (2002)

Geena Davis for "Commander in Chief" (2005)

Kyra Sedgwick for "The Closer" (2005)

Polly Walker for "Rome" (2005)

Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television

Nominees:

Naveen Andrews for "Lost" (2004)

Paul Newman for Empire Falls (2005) (TV)

Jeremy Piven for "Entourage" (2004)

Randy Quaid for "Elvis" (2005) (mini)

Donald Sutherland for "Commander in Chief" (2005)

Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television

Nominees:

Candice Bergen for "Boston Legal" (2004)

Camryn Manheim for "Elvis" (2005) (mini)

Sandra Oh for "Grey's Anatomy" (2005)

Elizabeth Perkins for "Weeds" (2005)

Joanne Woodward for Empire Falls (2005) (TV)

Posted by Oz in Movie News, Award Season at 15:39

Monday, December 12, 2005

More gay love for the gayest film critics group on the planet

For those of you who don't know who the Broadcast Film Critics Association are - lucky you! Shawn Edwards, Mark S. Allen, Bill Bregoli, Jim Ferguson, Andy Jones, Jeffrey Lyons, Michael Medved, Mose Persico, Tony Toscano, Jim Svejda and Clay Smith are just a few of the names on their roster. With apologies to critics like James Rocchi, Paul Zimmerman and David Poland - this is a group that should be at the top as a toilet paper substitute. They love to brag about their ability to be a forecaster of the Oscars, which is pretty easy when you nominate TEN films for Best Picture and more than five actors and actresses. I once knocked the crap out of member Leo "The Film Freak" Quinones on the radio in 1998 in movie theme trivia and called him on the carpet for praising the sci-fi epic, *Soldier*, while having all sorts of hats to giveaway. That has nothing to do with their award announcement. It's just a fun story.

Like the Los Angeles Film Critics, the BFCA gave some appropriate backdoor love to Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain* with 8 nominations. Other big vote getters were *Crash* (6), *Good Night, and Good Luck* (5) and 4 nominations each to *Capote*, *Cinderella Man* and *Walk the Line*. Also grabbing Best Film nods, but only 2 nominations each, were *The Constant Gardener*, *King Kong* and *Munich*.

Blah Blah Blah. So hip are the BFCA that they forgo traditional category titles like Screenplay and Original Score and substitute Best Writer and Best Composer.

Oooh. They also vote on the best young actor and actresses, where Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson have inaugural placement -- and apparently they want to be forecasters of the original "forecasters" of the Oscars (The Golden Globes) with a Best Comedy Movie category. Not Best Comedy or Best Comedic Film - Best Comedy Movie! How much you want to bet that with the exception of *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, *The 40 Year-Old Virgin*, *Mrs. Henderson Presents*, *The Producers* and *Wedding Crashers* get Globe nominations this week in the same category? I could rail about the Best Soundtrack category being a rather pointless exercise considering they already have a Composer and Song category.

Yes, Cameron Crowe (Elizabethtown) puts together a great mix CD for his films and of course, *Walk the Line* would have one of the great soundtracks in any year - but *Memoirs of a Geisha*? You've already got that in the Composer category and the John Williams score is what is present on the CD - so why are you nominating it? *Brokeback Mountain* had music and songs. *Good Night, and Good Luck*

had great classic jazz by Dianne Reeves. Where are your heads? If you can't do the category justice, lose it and then lose yourselves. But let's look at that song category, where the BFCA has nominated "Seasons of Love" from *Rent*.

Granted, the category does not contain the adjective "original" - but are these moronic fucktard whores serious??? Why not nominate "Walk the Line" from *Walk the Line* or Asia's "Heat of the Moment" from *The 40 Year-Old Virgin*?

Shit, how 'bout "Happy Birthday to You"? I'm sure that popped up in a film sometime this year or is that just too public domain for you? God

knows sloppy seconds ain't yo thang.http://www.moviecitynews.com/awards/2006/cirtics_awards/bfca.html
BEST PICTURE *Brokeback Mountain* *Capote* *Cinderella Man* *The Constant Gardener* *Crash* *Good Night, and Good Luck*. *King Kong* *Memoirs of a Geisha* *Munich* *Walk the Line* BEST ACTOR Russell Crowe – *Cinderella Man* Philip Seymour Hoffman – *Capote* Terrence Howard – *Hustle & Flow* Heath Ledger – *Brokeback Mountain* Joaquin Phoenix – *Walk the Line* David Strathairn – *Good Night, and Good Luck* BEST ACTRESS Joan Allen – *The Upside of Anger* Judi Dench – *Mrs. Henderson Presents* Felicity Huffman – *Transamerica* Keira Knightley – *Pride & Prejudice* Charlize Theron – *North Country* Reese Witherspoon – *Walk the Line* BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR George Clooney – *Syriana* Kevin Costner – *The Upside of Anger* Matt Dillon – *Crash* Paul Giamatti – *Cinderella Man* Jake Gyllenhaal – *Brokeback Mountain* Terrence Howard – *Crash* BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS Amy Adams – *Junebug* Maria Bello – *A History of Violence* Catherine Keener – *Capote* Frances McDormand – *North Country* Rachel Weisz – *The Constant Gardener* Michelle Williams – *Brokeback Mountain* BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE *Crash* *Good Night, and Good Luck*. *Rent* *Syriana* *Sin City* BEST DIRECTOR George Clooney – *Good Night, and Good Luck* Paul Haggis – *Crash* Ron Howard – *Cinderella Man* Peter Jackson – *King Kong* Ang Lee – *Brokeback Mountain* Steven Spielberg – *Munich* BEST WRITER Noah Baumbach – *The Squid and the Whale* George Clooney and Grant Heslov – *Good Night, and Good Luck* Dan Futterman – *Capote* Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco – *Crash* Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana – *Brokeback Mountain* BEST ANIMATED

FEATURE Chicken LittleCorpse BrideHowl's Moving CastleMadagascarWallace & Gromit The Curse of the Were-Rabbit
BEST YOUNG ACTOR Jesse Eisenberg – The Squid and the WhaleAlex Etel – MillionsFreddie Highmore – Charlie and
the Chocolate FactoryOwen Kline – The Squid and the WhaleDaniel Radcliffe – Harry Potter and Goblet of Fire BEST
YOUNG ACTRESS Flora Cross – Bee SeasonDakota Fanning – War of the WorldsGeorgie Henley – The Chronicles of
Narnia The Lion, The Witch and the WardrobeQ'Orianka Kilcher – The New WorldEmily Watson – Harry Potter and the
Goblet of Fire BEST COMEDY MOVIE The 40 Year-Old Virgin Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang Mrs. Henderson Presents The
Producers The Wedding Crashers BEST FAMILY FILM (LIVE ACTION) Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Dreamer
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire The Chronicles of Narnia The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe BEST PICTURE
MADE FOR TELEVISION Into the West No Direction Home Rome Warm Springs BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM
Cache Kung Fu Hustle Oldboy Paradise Now 2046 BEST SONG "Hustle & Flow" – Terrence Howard – Hustle & Flow"A
Love That Will Never Grow Old" – Emmylou Harris – Brokeback Mountain"Same in Any Language" – I Nine –
Elizabethtown"Seasons of Love" – Tracie Thoms, Jesse L. Martin and Cast – Rent"Travelin' Thru" – Dolly Parton –
Transamerica BEST SOUNDTRACK Elizabethtown Memoirs of a Geisha The Producers Rent Walk the Line BEST
COMPOSER James Horner – The New WorldGustavo Santaolalla – Brokeback MountainJohn Williams – Memoirs of a
GeishaNancy Wilson – Elizabethtown BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE Enron – The Smartest Guys in the Room
Grizzly Man Mad Hot Ballroom March of the Penguins Murderball

Posted by Erik Childress in Award Season at 22:47

LA Film Critics Dig Gay Cowboys

For the first time in God knows when, the credibility-challenged National Board of Review were not first out of the gate with their annual "awards". This year the honor goes to the Los Angeles Film Critics. (Actually, it was the Washington Area Film Critics - but no one was looking in their area.) This year, L.A. went with the gay cowboy epic, Brokeback Mountain, producing good news and bad news if statistics are your bread-and-butter.

The Good News: 14 of their last 20 picks for the top prize wound up with an Oscar nomination, including last year's Sideways.

The Bad: Only twice have their pick won in that time - and only 5 times since 1979.

Ang Lee's star-crossed romance also picked up a win for Best Director and a runner-up for Heath Ledger as Best Actor. Runner-Ups?

C'mon people - nothing says amateur hour like Runners-up and yet L.A. and other critics groups still continue to do it. There is no runner-up Oscar, Grammy or Emmy. Maybe a tie once-in-a-while, but that's just as gay. Seriously, if I were David Cronenberg, whose A History of Violence was the runner-up for Picture and Director, the term "First Loser" (or maybe even "pitcher") would be flashing like neon across my brain.

Even gayer than Brokeback Mountain?

How about not being able to make up your mind over which film to give an actor an award for? This is a typical staple of both the LA & NY Critics Circles - awarding an actor for a year's body of work as if every film on their resume is worthy of award consideration. This year's recipient - the very worthy Catherine Keener winning not just for Capote, but also for The 40 Year-Old Virgin, The Ballad of Jack and Rose and The Interpreter. What the hell? If they would have gone with Terrence Howard for Hustle & Flow, would they also have included Four Brothers, Get Rich or Die Tryin', Crash and The Salon. Why stop there? Why not the straight-to-video Animal and the TV flicks Lackawanna Blues and Their Eyes Were Watching God. Advice for the undecided - one vote, one film. MAKE UP YOUR GODDAMNED MINDS! YOU ARE GROWN-UPS!

Other big winners were:

Best Actor: Phillip Seymour Hoffman - Capote (4 of the last 6 winners were nominated; 1 Oscar-winner)

Best Actress: Vera Farmiga - Down to the Bone (The last 6 LA picks were nominated. Too bad no one outside of the coasts and those of us who saw this film at Sundance in 2004 have ever heard of this overrated film and performance.)

Best Supporting Actor: William Hurt - A History of Violence (4 of the last 6 winners were nominated; 2 Oscar-winners)

Best Supporting Actress: Catherine Keener - Every film she's ever been in. (5 of the last 6 winners were nominated; ZERO Oscar-winners)

Best Screenplay: Capote

Best Cinematography: Good Night, and Good Luck.

Best Production Design: 2046

Best Music Score: Howl's Moving Castle

Best Foreign-Language Film: Cache

Best Documentary/Non-Fiction Film: Grizzly Man (not even making the Academy cut)

Best Animation: Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

The Special Citation Award went to LA Times film critic, Kevin Thomas "for his contribution to film culture in Los Angeles". In related news, Hollywood Bitchslap's Criticwatch awarded Thomas with his own award - The Kevin Thomas Sloppy Seconds Award - for the runner-up to the Peter Travers Quote Whore of the Year. The winner of that award doesn't get much gayer

Posted by Erik Childress in Award Season at 22:44

You know how I know you're gay? You win awards.

The American Film Institute announced their picks for the best films of 2005, and guess who was right there with the big boys? Andy Stitzer, that's who.

Yup, The 40-Year-Old Virgin made the organization's annual year-end ten-best list, alongside such award-bait as Brokeback Mountain, Good Night, and Good Luck, and Munich. The news comes at the perfect time: not only does the film arrive on DVD Tuesday, but it's the beginning of Oscar season. Academy voters are hitting that time where they take note of the early awards. And with the AFI nod following Catherine Keener's win for Best Supporting Actress in the Los Angeles Film Critics Awards (it's a multi-film award, with Keener also being hailed for all her work this year), chances are looking for the Bitchslappers' favorite. Here's hoping we'll get to see an Original Screenplay nomination for Steve Carrell and Judd Apatow.

The complete list of AFI Movies of the Year: Brokeback Mountain, Capote, Crash, The 40-Year-Old Virgin, Good Night, and Good Luck, A History of Violence, King Kong, Munich, The Squid and the Whale, and Syriana. For more, check out the AFI website.

Posted by David Cornelius in Award Season at 22:34