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Hollywood's biggest party set for Sunday

'Chicago,' 'Schmidt' lead the Golden Globes race

by Erika Jarvis
Staff Writer

With second semester starting, that can only mean one thing: award shows. The honors onslaught moves into high gear this Sunday with the 60th annual Golden Globes Awards.

Hosted by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the show will pay tribute to qualifying movies and television productions of 2002.

In the movie category, the big-screen adaptation of Bob Fosse's musical "Chicago" received eight nominations, the most for any film. The musical is up for Best Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy.

The two female leads, Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones, are both nominated for Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy. Even Richard Gere, who sings and dances in this film, scored himself a nomination for Best Actor.

The small unknown movie that made a big splash this year, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," raked in two nominations with Nia Vardalos, writer and star, being nominated for Best Actress, along with the movie getting a nod for Best Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy.

Leonardo DiCaprio's two movies, "Catch Me If You Can" and "Gangs of New York" both scored nods. DiCaprio managed to grab a Best Actor in a Motion Picture Drama nomination for his portrayal of Frank Abagnale Jr. in "Catch Me If

You Can." The DiCaprio/Martin Scorsese collaboration "Gangs of New York" scored a Best Picture nomination.

The blockbuster "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" brought in two nominations, one for Best Motion Picture Drama and Best Director.

"About Schmidt" apparently made a good impression on the Hollywood Foreign Press, as it copped five nominations. Jack Nicholson's role as Walter Schmidt helped garner the veteran actor his 15th Best Actor nomination, while his co-star Kathy Bates managed to take home a nomination in the Best Supporting Actress category.

In the television world, HBO leads the pack with 18 nominations. The cable network's hit shows such as, "Six Feet Under," "The Sopranos," and "Sex and the City" will compete against the network favorites.

"Sex and the City" will battle the Emmy-winner "Friends" for the Best Television Series, Musical or Comedy crown, while Tony Soprano and "the family" will be going up against HBO's other popular show "Six Feet Under" and past Globe favorite "The West Wing" in the Drama Series race.

Other TV nominees include Jennifer Aniston and Matt LeBlanc for their roles on "Friends," as well as Debra Messing and Eric McCormack for NBC's "Will & Grace." FOX managed to overcome its reality show woes to score multiple nominations for its hit show "24."

'Joe Millionaire' butler guesses what's up, but keeps it quiet

by Donna Petrozzello
New York Daily News
(KRT)

The butler may be discreet, but he's not stupid. "Joe Millionaire" major-domo, Paul Hogan, says he suspected Evan Marriott was not a real tycoon early on in the filming of the hot Fox series. But his suspicions weren't confirmed until the last day of production.

"After day 10 of shooting, I thought, 'If this guy's got \$50 million, I'm the Queen of England,'" Hogan tells the New York Daily News.

For the reality show, 20 women flew to a French chateau in hopes of winning the heart of a man they were told was a dashing millionaire. On the final day of taping, Marriott picked his woman, who then learned he was merely a \$19,000-a-year construction worker. No \$50 million inheritance. No mansion. And no butler.

Hogan says his training kept him quiet.

"It was evident to me that he didn't make money the old-fashioned way. But there are plenty of people today who have tremendous wealth and still shop at Kmart.

"There's a lot of people who, after they inherit money, want to inherit the lifestyle. So I was curious about him."

But Hogan is a member of the elite International Guild of Professional Butlers, a group that stresses the need to keep employers' personal lives and habits confidential, says the group's vice chairman, Werner Leutert.

"You can see from watching him on the show that one of the challenges of a butler is to handle any situation with aplomb and make everyone at the chateau feel special." Even a faker.

Despite Hogan's credentials, the show's executive producer Jean-Michel Michenaud says that to safeguard the final twist, he chose not to let Hogan, and dozens of the crew members, in on it. The 52-year-old Hogan opened (and closed) the show's first episode with a fireside monologue, a la Alastair Cooke. But when the butler spoke, 18.6 million viewers didn't hear the plummy upper-class voice of an Englishman.

That's because Hogan, who's divorced, spent 26 years in the Australian diplomatic service. He retired 10 years ago as Consul at the Australian Embassy in Buenos Aires, then moved to the U.S.

"I came across the idea of butting, and I thought, I'd done 90 percent of that job when I ran embassies, so I decided to reinvent myself as a butler," he says. "I've been doing it for four years now."

Professional butlers are expected to be knowledgeable about wines, the niceties of fine dining, entertaining guests and having good manners — which Hogan demonstrates on "Joe Millionaire."

In addition to instructing Marriott in the ways of the wealthy, Hogan accompanied him on dates with the bachelorettes and spent time with the women in their section of the castle.

"I felt like I was organizing a pajama party most of the time with the ladies," he says.

The butler had an easy time coaching

Marriott.

"Evan is a decent sort of bloke. He enjoys beer and fast food and likes to talk about football."

Michenaud and fellow executive producer Chris Cowan agreed that casting a butler would be valuable to help convince the women that Evan was a man of means.

Indeed, Michenaud says he envisioned Hogan as a reality-show version of Reginald Jeeves, the trusty servant in P.G. Wodehouse's comic novels portrayed by actor Stephen Fry in the British TV series "Jeeves and Wooster."

"It's a classic to match a very wealthy guy with a manservant," says Michenaud.

The timing was perfect for Hogan, who had returned home to upstate New York last July after a short stint working in the Caribbean. Looking for a new position, Hogan called his butler's guild agent, who put him together with "Joe Millionaire's" producers after they contacted the organization to find a butler for the show.

The job sounded like fun, says Hogan, although he had never before watched any reality TV.

Hogan is still drawing a Fox paycheck, shooting commercials for "Joe Millionaire" that will be seen shortly. The third of seven episodes airs Monday night at 9 EST. Hogan watched the first one with buddies at an Elks Lodge and was shocked to see how much of his footage was used.

"I thought I'd be on the screen for 10 seconds," he says. "The whole time we were shooting, I thought, 'How in God's name will they make an entertaining program out of this?'"

'Married' to a moron

by Gary Dowell
The Dallas Morning News
(KRT)

Much like a real marriage, "Just Married" is an uphill battle that gets by on chemistry between its two leads. It's a sweet yet sporadically funny romantic comedy that will probably do more damage to the European tourist industry than to the institution of marriage.

Ashton Kutcher plays Tom Leezak, a young slacker working the graveyard shift as a radio traffic reporter. After a chance meeting with

Sarah McNeerney (Brittany Murphy), the two fall instantly in love and decide to get married, much to the dismay of her wealthy family.

The newlyweds set off for Europe, deep in love and determined to prove their naysayers wrong. Instead, they find themselves hip-deep in a honeymoon from hell, plagued by impossibly compact rental cars, Old World snobbery and those accursed European electrical sockets. The little things — plus a couple of dirty secrets — start to take their toll on the couple, and the lurking presence of Sarah's ex-boyfriend only makes matters worse.

The result is a diverting trifle that's tolerably cute and thankfully devoid of much

of the inanity found in teen comedies these days. But unfortunately, "Just Married" is a little too lacking in sophistication to really stand out. It relies so often on stale clichés regarding Europeans and ugly Americans that it makes "National Lampoon's European Vacation" seem positively enlightened. The same lame



Murphy is all over Kutcher in "Just Married" COURTESY OF ZAP2IT.COM

physical gags are repeated throughout the movie to they point that an intriguing new film theory is created: When in doubt, smack someone in the head with a blunt object.

Which is not to say that "Just Married" is without saving graces. It has a certain dorky charm, made palpable by its goofy leads. Murphy, the voice of vapid Luanne Platter on "King of the Hill," and Kutcher, better known as the spastic himbo Kelso on "That '70s Show," are perfect as space cadets in love. They're an excellent team that manages to squeeze some genuine laughs out of all those stock situations.

Absentees bring home most American Music Awards

by Roger Gorny
Staff Writer

The 30th annual American Music Awards ceremony was held on Monday at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. The surprise-filled night, however, was low-lighted by the absence of top honor's winner Eminem, the Dixie Chicks, and Creed.

The awards were dominated by the hip-hop and R&B scene. The wins were not unexpected, considering the genre dominated the Billboard's Hot 100 and 200 album charts in 2002.

Eminem swept all four categories in which he was nominated, including the award for Favorite Pop/Rock Album for "The Eminem Show."

Ashanti took home a pair of trophies, including Best Pop/Rock New Artist. She thanked all those who were most impor-



AMA hosts Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne. COURTESY OF MTV.COM

tant to her, especially her family and God.

Sheryl Crow was also a success at the awards show, picking up the Best Pop/Rock Artist of the Year award. She hit one funny note upon reaching the microphone when she said, "I was afraid to see Pink come up here," referring to her fellow nominee's drunken acceptance speech at the 2002 MTV Video Music Awards. Crow also rallied peace supporters by ending her proclamation for peace by saying, "Peace this year."

Other winners include Outkast, for Favorite Hip-Hop Group, and Enrique Iglesias for Favorite Latin Music Artist.

The performers also stole the show this night. The opening of the show featured a duet between Elton John and Tim McGraw. They performed Elton's song, "Tiny Dancer," followed by McGraw's immediate exit from the awards show.

But no one got into the show more than the wacky and clever hosts, the Osbournes. Constant bleeping during the show edited out the family's ever-present swearing. The only time when censors did not factor into an Osbourne being onstage was when Ozzy and Sharon's daughter Kelly performed her song, "Shut Up!"

Another notable performer of the night was Missy Elliot, who, along with her DJ and a group of dancers all decked out in red outfits, performed her hit "Work It", which has held the number two spot on the Billboard charts for a record 10 weeks straight.

The show's sentimental highlight was a tribute to late Bee Gee's member, Maurice Gibb, who died the week preceding the show.

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