



Race for the Oscar bogged down by political opinions

**Starring & Directed By:
Hollywood Rob**

Well March Madness is finally over. OK, it's not the March Madness folks around this university would normally think of. Normally that would pertain to a gang of sweaty guys "taking it to the hoop," but we don't have to worry about that this year.

What I'm talking about is the race for Oscar—the symbol of excellence in Hollywood. Almost every year I walk away from the marathon telecast disgruntled about something or other. It's usually caused by whom I feel were undeserving "winners," but this year the academy seemed to have a grip on what was actually good. For the first time in history, I actually feel the best picture winner was the best picture I saw.

I still walked away ticked off though.

When did all our movie stars decide to climb on the pretentiousness bandwagon? Monday night's awards became a cavalcade of people spouting off their opinions on what the government should do, or is doing, or whatever. It got real old, real quick and for those who hung out for the three-and-a-half-hour haul—it never ended.

Tim Robbins, Richard Gere, and Susan Sarandon used their time on stage to cram their world views down our throats. I thought they were there to give out awards for excellence in motion pictures, not to change the world.

It isn't bad enough that the film industry comes together at this time every year to pat themselves on the back for putting out a handful of good movies and a boat-load of crap, but then they expect us to take them as serious artists as well?

I realize that shooting for the lowest common denominator has made Hollywood mounds of money, but can't they at least be honest about being businessmen first and artists second. For God's sake they put out crap (and Crap 2: The sequel to crap) 90 percent of the time.

This year's Academy Awards were intended to be a tribute to women in filmmaking. They should have made their own separate tribute to the subject on some other night, or at least some other year as 1992 was one of the worst for women in film. Proof of this lies in the fact that they

were seriously talking about Michelle Pfeiffer as a nominee for *Batman Returns*. Thank God for small favors—that didn't happen, but things were still pretty dismal.

The tribute to women in film got underway with a film clip tribute which included many of the great actresses of our time which was great—until Madonna and Melanie Griffith popped up in the montage. It was embarrassing to think they would even include them in such a tribute. Especially Madonna (as an actress)—now there's no talent. These two couldn't act themselves out of a wet paper bag.

Then things managed to get worse as Kathy Bates in-

troduced a best picture nominee as "A Few Good Men... and a woman." Didn't she stop to think that Demi Moore was the weakest part of this color-by-the-numbers courtroom drama and she did all actresses a disservice by saying that. If Moore had been nominated for her part, it would have made sense, but there was no reasoning or excuse to persuade me that it wasn't just a hateful jab at men in the industry.

The Academy Awards is just not the place for this kind of thing. Liza Minelli hit a new low when singing a song called "Ladies Day" which made Oprah's man-bashing activities look tame. Did anyone organizing this show ever hear

of subtlety?

The bottom line is this: The Oscars are supposed to be fun. They carry no real weight as the people who made the movies do the voting, but they could still be enjoyable. As it stands now the show itself is a breeding ground for stars to push their beliefs on an unwanting public.

Who cares what they think about the situation in China, or anywhere else for that matter. Their job is to entertain. That's what they're paid for, and that's what they should stick to on Oscar night.

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