

ENTERTAINMENT

'Ray' shines in Oscar nominations


ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I'm an older man that just so happens to like really young women. With my age, I prefer women that are at least 20 to 25 years younger than me. Why does society and other women give me such a hard time about my dating preference? I don't feel as if I'm doing anything wrong.

Paul

Rock Hill, SC

Dear Paul:

I hope and pray you're at least 50 years old or more. If not, your R. Kelly impression is pretty bad and you're going to get thrown under the jail and they'll melt the key. Considering the grief you get over this, it's obvious you're mismatched with these women. Do yourself a favor and date within your league. If you still choose to rob the cradle, keep your business to yourself and suck it up because you're the one putting yourself in this situation.

★★★★★

Dear Deanna!

I'm interested in a lady at church. I approached her two years ago and she told me she was dating someone. Whenever the Pastor asks the single ladies to rise, she now stands up. We make eye contact and no matter where we're sitting, I can sense her presence. I have never felt this way about a woman before in my life, not even my ex-wife. When I try and date someone else, she constantly comes to mind. I would really like to just sit down and talk with her, no strings attached and see if we have anything in common.

My Will

Dallas, TX

Dear My Will:

Life is too short to be fantasizing over this woman. It's a good sign you're both in church and a better sign that she indicates she's single. Pray for confidence, pull up your boot straps and invite her to lunch. You'll never know if you have anything in common if you're afraid. Make your move in faith and good intentions so if you're rejected, you'll be okay. If this woman who triggers your emotions in such a fashion is from God, you'll know.

★★★★★

Dear Deanna!

I just so happen to be fat, chunky and overweight but I have a cute face and I dress according to my size. My best friend is always dogging me because she's slim and tries to make me feel bad because of my weight. I'm happy, I can pull the men and I don't have any health problems so I'm not dieting. How do I get her off my back about being skinny? That's not on my agenda.

Keisha

Orlando, FL

Dear Keisha:

Go on Big Girl with your bad self! If you're happy and healthy, keep towing your weight and wear it well. As for your friend, sounds as if she's ugly with issues and is jealous of your looks. Next time she gets on the weight kick, tell her your problem can be solved with a diet and hers can't be helped. If you really want her off your back, sprinkle some ketchup on her and swallow her whole.

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Special to Sentinel-Voice

Although the shrinking gap between a movie's release in theaters and on home video is a hot-button issue with theater owners, when it comes to Oscar nominations, a multinominated film can earn a pass.

That certainly is the case with Universal Pictures' "Ray," which picked up six nominations Tuesday, including one for best picture.

Universal is planning to boost the movie's presence to 503 from 293 theaters Friday — just four days before the film is released on home video.

The AMC, National Amusements and Regal Entertainment Group chains have stepped up to offer their

theaters for the biopic, said Nikki Rocco, Universal's president of distribution.

"We want to give audiences an opportunity to see it in their local theater in a large format prior to being afforded the opportunity to get the DVD," Rocco said. "It's all about giving consumers the choice."

Normally, theater owners view that choice as a threat — especially when an impending home video release threatens to overshadow a film's theatrical bookings. The assumption is that if consumers can see a film on DVD for less money, they won't venture to the movie theater.

Complained one top exhibitor, who declined to be named, "It's short-sighted to



set a (home video) release window that close to Academy Award nominations, when the thinking around town was that 'Ray' was going to be nominated. Even moving the release window back by 3-4 weeks wouldn't have made a big difference to them, and it could have earned the film a lot more theatrically. We think they are leaving money on the table."

Of course, the size of the ticket sales that "Ray" can still command is an unknown — the movie has been in theaters for 13 weeks.

"Ray" opened the weekend of Oct. 29 to \$20 million in 2,006 theaters across the United States, and has earned about \$76 million to date.

According to the National Association of Theatre Owners, Universal's video windows exceeded five months last year, a particularly high average, compared with Sony Pictures, whose average window is in the three-month range. For "Ray," Universal narrowed its window to slightly more than three months.

Although it did not earn a best picture nomination, "Hotel Rwanda" hopes to develop box office momentum thanks to its three nominations, including a best actor mention for Don Cheadle. United Artists will double its playdates by Feb. 4. The film, currently in 319 theaters, has earned \$5.6 million to date.

Foxx, Washington atop Image award honorees

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Ray," the film biography of Ray Charles, captured seven nominations for this year's NAACP Image Awards, including a best actor nomination for Golden Globe winner Jamie Foxx.

Kerry Washington won a best actress nomination for "Ray," and supporting nominations went to C.J. Sanders, Clifton Powell, Regina King and Sharon Warren.

The film, directed by Taylor Hackford, will compete for best movie.

Other best movie nominees include another Foxx picture, "Collateral," along with "Fahrenheit 9/11," "Hotel Rwanda" and "Man on Fire."

The 36th annual Image Awards, for achievement by Blacks in movies, television, music and literature, will be presented March 19 in Los Angeles. The ceremony will be televised on Fox on March 25.

Usher led the music category with five nominations, including best male artist, best song ("Yeah!") and best album ("Confessions").

UPN led among television networks with 14 nominations. The network televises comedies with largely Black casts on Monday nights and introduced a new series, "Kevin Hill," which captured nominations for best drama and best actor for Taye Diggs.

More than 1,200 nominations were received, which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People said was a record. Winners are determined by a vote of NAACP members.


African American History Month
Remembering the Freedoms

**West Charleston Library - 6301 W. Charleston Blvd.
Saturday, February 5, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. and
Sunday, February 6, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

Don't miss this festival of the best of African American art, plays, dance, music, and film. Each artistic presentation has been selected based on its historical perspective as it relates to the Las Vegas centennial commemoration. Produced and directed by Kim Russell, Program Director for the International House of Blues Foundation.

Free and open to the public. For more information about this and other African American History Month programs please visit www.lvccld.org or any Las Vegas-Clark County Library District branch.

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