

Cinderella

(fall in love with your favorite fairy tale all over again)



Those step-sisters are so wicked!

The step-sisters have their go at the prince first.



Cinderella meets the handsome prince next.



They look pretty good together, don't they?



Happily ever after! What is it about this story that inspires so many? Perhaps it's the sympathy for the title character, the fantasia of the pumpkin carriage, the optimism of the Fairy Godmother, or, in this case, the breathtaking dance by the Moscow Festival Ballet. You've read it many times. **Now, witness CINDERELLA in its most magical and enchanting form, ballet.**

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How does a ballet become a fairy tale? Join us for an informal discussion about CINDERELLA with a representative from the Moscow Festival Ballet. Presented by The OPAS Guild, the discussion will be held one hour prior to the performances in the Forsyth Center Galleries of the MSC.

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'The Return of the King' leads Oscar race with 11 nominations

By David Germain
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Middle-earth crowned its monarch. Now, Academy Awards voters seem ready to crown "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" as the first fantasy to win best picture.

The final chapter of Peter Jackson's trilogy, based on J.R.R. Tolkien's classic set in an imaginary world of hobbits, wizards and elves, took a leading 11 Oscar nominations Tuesday, among them best picture and director.

Key acting nominees included Golden Globe winners Bill Murray as a washed-up actor in "Lost in Translation," Diane Keaton as a down-on-love playwright in "Something's Gotta Give," Charlize Theron as serial killer Aileen Wuornos in "Monster" and Sean Penn as a vengeful father in "Mystic River."

The Napoleonic era naval adventure "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" received 10 nominations, including best picture and director for Peter Weir.

The other best-picture nominees were the quirky Tokyo tale "Lost in Translation," the somber vengeance story "Mystic River" and the uplifting horse-racing drama "Seabiscuit."

The most notable snubs were for the Civil War saga "Cold Mountain," which failed to get nominations for best picture, director Anthony Minghella or lead actress Nicole Kidman, last year's best-actress winner for "The Hours." The film had scored well in earlier movie honors.

The biggest surprise was 13-year-old Keisha Castle-Hughes. For her performance as a Maori girl bucking tribal tradition in "Whale Rider," she became the youngest person ever to be nominated for lead actress.

Another surprise pick was director Fernando Meirelles for the Brazilian film "City of God."

"Lost in Translation" earned nominations for directing and original screenplay for Sofia



Oscar Insider
Behind the scenes at The Academy Awards

Coppola. She was only the third woman ever nominated for director, after Lina Wertmuller for 1976's "Seven Beauties" and Jane Campion for 1993's "The Piano."

"It's pretty unbelievable. I'm happy to be in good company," said Coppola, the daughter of Francis Ford Coppola and the first American woman nominated for director.

A win for Coppola would make her kin the second family of three-generation winners, joining Walter, John and Anjelica Huston. Coppola's father is a five-time winner and her grandfather, Carmine Coppola, won for musical score on "The Godfather Part II."

Besides best picture and director, nominations for "Return of the King" included original score and song, visual effects, film editing and adapted screenplay. The film was shut out in acting categories, though.

With their strange creatures and mythical settings, fantasy flicks have had a hard time gaining favor with Oscar voters. No such fantastical film has ever won the top Oscar, yet universal acclaim and success at previous awards have positioned "Return of the King" to break that barrier.

"Obviously, we've got reason to hope that happens," said Jackson, also considered the favorite for the directing Oscar. "I think what's helping us with 'The Lord of the Rings' is that people respond to the performances, to the reality of the situations on screen and the depth of it. It feels real to them."

"So it's not really the fantasy that's dominant in the film. It's the human emotion. The design of a lot of fantasy films can alienate audiences. We're trying to do the opposite and make people feel comfortable in that world as something they can recognize."

The exclusion of "Cold Mountain" from the top

category ended distributor Miramax's 11-year streak of fielding at least one best-pictu contender, including last year's winner "Chicago."

Miramax co-founder Harold Weinstein, considered Hollywood's scrappiest campaigner, said "Cold Mountain" was hurt by a awards season this year. Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences moved the ceremony to Feb. 29, three weeks earlier than usual.

"Cold Mountain" did manage to pick up seven nominations, though, among them actor for Jude Law and Confederate deserter and porting actress for the Zellweger as a salt-of-the-Southerner. It was Zellweger's third straight nomination.

Along with Law, Penn Murray, best-actor nominee were Johnny Depp as a buccaneer in "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of Black Pearl" and Ben Kingsley as an Iranian immigrant in "House of Sand and Fog."

Murray is the latest in a string of actors such as Hanks and Robin Williams earned hard-won respect in a career that began in Broadway. Academy voters snubbed Murray for his 1998's most acclaimed performance in "Rushmore."

Joining Keaton, Castle-Hughes and Theron in the actress category were Samantha Morton as an Irish mom in New York in "In America," Naomi Watts as a grandmother in "21 Grams."

It was the fourth nomination for Keaton, a best-actress nominee for 1977's "Annie Hall." Keaton plays an older woman who has closed the door on her life, then finds herself pursuing two men in "Something's Gotta Give," which has topped million at the box office.

"It's fantastic for actors of my generation," Keaton said. "It means we can still do romantic comedies, and they're well-written and directed and acted, it works and makes money."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge calls Schwarzenegger's \$4 million campaign loans 'illegal'

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger broke a state law during the closing weeks of the recall race when he took out \$4.5 million in bank loans to help his cash-starved campaign, according to a preliminary ruling from a superior court judge.

If Monday's decision is upheld, the governor could be forced to pay back the loans out of personal funds.

"The judge has agreed with us in a strongly worded position that these loans were illegal," said attorney Lowell Finley, who filed a lawsuit in October attempting to stop Schwarzenegger from funding his campaign with bank loans that could be paid back by donors after the election.

Finley said that the ruling from Judge Loren McMaster could spark sanctions from the California Fair Political Practices Commission — an agency that recently threatened Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante with a \$9 million fine because of campaign infractions.

Building collapses in Cairo suburb; at least eight dead

CAIRO, Egypt — Rescue workers used bulldozers and cranes to clear rubble and search for survivors Tuesday after an 11-story building caught fire and collapsed, killing at least nine people.

After working through the night under spotlights, authorities recovered eight bodies — six firefighters and police officers as well as a citizen, according to rescue officials on the scene and Egypt's semi-official Middle East News Agency.

At least six people remained trapped in the rubble, and a member of the rescue team told Associated Press that rescuers had heard the survivor beneath the debris. The survivor said others were alive with him, according to the cue worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gen. Mohammed el-Moayyed, in charge of cue efforts on the scene, said that six firefighters were believed to still be trapped in the rubble and probably some workers from the appliances.

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