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?

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Wednesday, January 28, 2004

'The Return of the King' lead Oscar race with 11 nomination

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 "Master and adventure 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 13year-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 The exclusion of "Cold

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mountain" from the top makes money."

category ended distr Miramax's 11-year street fielding at least one best-p contender, including last winner "Chicago."

Miramax co-founder Weinstein, Hollywood's scrappies campaigner, Mountain" was hurt by as awards season this year Academy of Motion Pictu and Sciences moved the to Feb. 29, three weeks

than usual. "Cold Mountain" did age to pick up seven m tions, though, among the actor for Jude Law Confederate deserter and porting actress for Zellweger as a salt-of-th Southerner. It was Zellw

third straight nomination. Along with Law, Pen Murray, best-actor no were Johnny Depp as a buccaneer in "Pirates Caribbean: The Curse Black Pearl" and Ben Kin as an Iranian immign "House of Sand and Fog."

Murray is the latest string of actors such as Hanks and Robin William earned hard-won respects career that began in broad edy. Academy voters snubbed Murray for a 1998's most acclaimed per ances in "Rushmore."

Joining Keaton, Hughes and Theron in the actress category were Sam Morton as an Irish momin York in "In America." Naomi Watts as a gi mother in "21 Grams."

It was the fourth nomin for Keaton, a best-actress ner for 1977's "Annie Keaton plays an older w who has closed the door of then finds herself pursue two men in "Something's Give," which has toppe million at the box office "It's fantastic for a of my generation," K said. "It means we can st in romantic comedies, they're well-written and din and acted, it works a

THE BATTAL

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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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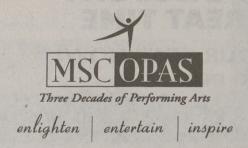


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Judge calls Schwarzenegger's \$4 million campaign loans 'illegal'

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 cashstarved 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 bulldozers and cranes to clear rubble and for survivors Tuesday after an 11-story but caught fire and collapsed, killing at nine people.

After working through the night under spot authorities recovered eight bodies firefighters and police officers as well as ap citizen, according to rescue officials on scene and Egypt's semiofficial Middle News Agency.

At least six people remained trapped in the i ble, and a member of the rescue team told lea tha Associated Press that rescuers had heard in affec survivor beneath the debris. The survivor sai est sco others were alive with him, according to the cue worker, who spoke on condition of anony Curr

Gen. Mohammed el-Moayyed, in charge cue efforts on the scene, said that six firefic were believed to still be trapped in the rubble hough probably some workers from the appliancest salary

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