

DiCaprio unstoppable in "The Revenant"

This wild film may earn Leo his first Oscar

by Jessi Zook

Star studded and filled with excitement, fear, and suspense, "The Revenant" lived up to its rave 8.3 out of 10, according to IMBD.

The movie opens with Hugh Glass, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, a fur trapper in the early 1800s, on a hunting expedition alongside a group of other trappers.

After barely escaping the wrath of a tribe of violent, warring Native Americans, they've lost many of their men and are forced to abandon their boat and trek home over land to avoid being targeted again.

Glass, accompanied by his half Native American son, takes the lead, guiding the group back to camp, when the journey is suddenly disrupted by a violent attack by a bear who's determined to defend her two cubs.

Found barely alive by the rest of his group, Glass is carried onward, falling in and out of consciousness. But, when he's determined as a hopeless case, Glass is left with three comrades who promise to bury him

when death finally arrives. They all assume it won't be long.

However, Glass unexpectedly holds on. In fact, the group waits days, hoping for Glass's death. Eventually, they give up, leaving Glass in a shallow grave.

But soon after, Glass, defying the odds, wakes up. Alone, with no rifle, and still injured, he's determined to find his betrayers and get revenge.

What ensues is a heart wrenching tale of desperation, determination, and sorrow.

The cast, made up almost entirely of men, includes DiCaprio, Tom Hardy, and Will Poulter, all of them living up to their reputations.

Hardy, known for his roles in "The Dark Knight" and "Inception," and Poulter, recognized for his acting in "The Maze Runner," "We're the Millers," and "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," are fantastic supporting actors to DiCaprio, who steals the show.

DiCaprio is outstanding, and it is possibly the best performance of his career. However, the job did come at a price. The conditions that he had to endure while filming were enough to make anyone reach their

breaking point.

The entire movie was shot on site, rather than with green screens, to add to the realistic nature of the film. That meant filming in -25 degree weather in remote locations like Canada and Argentina.

The entire cast felt the strain while shooting, especially DiCaprio, who faced the most challenges, according to Variety Magazine.

When he spoke, many of his lines were directed at Native Americans, so he had to learn both Pawnee and Arikara languages.

One of the most difficult scenes for DiCaprio was when he had to eat a real bison liver, rather than a prop. He wanted to take the risk to benefit the scene and his acting, DiCaprio told Vanity Fair.

DiCaprio's dedication didn't go unnoticed. Not only was he awarded a Golden Globe, but he's also been nominated for an Oscar.

After seeing the movie, I was shocked by how much I enjoyed it. It was action packed and kept me captivated until the very end. The film set itself apart from all the current movies out there. If you're looking for a way to spend your weekend, consider "The Revenant."

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

All white Oscar nominations spark anger in Hollywood

by Emily Abt

This year marks the second year in a row that all Oscar nominees have been white. Actors such as Jada Pinkett Smith and her husband Will Smith have sparked a movement of actors and directors threatening to boycott the Oscars.

Jan. 16 was the start of this controversy when Pinkett Smith tweeted, "We are rarely recognized for our artistic accomplishments. Should people of color refrain from participating all together?" Within two days, this movement, known as #OscarsSoWhite, spread through social media, grabbing the attention of many other celebrities.

Other black actors are joining this front. Spike Lee, an Oscar award-winning director, posted an Instagram taking a stance with the caption, "We Cannot Support It... 40 White Actors In 2 Years And No Flava At All. We Can't Act?! WTF!!"

Cheryl Boone Isaacs, a black woman and the President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, responded to the feud in a statement to Us Weekly.

"I'd like to acknowledge the wonderful work of this year's nominees. While we celebrate their extraordinary achievements, I am both heartbroken and frustrated about the lack of inclusion. This is a difficult but important conversation, and it's

time for big changes. The Academy is taking dramatic steps to alter the makeup of our membership. In the coming days and weeks we will conduct a review of our membership recruitment in order to bring about much-needed diversity in our 2016 class and beyond."

Janet Hubert, the original Aunt Vivian from Will Smith's "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," uploaded a four minute YouTube video attacking Pinkett Smith's stance on the Oscars.

"First of all, Miss Thing: Does your man not have a mouth of his own with which to speak?" Hubert asked in the clip. "The second thing, girlfriend, there's a lot of s--- going on in the world that you all don't seem to recognize. People are dying. Our boys are being shot left and right. People are hungry. People are starving. People are trying to pay bills. And you're talking about some motherf---ing actors and Oscars. It just ain't that deep."

It is not only the black community that is boycotting the show. White actors are taking a part in this movement as well. George Clooney, Oscar award-winning actor, added a point to this controversy in an interview with Variety Magazine. "I don't think it's a problem of who you're picking as much as it is how many options are available to minorities in film, particularly in quality films?"

Sophomore Libby Markham supports the boycotting of the Oscars. "If actors who could benefit from the Oscars happening and could be nominated and could win are the ones starting this boycott then obviously it's legitimate... especially if it's the

white actors."

British actress Charlotte Rampling is opposed to this boycott, deeming it "racist against whites." In an interview with France's Europe 1 radio, she said, "There are always problems: 'He's less handsome' or 'He's too black' or 'He's too white.' There will always, always be someone who will say, 'Oh, you're too ...' What are we going to do? We're going to classify all that to create thousands of little minorities everywhere?"

Markham strongly disagreed with Rampling's statement, rebutting, "There is very little in this world that is racist towards white people. We have the privilege beyond anything for almost everything in this world. If no member of the black community has been nominated for best actor in years, there is something to be said about that, even if it's not intentional."

Sophomore Ava Lotsoff believes the whole situation is irrelevant and causing unnecessary drama. "Whoever is most qualified for the award should receive it," Lotsoff said. "And if you think you should receive an award because of your race, that's not a good thing, because if you want to be seen as equal then everyone should be on the same playing field."

Sophomore Graham Michelson said, "I don't think the Oscars are racist. People who are boycotting are looking for a disproportionate representation of the country. The Oscars should go to whoever deserves it the most."

THE RAZZIES

These Hollywood anti-awards celebrate the best of the worst

by Sam Blanc

The Golden Raspberry Awards, shortened to the "Razzies," are the award season's homage to every god-awful, scratch-your-eyes-out, never-getting-those-two-hours-back film of the year.

Loosely based on the Oscars, the awards mimic many of the same categories including, but not limited to, Worst Actor, Worst Actress, and Worst Picture.

"Fifty Shades of Grey," "Pixels," "Jupiter Ascending," and "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2," have received the most nominations this year with six each, and "Fantastic 4" was in second with five. All of these movies will be up for the Worst Picture award.

Many actors and actresses from these movies will also be nominated for Worst Actor/Actress including Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson from "Fifty Shades of Grey," Channing Tatum and Mila Kunis from "Jupiter Ascending," Adam Sandler from "Pixels," and Kevin James from "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2."

Although "Mortdecai" was not nominated for Worst Picture, its leading actors, Johnny Depp and Gwyneth Paltrow, are also up for Worst Actor/Actress.

Twenty five New Trier students were shown the nominations and placed their own votes. Dakota Johnson won Worst Actress with ten votes, and Adam Sandler won Worst Actor with nine.

For Worst Picture, "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2" won by a landslide, nabbing more than half of the votes.

In "Paul Bart: Mall Cop 2," the cover image of Kevin James cruising on a Segway was sufficient to make junior Giulia Liebovich say, "I haven't even seen the movie, but the cover is enough to get my vote."

The reactions of New Trier students only reinforce the failure of this film, which rarely got more than one star in mainstream media reviews.

While such movies become a bad joke to viewers and critics alike, they are perfect for the Razzies.

Since it started as a joke at a potluck party hosted by copywriter and publicist John Wilson, the Razzies have grown vastly. In 1981, the first Razzie awards involved Wilson himself standing at a cardboard podium in an old tux, speaking into a broom as a microphone.

Winners were awarded, and still are today, with a gold spray-painted trophy worth approximately five dollars.

The impromptu ceremony was a success, and by the following week, multiple newspapers picked up the story. The awards



The \$4.97 Razzie trophy | Razzies.com

have now grown to be included in segments on popular channels such as Comedy Central, although nowhere on television is the show available in its entirety.

The only place to watch the whole show is on their YouTube channel, Razziechannel, and there are live updates available on their Twitter feed, @RazzieAwards.

Although the show itself is open to anyone who wants to watch, voting requires a bit more effort, and frankly, a fair amount of money.

In order to vote, a membership is required at the cost of forty dollars. The membership includes access to forums about the show, chances to get tickets to the event, the ability to vote, and, as their website says, "Bragging rights - Your friends and rivals will now know your opinion actually matters!"

This year, the Razzies are set for Feb. 27, intentionally the evening before the Oscars, and will be bigger than ever. The nominations, which came out on Jan. 12, were showcased in a skit, depicting a man observed in a scientific experiment as he hears the 2016 nominations.

The scientists supposedly conducting the experiment comment with playful banter as his reactions go from mild displeasure to trying to saw his own arm off.

But this mocking humor is all part of the fun. Sophomore Rita Murphey admitted that many of the nominated films are ridiculous, but according to her, that's just part of their charm.

"Movies like this need to exist," she said, "if not just as something to laugh at." Murphy argued that many of the movies that get nominated for these awards are sentient in their stupidity.

"Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2" was never made to be a masterpiece, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be entertained by it," she said.

Although most students weren't aware that the Razzies even existed, those who did thought they were pretty great.

"I think the idea's pretty funny," junior Michelle Cheng said.

"The Oscars tend to make people think too seriously when it comes to the film industry. You have to remember that there are tons of dumb, goofy movies every year too."