



# The 17th Annual Alternative Oscars

BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS TO HONOR  
MOVIES THAT CAME OUT BEFORE OCTOBER

## THE LATTER-DAY AL PACINO AWARD FOR RANDOM SHOUTING

Eddie Redmayne as an immortal space dictator, *Jupiter Ascending*.

## THE LATTER-DAY AL PACINO AWARD FOR RANDOM SHOUTING (RUNNER-UP)

Al Pacino as old Al Pacino, *Danny Collins*.

## BEST ARGUMENT FOR GMOs

That the only side effect of Channing Tatum being the product of human-wolf gene

splicing in space epic *Jupiter Ascending* is pointy ears.

## IN A TROUBLED TIME, DESPITE OUR SOMETIMES BITTER DIVISIONS, WHAT WE SHARE AS A PEOPLE AND WHAT DEFINES US AS A NATION

Michael Keaton

## UNLIKELIEST BODY PART OF DAKOTA JOHNSON'S TO HAVE TAKEN THE MOST ABUSE IN FIFTY SHADES OF GREY

Johnson's lower lip, which she bites 45 times during the S&M film.

## MAYBE EMMA STONE WASN'T SO UNBELIEVABLE AS AN ASIAN WOMAN IN ALOHA

Chris Hemsworth as a hacker, *Blackhat*.



## MOST EFFORTLESS SEXUAL CHEMISTRY

Chris Pratt and the dinosaurs

he conjured in his mind, *Jurassic World*.

## PAUL? PAUL GIAMATTI?! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M RUNNING INTO YOU HERE! HOW ARE YOU DOING, BUDDY?

► Paul Giamatti in N. W. A origin movie *Straight Outta Compton* (below).  
► Paul Giamatti in Brian Wilson biopic *Love & Mercy*.  
► Paul Giamatti in earthquake thriller *San Andreas*.



## SMALLEST VIOLIN

Director Oren Moverman on Richard Gere's role as a homeless man in *Time Out of Mind*: "He was shaken by the experience because [he] is used to being looked at and admired. . . . Here he was, dealing with immediate rejection."

## MOST HEARTWARMING AFFIRMATION OF GENITALS

"Have you ever fucked anyone before? Where are they buried?" —Amy Schumer to a well-endowed partner, *Trainwreck*

## BIGGEST BLOCKBUSTER CLIMAX

Wife-murdering lunatic millionaire Robert Durst confessing "What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course" into a hot mic during the finale of HBO's *The Jinx*.

## THE FALLEN SOLDIER'S DEMERIT FOR POOR COMBAT CHOICES (SPONSORED BY THE

CONTINUED ►

CONTINUED ▶

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION)**

Finnick using a decorative trident instead of an AK-47 to take on dozens of ravenous salamander men in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2*.

**OPENING ACT THAT OBIVIATES THE MAIN SHOW**

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler's press tour for their buddy comedy *Sisters*.

**LEAST BELIEVABLE GO-TO GUY FOR A THING NO ONE GOES TO ANYONE FOR**

Kevin Hart as a man who prepares people for prison, *Get Hard*.

**LEAST BELIEVABLE GO-TO GUY FOR A THING NO ONE GOES TO ANYONE FOR (RUNNER-UP)**

Kevin Hart as a groomsman wrangler, *The Wedding Ringer*.

**LEAST RACIST GUY IN A MOVIE WHERE ALL THE WHITE PEOPLE ARE TERRIBLE—OH, NO, YUP, HE'S RACIST, TOO**

Domhnall Gleeson as the relatively sort-of-upstanding captain of a fur-trapping expedition, *The Revenant*.

**BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN OIL PAINTING**

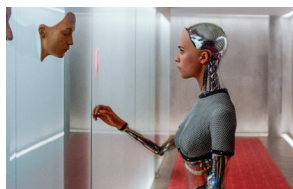
"The Woman in Gold," *Woman in Gold*.

**THE TRADING-MANHATTAN-FOR-\$24-WORTH-OF-BEADS AWARD FOR IMPRUDENT DEALS**

Emily Ratajkowski dumping recently reascended actor Wes Bentley for Zac Efron in EDM movie *We Are Your Friends*.

**THE ZOE SALDANA IN AVATAR AWARD FOR PORTRAYAL OF AN UNCOMFORTABLY ATTRACTIVE NONHUMAN**

Alicia Vikander as a robot in AI thriller *Ex Machina*.

**SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN UNINTENDED IMPERSONATIONS**

▶ Armie Hammer as Yakov Smirnoff, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*  
▶ Samuel L. Jackson as

**TOM HARDY'S OEUVRE, IN ORDER OF INCREASING ACCENT INSCRUTABILITY**

**RocknRolla:** Public-transit announcement.

**Locke:** Time-weathered barge captain.

**Inception:** Cockney cheesemonger coming out of anesthesia.

**Bronson:** Small-town shell-game operator eating charcuterie.

**Legend:** Nick Nolte.

**Mad Max: Fury Road:** Nick Nolte with a sock in his mouth.

**The Revenant:** "Lemme tell you—we'll have another round of Old Crow, thanks, sweetheart—no, listen, I gotta say something..."

**The Dark Knight Rises:** Nick Nolte with underwear in his mouth.

**MUTE PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR**

**M**ad Max: *Fury Road* is the most metal movie in the history of metal and movies. No backstory. No character development. (Mad Max is mad! Furiosa is furious!) Just balls-out action. But let's not forget the movie's most metal element: that guy with the guitar. True to the film, he's never named or explained or given a stitch of dialogue. In the credits, he's called the Doof Warrior, apparently after Australian slang for an outdoor rave; online he's sometimes referred to as the Coma-Doof Warrior, after—well, no idea, really. It doesn't matter what he's called, because he's the only blind guy wearing a mask and what looks like red long bullets underwear, shredding a double-necked guitar that shoots flames while he's banded to an amplifier-laden truck.

Higher-minded critics might argue that he's a postapocalyptic stand-in for the fifiers and drummer boys who once led the charge, inspirers and intimidators by rhythm alone. That's stupid. The Doof Warrior exists only to make possible every other crazy thing in *Fury Road*. A farm of lactating women? Sure thing. A geezer with live bullets for teeth? No problem. During every instant that defies credulity, during every moment of bafflement at the spectacle unfolding before your eyes, you'll be on the verge of protest before you remember: Then again, there's that guy with the guitar. The Doof Warrior is the liberator, the convention releaser, the excuse for director George Miller to use every last scrap of his twisted imagination and for us to go along for the ride. The Doof Warrior is the permission slip of the year. —CHRIS JONES

Leon "Ladies Man" Phelps, *Kingsman: The Secret Service*.

▶ Joseph Gordon-Levitt as Pepé Le Pew, *The Walk*.

**MOST FORESIGHT**

The casting director of *Ex Machina*, whose three leads went on to star in 2015's *Brooklyn*, *The Danish Girl*, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, and *The Revenant*.

**THE HELL?**

Will Smith, *Focus*.

**SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH WILL SMITH'S CAREER?**

Will Smith, *Concussion*.

**I MEAN, HE'S BARELY IN THE SUICIDE SQUAD TRAILERS**

Idris Elba, *Avengers: Age of*

CONTINUED ▶



2015 saw some of the most expensive, apocalyptically staked, and (literally) explosive films of all time. But which were the hugest of all?

	Live heavy-metal soundtrack	\$200+ budget	Title unable to be contained by a single phrase	IMAX 3-D compatibility	2-hour+ running time
<i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens</i>		x	x	x	x
<i>Avengers: Age of Ultron</i>		x	x	x	x
<i>Jurassic World</i>				x	x
<i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i>	x		x	x	x

# FILM

## CONTINUED ▶

*Ultron* and *Beasts of No Nation*.

## MOST INFORMATIVELY TITLED SEQUEL

*The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*

## THE "OH, DAD!" AFTER-SCHOOL-SPECIAL WHITE-WASHING MEDAL

The burgers, fries, Cokes, smiles, and general atmosphere in the *Straight Outta Compton* recording-sessions montage, *Straight Outta Compton*.

## MOST EFFECTIVE COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA

Screenwriter Dalton Trumbo explaining communism to his young daughter as being like a kid sharing a sandwich with another kid who doesn't have his own sandwich, conveniently forgetting to mention that one kid also murders millions of other kids for disagreeing with him, *Trumbo*.

## HE MUST'VE PRODUCED THIS, RIGHT? WHY ELSE WOULD HIS FACE BE SO HUGE ON THE POSTER?

George Lopez, *Spare Parts*.



## MOST DELAYED STAGE OF GRIEF

Anger, appearing onscreen

seven years after the 2008 subprime-mortgage crisis (99 Homes, *The Big Short*).

## NOT AGAIN

Ryan Reynolds, *Woman in Gold* and *Self/Less*.

## THE CLINT EASTWOOD IN THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY AWARD

## FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN CHAPPED LIPS

Leonardo DiCaprio as a mauled trapper dragging

himself across the Dakota Territory, *The Revenant*.



## SCENE OF THE YEAR

Jason Mantzoukas and Andrea Savage's improvisation during the credits of romantic comedy *Sleeping with*

## Other People:

Jason: Have you ever had sex for 90 minutes?

Andrea: With you?

Jason: With anybody!

Andrea: Oh, many times.

Jason: You have not had sex for 90 minutes.

Andrea: I have had, like, actual intercourse for 90 minutes.

Jason: I bet they're, like, counting foreplay and stuff.

Andrea: Now I'm super-

CONTINUED ▶



## ACHIEVEMENT IN ROBOT CHOREOGRAPHY

A worker bee from a visionary tech company wins an office competition that earns him the ultimate prize: an invitation to visit the company's legendary founder, Nathan, at his secluded mountain refuge. Nathan has withdrawn from the world, and the world has responded by fixating on what he's been up to; now Domhnall Gleeson's Caleb gets a chance to find out. When he does, in Alex Garland's *Ex Machina*, it's the single greatest cinematic moment of 2015. Because Nathan, played with eerie and seductive arrogance by Oscar Isaac, has not just been obsessively building a series of comely robots; he's been *tearing up the fucking dance floor* with them.

The scene featuring Nathan dancing an elab-

orately choreographed version of "Get Down Saturday Night" with silent and sexy Kyoko is so funny and transporting not simply because it reveals the depths of his isolation and madness. It also reveals that Nathan is a great dancer, his black shirt unzipped to the waist to better show off his body rolls. He has the moves his earnest employee doesn't, and so, though batshit crazy, he never has to pretend to be anything less than a superior being. Sure, the *Ex Machina* disco works as a scene in a dark technological parable. But it would work just as well in *Saturday Night Fever*, and we watch it just as Garland and Isaac must want us to: with our consciences cringing and our booties shaking.

—TOM JUNOD

## CONTINUED ▶

happy with four to six.

Jason: Four to six minutes?

Andrea: Yeah.

Jason: Or four to six inches?

Andrea: Both.

Jason: I can get to, like, six inches and a quarter.

Andrea: Prove it.

Jason: I'll show it to you right now.

Andrea: All right!

Jason: It is so cold. I can't get hard right now.

Andrea [dancing]: Will this help?

Jason: Yeah. That's doing, uh... that's doing something... Ooh, there's a kid looking at me. The kid's locked eyes with me...

There's not even music!

Andrea: There's music in my body.

Jason: Okay. Now something's happening. Let's go back to the hotel. I want to do stuff to your body—upstairs, downstairs. I love you, honey.

Andrea: I love you.

*This scene has been edited for length.*

### WE CAN ALL KNOCK OFF EARLY 'CAUSE WE'RE JUST GONNA CALL THE MOVIE THIS

Taken 3

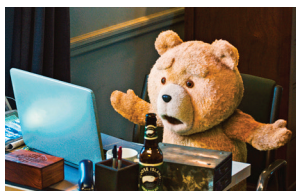
### THE YEAR IN BEARS

▶ Leonardo DiCaprio being repeatedly attacked by a grizzly protecting her cubs, *The Revenant*.

▶ Sarah Silverman as a bipolar woman humping a

stuffed bear to orgasm while high and next to her sleeping daughter, *I Smile Back*.

▶ Whatever the hell was going on in *Ted 2* (below).



### MOST UNFORTUNATE NETFLIX MISUNDERSTANDING

Looking for the Corey Haim and Feldman '80s hijinks comedy *License to Drive* and accidentally watching *Learning to Drive*, in which Ben Kingsley plays an Indian cabbie charged with driving slowly around Manhattan with Patricia Clarkson while she has a midlife crisis.

### BEST PERFORMANCE BY A CLEVELAND CAVALIERS FORWARD

LeBron James, *Trainwreck*.



### THE FORREST GUMP AWARD FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING MORONS

The male lead in *Brooklyn*, a doofus who has his eight-year-old brother write love letters for him yet manages to marry the brilliant,



## MOST EFFECTIVE WORLD BUILDING

How many times have I walked into that apartment? I couldn't believe I was actually seeing it on screen. Not that *Spotlight* hadn't already been eerily accurate about the style and behavior of journalists around the turn of the millennium up to that point. It got the weirdly pleated pants that made everybody's asses look big and the shirts tucked in low, as if to accentuate the globelike heft of the middle-aged bellies. The communal rat's nest of the newsroom was equally impressive in its attention to dusty detail. But the apartment belonging to Mark Ruffalo's character, Mike Rezendes, was uncanny. It was the dimness of it—the total lack of proper lighting—the monkish barrenness, the counter that clearly had been wiped down half-assedly, if at all, because not only was there no woman around but the chances of there ever being a woman in such an apartment were so negligible as to be insignificant. I know the movies are capable of transporting us anywhere—to galaxies far, far away, the court of Henry VIII, the deserts of Jordan. But in its own way, that apartment was far more stunning as an act of re-creation, a little piece of dingy cinematic glory. I could almost smell the place.

—STEPHEN MARCHE

beautiful protagonist and make an incredibly prescient Long Island real estate investment.

### THE DIMINISHING RETURNS OF BRADLEY COOPER AND JENNIFER LAWRENCE

*Silver Linings Playbook*

*American Hustle*  
Serena  
Joy

### ARE YOU CRYING? YOU CRYING, CRYBABY? HEY, WHY AREN'T YOU CRYING?

Pixar's *Inside Out*, an

CONTINUED ▶

### MOVIE TAGLINE OR GREETING CARD BROMIDE?

1. Dream large. Live larger.

2. Wherever you go, love is right there with you.

3. Life is sweet. Savor every moment.

4. We always knew this day would come.

5. Smile big. Smile wide.

6. Sometimes people don't stop to say what's in their hearts.

7. Some people change your life forever.

8. Good things come to those who wait.

9. Everything beautiful starts with love.

10. Dream big.

11. Every dream begins with a single step.

12. Do whatever makes you happy.

13. Believe in hope.

1. *Entourage* • 2. *Greasing* • 3. *The Peanut Movie* • 4. *San Andreas* • 5. *Greting card* • 6. *Greting card* • 7. *Carol* • 8. *Greting card* • 9. *Greting card* • 10. *The Peanut Movie* • 11. *The Walk* • 12. *Greting card* • 13. *Southpaw*



CONTINUED ▶

animated exploration of joy and sadness.

#### DEADLIEST USE OF MELISSA McCARTHY

Espionage comedy *Spy*, in which McCarthy plays a CIA agent in the first performance that balances her bananas character-actress tendencies in a leading role.

#### THE BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOR PRIZE FOR GRAPHIC SEX SCENES THAT ARE, TECHNICALLY, INTELLECTUALLY AND ARTISTICALLY NOURISHING

Rooney Mara and Cate Blanchett's affair, *Carol*.

#### MENTOR OF THE YEAR

"Cut him down for me. Expertly." —Sensei nun Jiaxin directing her disciple to kill a corrupt government official, *The Assassin*



#### ESCALATING LEVELS OF TERRIFYING CHILDREN

**The Bad Seed** (1956) Kid dabbles in serial killing.

**The Omen** (1976) Kid is the Antichrist.

**Children of the Corn** (1984) Kids kill all adults to compensate for produce lacking in nutritional value.

**The Good Son** (1993) Kevin McCallister attempts to kill his family for kicks.

**Goodnight Mommy** (2015) Austrian twins in matching tank tops torture their mom because...I don't know...she seems a little different lately?

#### BEST CAMEO BY AN ACCUSED SEX OFFENDER IN A FEMINIST MOVIE

Marv Albert as a participant in an intervention, *Trainwreck*.

#### BEST MOVIE REVIEW BY THE MOTHER OF AN ESQUIRE EDITOR

Sixty-seven-year-old Mary Arnold of Carrboro, North Carolina, who, in an e-mail chain with the subject line "NY Times article: Should we bank our own stool?" wrote, "Check out the movie *Meet the Patels* for an Indian-American version of love and marriage when your name is Patel. Let me just say that one scene takes place at the national Patel convention, where there is speed dating."

#### REALLY?

*The 33*, in which Antonio

Banderas plays one of the Chilean men who were trapped in the 2010 mine collapse.



#### OKAY, FINE. BUT REALLY?

Bradley Cooper as an angry chef prodigy, *Burnt*.

#### EVEN IF WE GIVE YOU THAT, REALLY?

Noah Baumbach's meditation on aging Brooklyn documentarians, *While We're Young*.

#### BEST LAST SCENE

The slow crawl of people reflexively staring at their iPhones while leaving the theater after *Steve Jobs*. 📱

M

TV

A

Coaches Daniels and Cavallin during a group counseling session with the Predators.

B



## Therapy Corner: Featuring "Friday Night Tykes"

→ ESQUIRE NETWORK'S youth-football docuseries, *Friday Night Tykes* (Tuesdays at 9:00 P.M.), features some troubling behavior from its adult stars, such as forcing a child to run so many laps that he vomits and loses consciousness. With help from Dr. Dan Siegel, neuropsychiatrist and executive director of the Mindsight Institute in Santa Monica, let's work through the issues together.

—JULIA BLACK

#### THE SCENE

Coach Goodloe resolves to "turn up" in an effort "to get [his team's] mojo goin'" after depressing them with his gloomy sideline presence.

#### THE TAKEAWAY

Bad moods are contagious. Your pessimism can make kids feel worried and uninspired, just as your enthusiasm can make them feel safe and happy.

#### THE SCENE

Parents are caught shopping their children around to various teams for cash, violating Texas Youth Football Association rules.

#### THE TAKEAWAY

Exploiting your children can cause feelings of invisibility and shame rather than inspiring pride.

#### THE SCENE

Several adult officials get into a swinging match in the presence of young players.

#### THE TAKEAWAY

If you lose your temper, make sure to apologize so that it's clear you screwed up. But also, what's going on, friend? You doing okay?

#### THE SCENE

Coach Chavarria advises players to "rip their freakin' heads off and let them bleed."

#### THE TAKEAWAY

You deserve love, Coach Chavarria.

Esquire  
NETWORK