

Angry student guest column:**Awards shows fail to honor real art**

by Jarrod Hayworth
Contributor

In a country of shady politics and corruptive businesses that leave the average consumer damn-near penniless, we, as a people attempt to seek solace by any means necessary. And although positive news in the broadcasting world is hard to come by nowadays, we have managed to find comfort elsewhere- in the entertainment industry. With the American population under an umbrella of an economically catastrophic disappointment, it is this industry that seems to be the only thing that may help raise us out of the impending depression. Now I'm not oblivious to the fact that platinum records and box-office hits help these people generate a profit, but their overall goal is to entertain us; and in these times of strife, that's not an easy accomplishment. But it does happen.

It takes a certain quality to produce a work of art that truly moves people. I'm not referring to the latest 'Now! That's What I Call Music' CD installment that's advertised on television or the latest *Air Bud* movie, I'm talking about real talent. Some executives have tried to fool us into thinking that we have the power to make someone into an artist. This is why American Idol is a shame and so are the winners. I mean really, what happened to Ruben Studdard or Kelly Clarkson? Choosing someone to be a recognizable person is easy with today's media, but choosing someone to be a true artist is impossible.

Talent comes from within, and fame is something to be earned with years of hard work,

not from a sappy song written by marketers. (Suck it Jonas Brothers.) And I personally believe that these talents should be rewarded, and not just financially either. Luckily for some, there are some industry award shows that are designated for this purpose; most notably, the Academy Awards and the Grammys. And while these shows do provide some acknowledgement to deserving individuals, a few real artists are often forgotten about.

In the case of the Grammys, Radiohead and their album "In Rainbows" seemed to be the best piece of work in the entire industry. Not only was "In Rainbows" neglected by mass media and MTV, but the band believed in the record's artistry so much that they offered it online for a price that was chosen by the buyer. Some who downloaded it paid nothing, while others paid up to \$100 for it. And Radiohead was able to do this because they were unsigned and therefore bypassed the money-grubbing music companies. But it wasn't this pay-what-you-want approach that made the album successful, it was hard work, determination, phenomenal talent and ingenuity. And while they were nominated for 6 awards, they were largely ignored. But I must say if you haven't 'experienced' this work of art, contact me and I'll make sure you get a copy. Your life will be changed forever.

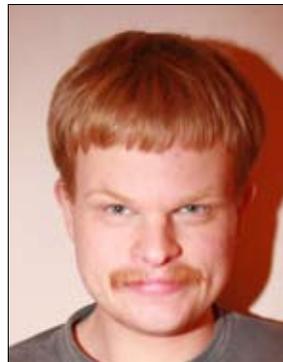
Grammy rigging aside, the largest award show disappointment has to go to the Academy Awards. This year, the American population has been privileged to witness the release of so many great films. The Reader, Milk, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Doubt, The Dark Knight, Frost/Nixon, and

even Wall-E helped us regain our faith in the motion picture. Now most of these films and their artists received deserving recognition, Kate Winslet, Sean Penn, Heath Ledger, and Wall-E; but the disappointment of the year must go to *Slumdog Millionaire*. Did you know that this film was originally scheduled to be a straight-to-video release in the United States? Although I did think it was a decent film and deserved to be in movie theatres, I was not impressed. The plot was ridiculous and the acting wasn't anything

special. I was upset when it was nominated in so many categories. And I was disgruntled when it won other awards, but when it won Best Picture, I couldn't stop yelling at the television. I was livid! How could this movie be added to a list of previous winners that included *Forrest Gump*, *Platoon*, *Schindler's List*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Braveheart*, *American Beauty* and *The Departed*? It's absurd. If you can explain to me what makes *Slumdog Millionaire* a candidate for Best Picture, please let me know.

Game time with the Beej

by BJ Wanlund
Definitely has game



When looking for places to buy legitimate copies of old games, your options are quite limited. You could go on Amazon.com or eBay, but you will get price gouged if you want all the cool little extras that came with the game.

In terms of digital distribution, however, you would have been totally out of luck. Until GOG.com came along, that is. GOG.com is a website from the folks at CD Projekt, a game developer most recently responsible for *The Witcher*. GOG.com is a place to pick up Good Old

Games (hence the GOG).

Most of the titles so far are the kind that people may have missed on the PC back in the day, like *Fallout*, *Broken Sword*, *Beneath A Steel Sky*, and others like these.

All releases happen on Tuesdays, while the "coming soon" announcements always happen on Thursdays, some more interesting than others.

So, what can people expect from GOG? First of all, you will have to expect to play these on a Windows XP or Vista machine, so if you're not running these operating systems (even on a Mac), you're going to be out of luck.

Secondly, you can expect that all the cool little bonuses that came with the games (in the case of *Beneath A Steel Sky*, you got a free comic book with the game) will be available for you to download FREE OF CHARGE after you purchase

see Beej, page 5