

Presenting: the Mighty Ishtar Awards

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Since the Academy Award nominations were announced last week, exemplifying the excellence in movie making for 1993, I thought it only fair that we identify those people and pictures who were nominated for, and winners of, the Mighty Ishtar Awards.

What's that? You say you've never heard of the Mighty Ishtar Awards? Well let me explain.

The Mighty Ishtar Awards are the equivalent of Hollywood's Golden Turkey Awards, which denotes the worst films of the year. And since the movie *Ishtar* could easily go down as the worst film of the 80's, I have granted my awards its name.

So, without further ado, let's get to the nominees.

It is blatantly clear that all of these films are deserved of the highest award we at A.M.I.A. (Association of the Mighty Ishtar Award) have to offer, but we can only give it to one.

Let's see...

We've got *Carnosaur*, the film

THE NOMINEES FOR WORST PICTURE OF 1993 ARE:

- Carnosaur
- Hard Target
- Cop and a 1/2
- Robin Hood: Men in Tights
- Last Action Hero

about a mad biologist (Diane Ladd) who is upset at the way humankind has handled the Earth since we inherited it from the dinosaurs. So she devises a scheme to "return the dinosaur to its rightful position in the ecosystem" by using human women as hosts for her returning animals from pre-historic times. It's sort of a mix between *Jurassic Park* and *Aliens*, with the special effects of *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*.

Then there's *Hard Target*, starring Jean Claude van Damme (this year's Mighty Ishtar Award winner

for Worst Actor of 1993 for this very movie). Van Damme plays a Vietnam veteran from the Bayou (another clever attempt to explain his French accent) who sets out to stop a wealthy crime organization that uses homeless people as targets in a deadly game of cat and mouse, where the homeless victim is the hunted, and the wealthy sportsman is the hunter. The only redeeming characteristic this film has is Wilford Brimley's portrayal of Van Damme's cajun uncle, Louie. Brimley provides some rather unintentional (but appreci-

ated) humor for this horrible film.

Then we've got Burt Reynolds in *Cop and a 1/2*. This film casts Reynolds as a police officer investigating a murder that only a pint-sized trouble-maker was witness to. The problem is, the kid won't talk to the police unless they make him a cop too. So I guess you can see where this is heading. Burt Reynolds seems to have an inept ability to star in some of the worst movies. The only good thing about this film is that they didn't get Macaulay Culkin to play the kid.

Next is Mel Brooks' latest movie, *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*. This "would-be" parody of Kevin Costner's *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* never got off the ground. Unfortunately, this is just another in a long line of Brooks' attempts to regain his comedic glory. Not since *Spaceballs* has he been able to do it, and this one is no exception. Brooks just rehashes old jokes that were funny when he used them the first time but lose something when they're done over and over again.

Finally, we have Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Last Action Hero*, The story of a boy whose

dreams of being in an action film come true when a magical ticket throws him head-first into the movie he is watching. This movie had a lot of potential--the idea was interesting, and different--but the writing was horrible. This was the first film that Schwarzenegger has had an important part in the production of, and that's unfortunate for him. They should have known the film was doomed from the beginning when after a viewing by one of Hollywood's preview audiences, they were forced to re-shoot some scenes and re-edit others, a mere one week before it was to released.

So who's the winner?

This is probably a tougher choice to make than who should be nominated. But if a choice must be made, the Mighty Ishtar Award goes to (drum roll please), *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*. Sorry Mel. Hopefully you'll have better luck with your next picture.

So there you have them, this year's winners of the annual Mighty Ishtar Awards. See you next year.

AND THE WINNER IS...

It's Oscar time again. Did you ever wonder what it would be like to win on Oscar night? Well now you can. The Guilfordian and Blockbuster Video is proud to bring you, the *And The Winner Is...* contest. It's real easy to play. All you have to do is circle the nominee you think WILL (not should) win. Then, the entry with the most correct winners will win a free rental from Blockbuster Video and get to see their name printed in *The Guilfordian*. Good Luck, and see you at the Oscars!

Entries are due into the Info Desk by Monday, March 19th at 6:00 pm

Best Picture

- *Schindler's List*
- *In the Name of the Father*
- *The Piano*
- *The Fugitive*
- *The Remains of the Day*

Best Director

- Jane Campion
The Piano
- Steven Spielberg
Schindler's List
- Jim Sheridan
In the Name of the Father
- James Ivory
The Remains of the Day
- Robert Altman
Short Cuts

Best Makeup

- *Mrs. Doubtfire*
- *Philadelphia*
- *Schindler's List*

Best Actor

- Daniel Day-Lewis
In the Name of the Father
- Laurence Fishburne
What's Love Got to Do With It
- Tom Hanks
Philadelphia
- Anthony Hopkins
The Remains of the Day
- Liam Neeson
Schindler's List

Best Adapted Screenplay

- *The Age of Innocence*
- *In the Name of the Father*
- *The Remains of the Day*
- *Schindler's List*
- *Shadowlands*

Best Actress

- Angela Bassett
What's Love Got to Do With It
- Stockard Channing
Six Degrees of Separation
- Holly Hunter
The Piano
- Emma Thompson
The Remains of the Day
- Debra Winger
Shadowlands

Best Original Screenplay

- *Dave*
- *In the Line of Fire*
- *Philadelphia*
- *The Piano*
- *Sleepless in Seattle*

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Best Supporting Actress

- Holly Hunter
The Firm
- Emma Thompson
In the Name of the Father
- Anna Paquin
The Piano
- Rosie Perez
Fearless
- Winona Ryder
The Age of Innocence

Best Supporting Actor

- Leonardo DiCaprio
What's Eating Gilbert Grape
- Ralph Fiennes
Schindler's List
- Tommy Lee Jones
The Fugitive
- John Malkovich
In the Line of Fire
- Pete Postlethwaite
In the Name of the Father

Best Original Song

- "Again"
Poetic Justice
- "The Day I Fall In Love"
Beethoven's 2nd
- "Philadelphia"
Philadelphia
- "Streets of Philadelphia"
Philadelphia
- "A Wink and a Smile"
Sleepless in Seattle

Best Sound Effects

- *Cliffhanger*
- *The Fugitive*
- *Jurassic Park*

Best Visual Effects

- *Cliffhanger*
- *Jurassic Park*
- *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas*