

Variety Key in 2010 Oscar Fashion

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When celebrities walked the red carpet of the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, California, for the 82nd annual Academy Awards, they embraced the mantra "variety is the spice of life." This philosophy proved the theme of the Sunday, March 5 event, as both elegant evening gowns and crisp tuxedos in many colors, cuts, and fabrics were seen.

According to InStyle Magazine's website, nine trends were evident at the Oscars this year. The first, metallic evening gowns, was signaled by Cameron Diaz's strapless Oscar de la Renta gown of tulle, metallic ribbon and gold paillette embroidery.

Blush hues were also popular on the red carpet this year, as Demi Moore opted for a nude and peach Versace gown of silk organza.

Another trend apparent at the Oscars was the sweetheart neckline. Carey Mulligan pulled this look off well in a black Prada gown that came complete with a jeweled bodice and neckline.

The evening gown fashion staple, the train, also reappeared at the Academy Awards. Penelope Cruz donned a red Donna Karen gown which included a Bordeaux satin train.

Meryl Streep chose to display another Oscar trend, sleeves, by wearing a white Chris March gown that featured long sleeves and a plunging neckline.

Sculptural gowns were also seen on Sunday night. Jennifer Lopez opted for a pink silk Armani Privé gown which included a bustier and a side train.

Rachel McAdams's strapless Elie Saab gown of blue, green, and pink organza demonstrated the popularity of painterly fabrics.

Blue was the color of the night, and Precious star and nominee Gabourey Sidibe walked the red carpet in a sapphire Marchesa gown adorned with crystal flowers.

Finally, stacked bangles made a comeback, as evidenced by Amanda Seyfried's 250-carats worth of Lorraine Schwartz diamond bracelets in brown, champagne, and mint tones.

Many actresses choose their Oscar dresses in hopes of being named "Best Dressed" by fashion magazines and news outlets. This year, Vogue Magazine's web site featured a "Best Dressed" list of ten female celebrities. It included (in no particular order) Carey Mulligan in Prada, Diane Kruger in Chanel Haute Couture, Sandra Bullock in Marchesa, Sarah Jessica Parker in Chanel Haute Couture, Kate Winslet in Yves Saint Laurent, Oprah Winfrey in Carolina Herrera, Maggie Gyllenhaal in Dries Van Noten, Tina Fey in Michael



Bullock, Downey Jr., and Theron at the 2010 Academy Awards photographs courtesy of Miami Herald, Examiner, and Esquire respectively

Kors, Michelle Pfeiffer in Carolina Herrera, and Sigourney Weaver in Lanvin.

To the surprise of many, Charlize Theron was voted the winner of the "Craziest-Looking Dress" by fans of People.com for her amethyst and lilac John Galliano for Dior gown.

With so much attention focused on the ladies and their evening gown selection, male actors often get neglected for their Oscar fashion choices. However, according to Esquire Magazine's website, Jake Gyllenhaal's Burberry

tuxedo complemented by a bow tie and pocket square earned him "Best Dressed." Jesse James, whom Esquire described as reminiscent of a bouncer, took home the "Worst Dressed" award. Finally, Robert Downey, Jr. won the "Doesn't-Give-a-Damn" award for his pairing of a traditional tuxedo with sneakers and a blue bow tie.

With so much variety present at this year's Academy Awards, awaiting the red carpet fashions of the remainder of awards season is a must!

Love and Other Angel Antics

10 things to not do when meeting the parents

We all know meeting the parents can be a tiny bit intimidating, but you really know what to do. Keep it clean and classy and be on your best behavior. For any of you out there looking to NOT impress the parents, here is a humorous list of things NOT to do.

1. Let the girls have an "outing at the fair."
2. Wear the absolute shortest skirt you own.
3. Talk about all your past flames with your boyfriend's mom.
4. Mention marriage.
5. Hit on your boyfriend's brother.
6. Act entirely grossed out by the family dog, and make a Broadway production of it.
7. After sitting down to a homemade dinner, announce that you are vegan, and give a 10 minute long diatribe on the cruelty to animals in America (it's a completely different story if you call ahead of time and politely inform your hosts of any diet restrictions you may have).
8. Discuss how crazy and dysfunctional your family can be.
9. Do not bother to help clean up from dinner.
10. Do not graciously thank the parents

Congratulations, by doing all the following, you will successfully fail at meeting the parents. A first impression is something you will never, ever get back. Ensure that yours exhibits you in your very best light. Don't be fake or overly pretentious; simply be the utmost polished version of yourself!

What's Up In Raleigh

3/24 - ongoing - Kennel Club Dog Show at the Fairgrounds, \$5

3/24 - Sister Hazel at the Lincoln Theater

3/25 - Dan Coulier at Goodnight's Comedy Club

3/25 - Jason Adamo Band at Amra's

3/25-April - Jennifer O'Connell New Art at Adam Cave Fine Art Gallery

3/25 - The Hundred Dresses at Raleigh Little Theater

3/28 - Battle of the Bands at Deep South, the Bar

3/30 - ongoing - Best of NC Art at Gallery C