

# Arts and Entertainment

## Big Night at the Oscars

Anita Holliday, staff writer

Move over Golden Globes! Outta the way Grammys! The oldest entertainment awards ceremony in history coming through! First televised in 1953, The Oscars is an annual American awards ceremony that honors achievements in the film industry.

Presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, winners are awarded the Oscar statuette, the official Academy Award of Merit, which stands at 13 1/2 inches tall and weighs 8 1/2 pounds. The Oscar is one of the highest honors in the film industry.

In the lead with 10 nominations are the films *American Hustle* and *Gravity* in the categories of Best Picture, Directing, Film Editing and Production Design to name a few.

Actors Christian Bale and Jennifer Lawrence from the film *American Hustle*, each have nominations for Best Actor in Leading Role and Actress in Supporting Role. Other nominee categories include Cinematography, Costume Design, Visual Effects, Music and Writing. Fresh from the

success of his four Grammy Award wins, singer-songwriter-producer Pharrell Williams will perform his Oscar nominated single "Happy" from the animated-motion-picture *Despicable Me 2*, which is also nominated for Best Animated Feature Film. Hosting the ceremony for a second time is American actress, comedian and talk-show host, Ellen DeGeneres.

Senior Ashley Branch enjoys the glamorous atmosphere of the Oscars and likes to see how the stars interact with one another. "I want to see Leonardo DiCaprio take home an award. As long as he wins one I'll be ok with that," said Branch. "My sister loves all the songs in the movie *Frozen*. They are really catchy. I want them to win a lot too." Branch also appreciates how the votes are not based on viewer popularity but instead on good quality work and is looking forward to Ellen DeGeneres as hostess. "I'm excited. I hope it is just as good as Tina Fey and Amy Poehler at the Golden Globes."

The 86th Academy Awards, commonly known as the Oscars, will broadcast live from the Dolby Theater in Hollywood, Los Angeles on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 7 p.m. on the ABC Television network.

## Extra Theatre Company Presents *The Vagina Monologues*

Alyssa Mathewson, staff writer

This year, Extra Theatre Company will present *The Vagina Monologues* on Feb. 28 and March 1 at 7:30 p.m. Both shows are in Jones Auditorium; tickets are \$10 and proceeds will go to InterAct of Wake County, a non-profit organization that assists victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Katy Koop, senior and director, says "The Vagina Monologues are about empower-

ment, as a safe place for women to talk about being women." The *Vagina Monologues* is the name given to a play by Eve Ensler. The show is performed in sections, or episodes, and it deals with feminine issues. Annually, Ensler writes a new monologue that deals with a major women's issue from that year. Many college campuses host a performance of the monologues on or around V-Day, February 14th. For more information on V-Day, visit [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org).

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## Michael Sam: Let's Talk Football

Maitlyn Healy, A&E and Sports  
Editor

Everyone has been associating Michael Sam's name with his sexuality since he came out in interviews with ESPN's "Outside the Lines" and the New York Times on Sunday, February 9th. But Michael Sam says, "I just wish you guys would just see me as Michael Sam the football player instead of Michael Sam the gay football player." Alright, Michael, let's talk stats and the 2014 NFL Combine.

Michael Sam was a defensive lineman at Missouri. He red shirted his first year in 2009 and went on to play from 2010-13. In 2010, he won the 2nd-team Freshman All-American honors by one national outlet. At Missouri, Sam had a career 17 tackles and 9.5 sacks, which are the most among any returning Tiger. He forced 4 fumbles, nabbed 2 interceptions, and made 1 fumble recovery as well. He is hopeful this season for the 2014 NFL Draft in May.

Michael Sam had an obvious media presence at the 2014 NFL Combine, but his workouts lacked the same

fire. Sam addressed the media, "As you may know, Missouri is the 'Show Me State,' and I think I've shown you guys enough in the past couple of weeks." He was asked how he would handle being drafted by the Miami Dolphins, since they recently underwent issues with a gay teammate quitting the team due to bullying issues. Sam replied with poise, "I'm not afraid of going into that environment. I know how to handle myself; I know how to communicate with my teammates; I know how to communicate with my coaches, and any other staff." If only his workouts were as impressive as his responses. Sam's 7.80-second three-cone drill was the worst among defensive linemen. He logged a 4.79 and a 4.84 in his two 40-yard dash attempts; several defensive ends and tackles beat him there. Sam came up second to last among his group in the bench press, only showing 17 repetitions at 225 pounds.

Here's hoping that his charisma will outshine his workouts and that people will begin to see him as a football player instead of just the "gay football player."



via kirotv.com

## "Lego Movie" Top at the Box Office, and Rightly So

Marlena Brown, news editor

Imagine this: an action-packed film based on the epic adventures of Lego mini figures. You read correctly—a film about Legos. At first, I thought this to be a hoax, but realized it was quite real. The film centers on a quest that the main character, Emmet Brickowski, is mistakenly thrust into. On his unexpected journey, he meets a variety of interesting and lively characters, such as Batman and Han Solo. One character in particular, Wyldstyle, is the vivacious female counterpart who

accompanies Emmet through his series of mishaps. From their first meeting at Emmet's job on the construction site, this dynamic duo stick together and fight against the evil forces of Lord Business in order to save the universe while providing many comical moments in between.

Although the idea of having computer animation Lego figures star in a feature film seems a bit absurd, it has garnered serious cinema-worthy attention. The film has been popularized among children, teenagers and adults. Even cinema critics have given

high praise to the film, and with good reason. What seems to have captured the attention of such a wide audience is the ability to pull different themes from the film. One could say that the film is based on the tensions of capitalism, as Lord Business could represent the wealthy yet corrupt businessman whose plans of monetary gain are to be foiled by the common citizens (i.e. Emmet and Wyldstyle) who stand for justice and equality. Or it could simply be taken as a story of good versus evil, and good must triumph over evil. No matter what vantage point viewers take, it

makes the film all the more interesting and entertaining.

I think I would be remiss though if I did not mention overall qualities of the film that make it worth viewing. From the great artistic features, the quality celebrity voice overs and the superb computer animation, this film has received numerous accolades. It even won third place for the Best Audio/Visual Technique at the 2013 Key Art Awards. So to add to the positive praise, I suggest you see the film and take a stroll down memory lane with Legos on the big screen.