

RiverCity

TV Listings
Inside

SECTION B | Friday, February 26, 2010



Comedian Mike Toomey performs in Yankton March 13 at a benefit for the Yankton County Red Cross.

A Laughing, Helping Hand

Comedian To Aid Yankton Co. American Red Cross At March 13 Benefit

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@yankton.net

Good food, laughter and fun are on the schedule for the Yankton County American Red Cross annual fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, March 13, at Minerva's.

"We want to raise awareness that there is a Red Cross here in Yankton," said Executive Director Melissa Smith. "The last two years, we have held a dance and we decided it just wasn't going over very well. This year, we decided to go with a comedian, but to keep the event in March during Red Cross Month. All of the funds will be used here locally for responding to fires and disasters in the Yankton County area."

With the goal of making it a night of laughter, the Yankton County Red Cross is bringing

"I am happy to do anything that helps. It is good to know that I can offer something that might help."

MIKE TOOMEY

ing in Chicago comedian Mike Toomey.

Toomey, who joked that he has been doing comedy since he was a teenager is no stranger to stand-up.

"I have been on MTV, HBO, Comedy Central, all of that stuff," he said in a phone interview this week. "I also work locally here at WGN television on a news program where I do a variety of things. I write some lighter,

side pieces for the show. It is a four-hour news show, ... I will sometimes do sports stuff myself as well. I do a lot of different characters on the show."

Toomey suspects that people in Yankton will be most familiar with him for his work on the Bob and Tom Show.

"I have been on their show several times," he said. "They have used me on a couple of their CDs and they run my stuff even if I am not in the studio live, as well."

Toomey said that his comedy show is rated PG-13, stressing he is not a dirty comedian. For the most part, he just talks about daily life.

"I hope that the things I talk about strike a familiar cord with the people who are there,"

■ BENEFIT, Page 8B please

An Evening With Oscar: The Winners Are ...

Academy Awards Won't Necessarily
By A Shining Night For 'Avatar'

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
AND NATHAN JOHNSON
The Press & Dakotan

Wow.
I just don't know what to say. (Oh sorry, "I" is actually Nathan. Travis and I got into a fight over the Best Sound Mixing Category. I threw a typewriter — by accident — and lo and behold, Travis is out cold. I translate that as permission to get this Oscar report under way. Right, Travis? Oh yeah, never mind.)

Now I've got the words: *Wah wah tee wah.*

You see, the news recently broke that the Oscar producers originally wanted to ask the brilliant Sacha Baron Cohen, also known as "Ali G," "Bruno," and "Borat," to host the March 7 show. Of course, the boring Oscar Academy shot that plan down immediately, because it thought he is too much of a wild card.

Now we're stuck with Alec Baldwin, who I often enjoy, and Steve Martin, who I often do not enjoy. That means I can expect things to average out into a typical Oscar "blah."

I just hope that the Academy didn't shoot for total mediocrity and hire James Cameron to write the script for the annual event. Maybe he could change the name of the Oscar statuettes to "Would-Be-Like-To-Obtainiums." That would be so clever.

As I write this, most Oscar prognosticators are in agreement that every major category is settled except for Best Actress. I think that's because most of them are with me and don't want to believe that Sandra Bullock could actually win an Oscar for her performance in "The Blind Side."

On a more positive note, this year's Oscars could be a reason for celebration if the Academy does the right thing and makes Kathryn Bigelow the first woman to ever win the Best Director category. Go Team Big!

What's that? Oh, Travis has come around, and he thinks it's his turn to speak. I don't have a

typewriter to throw anymore, so I guess I'll let him say his piece.

Travis: As you can see, the generosity of my colleague knows no bounds. (Cough. Cough.)

A confession: I have not seen any of these films. The only nominee I watched any part of is "Inglourious Basterds," which I hated so much that I turned the DVD off 40 minutes in. I don't know if movies are getting worse, or I'm just getting pickier. It's probably a little of both.

In any case, you don't need to have seen the films to know what's going to win (as evidenced by my 2009 picks, each of which won in their respective categories). Picking an Oscar-winner is a lot like picking a racehorse. You don't go with the horse you love. You go with the one that has the best odds.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Nominees: Matt Damon in "Invictus"; Woody Harrelson in "The Messenger"; Christopher Plummer in "The Last Station"; Stanley Tucci in "The Lovely Bones"; Christoph Waltz in "Inglourious Basterds"

Nathan says:
Give Christoph Waltz a glass of milk, a tobacco pipe and a gun. No, not as gifts! I just want to see him play Col. Hans Landa again. Who would have guessed that a cold, calculating Nazi officer could bring so much joy to the world?

WHO WILL WIN: Christoph Waltz
DARK HORSE CANDIDATE: No one else has a shot.

WHO SHOULD WIN: Christoph Waltz

WHO GOT ROBBED: Michael Pena, "Observe and Report"; Zach Galifianakis, "The Hangover"

Travis says:
Will win: Christoph Waltz. The Academy's penchant for playing mean rears its head in this category, as well. In "Inglourious Basterds," Waltz plays a Nazi. Not only a Nazi, but a Nazi known as the "Jew-Hunter." That's not just mean — it's evil. Remember how surprised you were when you read Mo'Nique has won 18 awards for "Precious?" This guy has at least

21 under his belt. I didn't even know they had that many awards. If this acting thing doesn't pan out for him, he can always melt those suckers down and go into the gold chain business.

Might win: Again, it doesn't seem to be much of a contest. Did anybody actually see Matt Damon in "Invictus?" When you heard Christopher Plummer was nominated for "The Last Station," I'm going to bet you thought it was a movie about trains. (It's not. It's about Tolstoy's wife.) Then there's Woody Harrelson and Stanley Tucci. Did you see their movies? I didn't, either.



2010 nominations

The 82nd annual Academy Awards will be presented March 7. Nominees in major categories:

Best actor

Jeff Bridges
"Crazy Heart"

George Clooney
"Up in the Air"

Colin Firth
"A Single Man"

Morgan Freeman
"Invictus"

Jeremy Renner
"The Hurt Locker"

Best supporting actor

Matt Damon
"Invictus"

Woody Harrelson
"The Messenger"

Christopher Plummer
"The Last Station"

Stanley Tucci
"The Lovely Bones"

Christoph Waltz
"Inglourious Basterds"

Best director

Kathryn Bigelow
"The Hurt Locker"

James Cameron
"Avatar"

Lee Daniels
"Precious"

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Source: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
Graphic: Pat Carr

Best actress

Sandra Bullock
"The Blind Side"

Helen Mirren
"The Last Station"

Carey Mulligan
"An Education"

Gabourey Sidibe
"Precious"

Meryl Streep
"Julie & Julia"

Best supporting actress

Penelope Cruz
"Nine"

Vera Farmiga
"Up in the Air"

Maggie Gyllenhaal
"Crazy Heart"

Anna Kendrick
"Up in the Air"

Mo'Nique
"Precious"

Best picture

"Avatar"

"The Blind Side"

"District 9"

"An Education"

"The Hurt Locker"

"Inglourious Basterds"

"Precious"

"A Serious Man"

"Up"

"Up in the Air"

Best foreign language film

"Ajami"
Israel

"El Secreto de Sus Ojos"
Argentina

"The Milk of Sorrow"
Peru

"Un Prophete"
France

"The White Ribbon"
Germany

Best animated film

"Fantastic Mr. Fox"

"The Princess and the Frog"

"The Secret of Kells"

"Up"

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Nominees: Penelope Cruz in "Nine"; Vera Farmiga in "Up in the Air"; Maggie Gyllenhaal in "Crazy Heart"; Anna Kendrick in "Up in the Air"; Mo'Nique in "Precious"; Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire"

Nathan says:
We better just let Mo'Nique call the shots here. I mean, did you see her in "Precious?" I'm not going to mess with that. It's just as well. The two ladies from "Up in the Air" had "light as air" performances that do not stick with audiences. Gyllenhaal played "young woman with issues" much better (and more believably)

in "Sherrybaby." Finally, Cruz was in a terrible musical that no one saw. Where is the competition?

WHO WILL WIN: Mo'Nique
DARK HORSE CANDIDATE: No one else has a shot.

WHO SHOULD WIN: Mo'Nique
WHO GOT ROBBED: No hold-ups in this category. It was a weak year for supporting female roles.

Travis says:
Will win: Mo'Nique. For the first time since Cher's Best Actress win for "Moonstruck," an Oscar will be awarded to an entertainer with no last name. The Academy loves it when actors play mean, and Mo'Nique's mother-from-Hell character was as mean as they come.

Might win: I really don't know. I do know it won't be Penelope Cruz, since she won the award last year. Nor will it be Maggie Gyllenhaal, whose performance in "Crazy Heart" has been completely eclipsed by Jeff Bridges'. Does that mean Anna Kendrick and Vera Farmiga — both nominated for "Up in the Air" — might win? Sure. But they won't. Eighteen awards, people. Eighteen.

BEST ACTRESS
Nominees: Sandra Bullock in "The Blind Side"; Helen Mirren in "The Last Station"; Carey Mulligan in "An Education"; Gabourey Sidibe in "Precious"; Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire"; Meryl Streep in "Julie & Julia"

Nathan says:
This is a tough one to call, mostly because I don't want to admit to reality. Sandra Bullock is the front-runner for her role in "The Blind Side?" Really? Sandra Bullock? Any of the other nominees are more deserving than her. I particularly adore Carey Mulligan's performance in "An Education." Watching her grow from a sheltered teen into a worldlier — and more world-weary — young woman is breathtaking and heartbreaking. But that's not going to stop Sandra from breaking my heart by winning this category. Where is Mo'Nique when you need her?

WHO WILL WIN: Sandra Bullock

DARK HORSE CANDIDATE: Meryl Streep

WHO SHOULD WIN: Carey Mulligan

WHO GOT ROBBED: Sasha Grey, "The Girlfriend Experience"

Travis says:
Will win: Gabourey Sidibe.

Oscar has a tradition of awarding big performances. Perhaps the most obvious performance comes from Sidibe, as evidenced by the almost-Valley Girl-esque behavior she displays on her frequent talk show appearances. She came out

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