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## **Oscars**

From Page 1B

that the industry has suddenly today put their arms around our little movie.'

Nebraska" earned six nominations, including best director for Alexander Payne and June Squibb for best supporting actress.

Disney's making-of "Mary Poppins" tale "Saving Mr. Banks" also failed to land either a best picture nomination or a best actress nod for Emma Thompson.

The best actress nominees are Amy Adams ("American Hustle"), Cate Blanchett ("Blue Jasmine"), Sandra Bullock ("Gravity"), Judi Dench ("Philomena") and Meryl Streep ("August: Osage County").

With her nomination, Streep pads her record for most acting nominations. This is her 18th nod, including three wins, the last for 2011's 'The Iron Lady.'

But many enjoyed their first Oscar nomination Thursday, including Ejiofor, Mc-Conaughey, Michael Fassbender ("12 Years a Slave"), McQueen, Barkhad Abdi (a limo driver before being cast in "Captain Phillips") and Jared Leto, who had devoted himself to music before returning to play a transsexual in the Texas HIV drama "Dallas Buyers Club.'

"Yesterday I was doing jury duty, today I woke up with an Academy Award nomination,"

said Leto. "Only in America." David O. Russell's Abscam melodrama "American Hustle" has ridden a wave of enthusiasm for its manic performances, all draped in thick 70s style. It's a success for director David O. Russell (who received his third directing nomination) just a year after his "Silver Linings Playbook" was feted with eight Oscar nominations, with Jennifer Lawrence winning. She was again nominated for "Hustle."



Yankton-born Bob Nelson has received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay for the movie

Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street" came into Thursday as one of the biggest question marks of an awards season that has often left many guessing. The nearly three-hour Wall Street extravaganza of money, sex and drugs became a lightning rod of debate, with many questioning whether it glamorized the infamous trader Jordan Belfort.

"Nebraska."

But "The Wolf of Wall Street" landed five big nominations, including best director (Scorsese, his eighth for directing), best supporting actor (Jonah Hill) and best adapted screenplay (Terence Winter).

DiCaprio, who had spent years trying to get the film made, called it "a passion project of mine" and said his role as Belfort was "one of the most challenging and reward-

ing of my career. Also doing well was Spike Jonze's futuristic romance "Her" (five nominations, including best original screenplay for Jonze). Jonze actually earned three nominations Thursday, including best song, for co-writing "The Moon Song" with Karen O.

One of the day's biggest winners was the 27-year-old producer Megan Ellison, the

daughter of billionaire Larry Ellison. Her Annapurna Pictures produced two of the best-picture nominees ("American Hustle" and "Her") as well as the Wong Kar-Wai martial arts drama "The Grandmaster." She celebrated by tweeting "17!" — the total nominations her films re-

ceived. Though much of awards season had played out between favorites "12 Years a Slave" and "American Hustle" (both best picture winners at the Golden Globes on Sunday), the global box-office hit "Gravity" emerged Thursday thanks partly to its strength in technical categories like cinematography, production de-

sign, editing and visual effects. Alfonso Cuaron's innovative depiction of being lost in space has been hailed for reinvigorating the spectacle of the big-screen experience. Having taken in more than \$670 million worldwide, it's easily the most popular of the best-picture nominees.

Though historically the most-nominated films have taken home best picture, that's not been the case in recent years. In six of the last 10 years, the most-nominated

COURTESY PHOTO

film hasn't triumphed in the end, including last year when Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln," with 12 nominations, was beaten by Ben Affleck's "Argo.'

The Coen brothers' folk tale "Inside Llewyn Davis," one of the most critically acclaimed films of the year, garnered only nominations for cinematography and sound mixing. And while 2013 was trumpeted as one of the best years for African-American cinema, movies like "Lee Daniels' The Butler" and "Fruitvale Station" weren't nominated (including Oprah Winfrey's performance in "The

Butler"). This year's Oscar telecast on March 2, with Ellen De-Generes hosting for the second time, has particular pressure on it to live up to the increasingly popular Golden Globes. With hosts Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, ratings for the Globes have increased the last two years and drawn good reviews. The Academy Awards have meanwhile struggled to freshen up its more prestigious brand.

## **Movies**

From Page 1B

Mads Mikkelsen is accused of raping a student in a small Danish town Friends that have known him his entire life immediately shun him and even become physically violent. The thing is, the student made up the accusations. She even admits it, but no one wants to listen. Thomas Vinterberg's film takes a subject that is usually looked at in black and white and explores the grays. The scene where the accused goes to church and confronts his friends is still hard for me to think about without becoming emotional.

#### 5. MUD

Jeff Nichols is one of America's best filmmakers, and "Mud" is the latest example of that. It's a coming-ofage story about a young boy that hits all the right emotional notes and tells a thrilling tale at the same time. Matthew McConaughey continues his streak of excel lent film work — words I never thought I'd have reason to say several years ago.

### 4. POST TENEBRAS LUX

Director Carlos Reygadas opens "Post Tenebras Lux" ("After Darkness, Light") with a small girl in a field. Animals thunder past her as lightning flashes overhead and before you know it, you are watching Satan himself casually entering a home with a toolbag in hand. If that sounds disorienting, it's because it is. The dream-like film is a parade of unforgettable images and emotions that never quite unveils its precise intentions. I was awestruck from the stormy beginning to the explosive

#### 3. UPSTREAM COLOR

I'm not going to try and tell you what this film is about, because I can't entirely explain it. It's got a love story; a parasite that passes from humans to pigs to orchids; and references to "Walden." Put those disparate elements together, and you've got an incredible movie. I don't know how Shane Carruth did it, but he

#### 2. THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

Mountains of cocaine are consumed in Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall

Street," and I imagine this movie as the cinematic equivalent of doing the drug. Leonardo DiCaprio gives his best performance to date as Jordan Belfort, a New York stock broker who is merciless in his pursuit of riches. Those who believe the film glorifies Belfort and his accomplices saw a different movie than I did. "The Wolf of Wall Street" may be visceral and entertaining, but it is also an indictment.

30 Rock 30 Rock Sunny

#### 1. GRAVITY

"Gravity" was a unique cinematic experience that had me on the edge of my seat from start to finish. It was the only film in 2013 that I saw twice in the theater. The cinematography was breathtaking, and the story had just enough meat on it to give the journey meaning without getting in the way of the action. Despite the dire circumstances, it was a pleasure accompanying Sandra Bullock and George Clooney through the depths of space. Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón's "Children of Men" was my favorite film of 2006. "Gravity" is his first directorial effort since that tale of a dystopian future and, once again, he carries the mantle.

Here are some honorable mentions for the year: "American Hustle," "A Hijacking," "Before Midnight," "Into the Fog," "This is the End," "Captain Phillips," "Spring Breakers," "Vanishing Waves," "John Dies at the End," "Only God Forgives," "Blancanieves," "A Place Beyond the Pines," "Dallas Buyers Club" and "Frances Ha.' It was also an extraordi-

nary year for documentaries. My 10 favorite ones were "Black Fish," "Maxima Mea Culpa: Silence in the House of God," "Stories We Tell," "The Act of Killing," "The Gatekeepers," "A Band Called Death," "Evocateur: The Morton Downey Jr. Movie," "The House I Live In," "56 Up" and "Room 237."

What was my biggest disappointment of the year? I usually love Terrence Malick's work, but "To the Wonder" failed to connect with me emotionally and left me feeling frustrated. Still, I can't wait to see his next outing.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

# Russell Johnson, 'Gilligan' Professor, Dies At 89

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Russell Johnson, who became known to generations of TV fans as "The Professor," the fix-it man who kept his fellow "Gilligan's Island" castaways supplied with gadgets, has died. He

Johnson died Thursday morning at his home in Washington State of natural causes, said his agent, Mike Eisenstadt.

Johnson was a busy but little-known character actor when he was cast in the slapstick

1960s comedy about seven people marooned on an uncharted Pacific island. He played high school sci-

ence teacher Roy Hinkley, known to his fellow castaways as The Professor. There was seemingly nothing he couldn't do when it came to building generators, short-wave radios and other contraptions from scraps of flotsam and jetsam he found on the island. But, as Russell would joke years later, the one thing The Professor never accomplished was figuring out how to patch the hole in the bottom of the S.S. Minnow so the group could get back to civilization.

During its three-season run on CBS, critics repeatedly lambasted the show as insipid. But after its cancellation in 1967, it found generations of new fans in reruns and reunion movies.

One of the most recent of the reunion films was 2001's "Surviving Gilligan's Island: The Incredibly True Story of the

Longest Three-Hour Tour in History," in which other actors portrayed the original seven-member cast while Johnson and two other surviving cast members narrated and reminisced

In a 2004 interview, Johnson analyzed the show's lasting ap-

"Parents are happy to have their children watch it," he said. "No one gets hurt. No murders. No car crashes. Just good, plain, silly fun — that's the charm.