

Oscar Season Starts With A Game Of Musical Chairs

NEW YORK (AP) — The first act of the Oscar season is playing out like an episode of "Survivor."

Several anticipated films planned to be released in the heart of awards season have picked up stakes and moved to 2014. Changes often happen in the highly contentious fall movie season, but rarely has there been an exodus like this.

Most recently, George Clooney's World War II drama "The Monuments Men," previously dated for Dec. 18, was moved by Sony to early next year, after the end-of-year eligibility cutoff. Earlier postponed was Bennett Miller's brother drama "Foxcatcher," with Channing Tatum and Steve Carell; "Grace of Monaco," starring Nicole Kidman as Grace Kelly; and James Grey's "The Immigrant," starring Joaquin Phoenix and Marion Cotillard.

Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street" is also up in the air, widely expected to move

from a long-planned November release to Christmas. Scorsese is racing to edit his ambitious Wall Street epic, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, in time for release this year. (Paramount declined to comment on its plans.)

So why the game of musical chairs? The holiday season is a packed one, so the margins for capturing box-office and awards momentum are thin. And three Oscar favorites have already firmly established themselves: Steve McQueen's hugely acclaimed slavery epic "12 Years a Slave"; the global box-office juggernaut and technical marvel "Gravity"; and the Tom Hanks

Somali pirate docudrama "Captain Phillips."

For now, the favorite is "12 Years a Slave," which picked up a leading three nominations from the Gotham Independent Film Awards on Thursday. Based on the account of Solomon Northup (played by Chiwetel Ejiofor), the film bears the weight of being a landmark — a movie that depicts American slavery more faithfully than it ever has been before. Henry Louis Gates Jr. has called it "the best film about slavery ever made from the point of view of a slave."

"It's going to go on its own journey and we'll see where that

ends up," says Ejiofor. "The important thing is that people should see it with their own eyes if there's hyper buzz about it. I think this is a deeply involved story about a man who had a profound experience. I was deeply moved by his book and his experience, and I feel like outside of anything else, that should be given its place and its own sort of room."

"Gravity" has been a different kind of sensation, leading the box office for three consecutive weeks in addition to nearly universal raves from critics. Alfonso Cuarón's film and "12 Years a Slave" are currently the consensus top two Oscar con-

tenders, according to a recent "Gurus o' Gold" poll of 15 Oscar prognosticators and film writers at MovieCityNews.com.

But the reasons for the release date changes have less to do with the seeming lock on awards than with the individual challenges of each film. Clooney has said the extensive visual effects for "The Monuments Men" needed time for completion. Sony Pictures Classics said "Foxcatcher," too, needed more time to finish. No reason was given for the Weinstein Co.'s postponement of "The Immigrant," which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May. "Grace of Monaco" is mov-

ing to March, Harvey Weinstein has said, because "it's just not ready." Director Olivier Dahan has vehemently disputed that, telling French newspaper *Libération* that he considers the film finished and strongly disapproves of the cut Weinstein is seeking. (The Weinstein Co. declined to comment.)

A move to early next year, as "The Monuments Men" is doing, signals a lack of faith in awards attention. While the holiday season is one of the most prestigious and lucrative times of the year to release a film, the early winter months are typically considered the doldrums of the moviegoing year.

Davis

From Page 1B

Hunger has hosted an entertainer to raise awareness about its cause.

"We had wanted to do something to raise awareness of hunger, both locally and in Haiti. So we came up with the idea of holding a special event where we would bring in a Christian music artist or speaker to, first of all, have a night that the whole family could enjoy, and then to speak to the needs of children who are not getting the food they need to develop into the men and women God had created them to be," Mach said. "Last year, we had singer Mark Schultz come to Yankton, and we were blessed with a wonderful night. Those in attendance were extremely generous, and we were able to help support the needs of children locally in Yankton and in Haiti."

This year's show came together after Kids Against Hunger learned that Davis was going to be in South Dakota pheasant hunting.

"The theater was available (Nov. 1), and there were no events planned in the schools in the area, so it was a perfect fit to bring him to Yankton," Mach stated.

In December, Kids Against Hunger will celebrate its second anniversary in Yankton.

"In that time, hundreds of volunteers have packed over 200,000 meals," Mach said. "We are so grateful to those who have come to make this possible. In early November, we will be shipping out our third container of food to Haiti that will be used to feed 1,200 children in six schools that are sponsored by Helping Hands for Haiti, a local South Dakota organization founded by Dave Hansen of Irene. Also in November, we will be taking meals to the Rosebud Indian Reservation to be distributed through the Tree of Life mission."

Food is also given to the Contact Center in Yankton County, as well as the Yankton Sack Pack Program for Christmas and Easter vacations, according to Mach.

He said those interested in attending the Davis performance should purchase tickets soon, because they are going fast.

Tickets are available at Clark's Rentals and The Carpenter Shop in Yankton, as well as The Abbey Christian Store in Norfolk, Neb. They can also be purchased online at kendavis.com, or by calling (800) 425-0873.

To learn more about Kids Against Hunger and its efforts to make a difference in the lives of children, visit kahyankton.org, or call (605) 260-0293.

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

Lange

From Page 11B

four hours getting those, why would they get rid of them?" he says. "She was always pushing for more. She was all about us making her fatter, older, whatever. And you don't find that with a lot of female actresses."

Presenting a stark truth is what drives and guides her work, says Lange, who moonlights as a fine art photographer.

"I shoot in black and white because I think there is something much more arresting about it. I think any time you distill an image down to shadows and highlights, it has a kind of power that speaks to something on a much more primal way," she says. "My acting roles are a blending of that — it's the gray. And I love the balance. It's been fun. Depressing, sure, but fun. So I want a little more of it. For a little longer."

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