

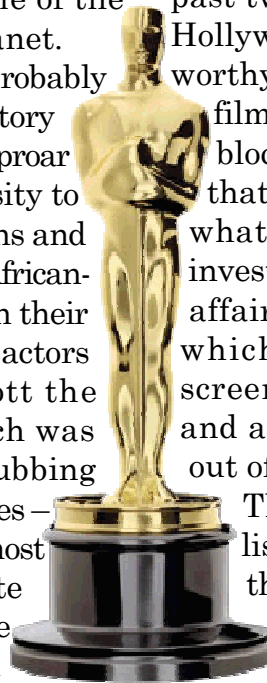
CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter March, 2016

THE ACADEMY AWARDS

February 28th witnessed one of the most talked-about and photographed events of the year, the annual extravaganza widely known as the Oscars. The 88th Academy Awards were held, as usual, in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in downtown Los Angeles and attended by some of the most famous celebrities on the planet.

This year's event was held after probably the most controversial run-up in history to the yearly awards ceremony. The uproar centered on the Academy's propensity to distribute awards to white Americans and largely ignore other ethnic groups. African-Americans were particularly vocal in their criticism, with many famous black actors and actresses deciding to boycott the ceremony. Interestingly, not much was reported about the Academy's snubbing Asian filmmakers, actors and actresses – a trend that has been ongoing for almost the entire history of the event. Despite all the hoopla in the lead-up to the ceremony, the occasion was considered a success. It was hosted by renowned African-American comedian Chris Rock, who made light of the race issues surrounding the ceremony by taking aim at all the ethnicities involved. Of course, this served to raise the ire of some commentators who felt slighted.



The awards themselves were a largely predictable affair. Most film reviewers acknowledged that 2015 was a particularly weak year for movies. Though it could be said that there's been a steady slide in the caliber of movies up for awards over the past twenty or thirty years, recent trends in Hollywood have almost assured that Oscar-worthy movies are few and far between. Big film studios direct most of their budgets to blockbusters, especially movie franchises that spawn sequel upon sequel. Moreover, what's left of the studio money is usually invested, these days, in low-risk, low-budget affairs. Hence, those movies of yesteryear which featured top-class directors and screenwriters, as well as talented actors and actresses, have mostly been squeezed out of the picture.

The upshot of these recent trends was a list of very average movies contending for the coveted award of Best Picture of 2015.

The pre-show favorite was the visually impressive but clichéd *The Revenant*, starring Leonardo di Caprio in an Oscar-winning performance as a man out for justice in the Wild (snowy) West. Thankfully, in the eyes of many movie fans, this pedestrian effort didn't win Best Picture. Unfortunately, the winner – *Spotlight* – was itself not up to scratch. This tale of heroic white journalists exposing white priests' systematic abuse of white kids is the type of self-congratulatory fodder that Hollywood likes to bestow awards upon. The problem is that it's just not a good movie. Nevertheless, it might have been the best of a bad bunch. Long gone are the days of masters such as Kurosawa, who predictably enough was only nominated once.

Article by Colm

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

At this site you can scroll back to see all the Oscar results starting with the first awards in 1929:

<https://www.oscars.org/oscars/ceremonies/2016>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Can you imagine being able to speak all of the world's languages? Well, according to one theory you once could! The theory, by Professor Charles Yang, says that at birth we are already "hardwired" to do so. A universal "language template" onto which any language can be grafted is passed down to all of us through our DNA, but in the process of "learning" our mother tongue, the under-used parts of this template are discarded and neglected. Just imagine what we could do if we could reawaken the unused parts of this template.....

Junko Says: I'm sure some of you have seen the TV commercial about Nescafé's coffee machines. This commercial stayed in my mind because we supply coffee and tea to everyone here at Crossroads. I finally had the chance to taste the coffee made with these machines the other day. We have now decided to set these machines up at Crossroads along with Nescafé's special tea-maker. I hope our new coffee is an improvement and that you will enjoy it.



Mark Says: One of my favourite pastimes is watching TV. While I enjoy films, I prefer the character and story development that a long run TV drama allows. One of my favourite shows is *The Walking Dead*, a drama about survival in a post zombie apocalypse world. I regularly discuss the latest story-lines with current and former students as well as former colleagues who are fans themselves. Please check it out.

Colm Says: As the weather picks up, the *hiki-nige* shuffle is in full effect in Matsuyama. Whether you're a driver, a cyclist or a walker, watch out for cars and bicycles merrily navigating routes in whichever ways take their fancy. If you're not on your toes, you'll soon be on your nose after being ploughed into. As you pick yourself up, the perpetrator will be off in the distance.



Danielle dit: Alors que je passe devant quelques fois par semaine depuis plusieurs mois, j'ai découvert récemment un magasin de crêpes japonaises près de l'université d'Ehime. Etant très gourmand, j'aime beaucoup les crêpes et en particulier les crêpes japonaises dans lesquelles sont souvent mixées plusieurs choses. Cependant, si vous en avez l'occasion, essayez donc les crêpes à la française dont ils existent beaucoup de variantes, sucrées ou salées.

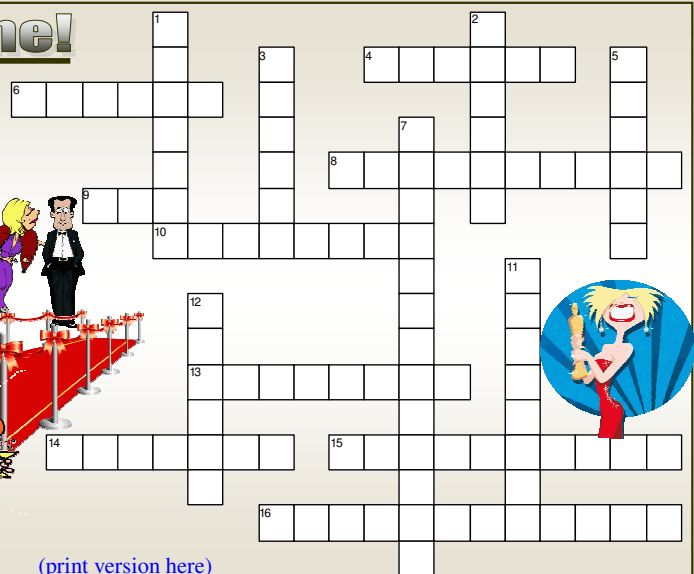
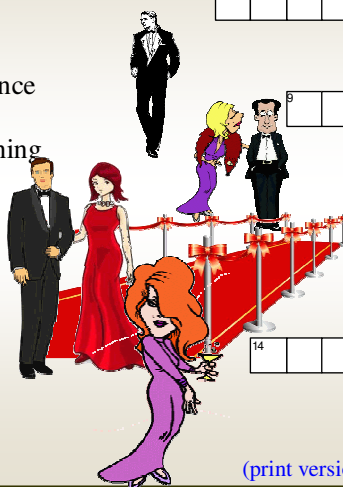
ACROSS

- 4 loud noise and confusion
- 6 overly sensational promotion of an event
- 8 tendency, inclination
- 9 anger in response to a grievance
- 10 someone who returns after a long absence
- 13 disrespected
- 14 refuse to deal with or be part of something
- 15 give or share out
- 16 spectacular stage entertainment

DOWN

- 1 level of excellence
- 2 coarse food (especially for livestock)
- 3 fail or refuse to notice
- 5 give as a right, title, reward or gift
- 7 in great disagreement
- 11 reject, refuse to acknowledge
- 12 result caused by a previous event

Play A Game!



(print version [here](#))

NOTICE BOARD



The Traveler's Log with S(a)'s Maki

In this article I will introduce you to the Aran Islands and Kylemore Abbey in Ireland:

First, let's go to the Aran Islands. It takes about 40 minutes by ferry from Galway to get there. The Aran Islands consist of three islands which are called Inis Mor, Inis Meain and Inis Oirr. Aran means long mountains and Inis means island. Mor means big, Meain means middle and Oirr means East. Most visitors go to Inis Mor to see Dun Aonghass, which is the most spectacular fiord there. It is situated between 100 meter high cliffs. The people who live there still speak Irish. You can also see signs which are written in Irish. The Aran Islands are also famous for handmade Aran sweaters.

When I visited the Aran Islands, I rented a bicycle to get around. I saw donkeys and I was able to get back in touch with nature. When I arrived at Dun Aonghasa the Atlantic Ocean spread out in front of me. It was a spectacular view. However, I felt a little bit frightened because of the height. I laid down, looked below and trembled with fear!



Scenes at Dun Aonghasa



Kylemore Abbey

Secondly, let's go to Kylemore Abby. It takes about one hour by car from Galway. Kylemore Abby is located in Connemara County, Galway. This is the site of Kylemore Castle which was built by Michell Henry for his wife Margret in 1868. When they visited this area she loved it so much that he decided to build the castle for her. It took more than 7 years to complete. However, she died after they had lived there for only a few years. He left Kylemore Castle afterwards. The Benedictine Nuns bought it in 1920. This castle has also been used as a girl's high school. Now there are a gift shop and a restaurant to help maintain the Abby.

When I visited the castle, furniture was on display and I could feel the life that Henry and Margret lived. It was elegant. The view from outside was also beautiful.

There are many great places to visit in Ireland. Please visit someday!

Pet's Corner The Pawscars!

Every year the American Humane Association hosts an "Oscars" awards ceremony to honor the film industry's hard working animal actors.

In 2015 the "Lifetime Diva Achievement Award" Oscar was won by Crystal, a Capuchin monkey. She has performed in more than 25 movies over two decades.

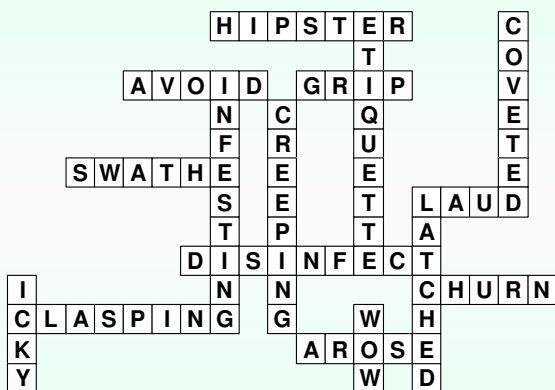


Although the Humane Association hosts this event for animal actors, their main purpose is to ensure that no harm comes to the animals used during the making of films.

In the same year that Crystal won her Oscar, Dale, a horse in the movie, Planet of the Apes, won the "Best Supporting Equine" Oscar. In the scene where the horses appeared to be jumping over fire, they were actually jumping over a foot high bar with flicking lights.

The award for the "Best Young Animal Performer" that year went to a trio of bull puppies for their work in the film, Drop. The character they played was named Rocco but as puppies grow so fast, three had to be used to complete the story. To make them all look like the same dog, non-toxic makeup was used to match them up.

The "Best Aquatic Performance" honor went to Savannah a dolphin. Savannah had to play the part of a dolphin who dies in the movie "Dolphin Tale 2". However, Savannah did not have to learn the death scene as animatronics took over for her. As for the other marine life in the movie, the American Humane Association made sure that no animal worked more than an hour without a break.



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 a follower of the latest trends
- 4 stay clear of, stay away from
- 6 hold firmly
- 8 an area or strip of something
- 9 praise or honor
- 10 kill microorganisms and germs
- 12 (out) produce at a fast rate
- 13 holding firmly and tightly
- 15 came into existence, form or shape

DOWN

- 2 rules governing social behavior
- 3 greatly desired
- 5 living on or in a host in large numbers
- 7 moving slowly but surely
- 9 taken hold of, gripped
- 11 a very bad feeling, soft and sticky
- 14 to impress greatly



Don't forget... Our **SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!**

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.