

LIFE

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'Hurt Locker' sweeps Oscars, makes Hollywood history

The Iraq war drama won six Academy Awards, including best film and best director, while Sandra Bullock and Jeff Bridges were named best actress and best actor

BY BOB TOURTELLOTTE
REUTERS, LOS ANGELES



From left: Mark Boal, Kathryn Bigelow and Greg Shapiro celebrate winning the best picture Oscar for *The Hurt Locker*; Sandra Bullock poses with her best actress Oscar for *The Blind Side*; Jeff Bridges holds his best actor Oscar for *Crazy Heart*. PHOTOS: AGENCIES

The *Hurt Locker* director Kathryn Bigelow battled her way into Oscar history books on Sunday, topping her movie's best film honor with her own Academy Award for directing to become the first woman ever to earn that distinction. The low-budget film, which has earned US\$20 million at box offices, picked up six awards in all and bested *Avatar*, directed by Bigelow's ex-husband James Cameron. *Avatar* is the top-grossing movie of all time with US\$2.5 billion.

In a ceremony that harkened back to old Hollywood with glamour, music and comedy, the gritty drama about a squad of bomb-defusing specialists also secured writer Mark Boal the Academy Award for original screenplay and claimed honors for film editing, sound editing and mixing. "This really is, there's no other way to describe it, it's the moment of a lifetime," said Bigelow. Backstage, she told reporters that she hoped she was only the first of many women directors to win an Oscar. Boal highlighted the struggle to make the movie when only a few years ago in Hollywood money for such true-life drama was hard to find after audiences turned their backs on war films.

"This has been a dream, beyond a dream," said Boal, a journalist who was embedded with US troops in Iraq. At best, he said, the film's makers hoped "we would find a distributor and someone would like the movie." *Avatar* walked away with three Oscars, but in technical categories — visual effects, cinematography and art direction.

FAMILY NIGHT

Veteran Jeff Bridges claimed best actor for playing a drunken country singer in drama *Crazy Heart*. The son of Hollywood star Lloyd Bridges held his trophy high over his head, looking to the heavens and thanking his deceased parents. "Mom and Dad, yeah," he shouted. "Thank you Mom and Dad for turning me on to such a groovy profession." Sandra Bullock was named best actress for *The Blind Side* in a first for the actress once dubbed "America's Sweetheart" because she won so many early fans in her romantic comedies. For *The Blind Side*, however, she took the part of a real-life, strong-willed mother

who helps take a homeless youth off the street and makes him into a football success. "Did I really earn this, or did I just wear you all down?" she joked on the Oscars stage. She held back tears when thanking her own mother, whom she called "a trailblazer" and major influence in her own life. "To the moms who take care of the babies, no matter where they come from. Those moms never get thanked," Bullock said. Family film *Up*, one of the best-reviewed movies of 2009, won two Oscars for best animated movie and original score with its tale of an elderly man who ties balloons to his home and flies off on an adventure with a young boy. Dark drama *Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire* also earned two Oscars including best supporting actress for Mo'Nique and, in another piece of Academy Award history, adapted screenplay for writer Geoffrey Fletcher, who became the first African American to claim that honor.

LOOKING BACK

Mo'Nique told reporters backstage that in her hair she wore the same gardenia Hattie

McDaniel had when she won supporting actress in *Gone With the Wind* — a trailblazing win because it was the first ever Oscar for an African American. "I want to thank Miss Hattie McDaniel for enduring all she had to so that I would not have to," Mo'Nique said on stage. Austrian actor Christoph Waltz won best supporting actor for his turn as a menacing Nazi officer in revenge fantasy *Inglourious Basterds*, which follows a band of American Jews killing their enemies behind lines during World War II. But it was the only trophy Quentin Tarantino's *Basterds* could claim after being the second-most nominated movie with eight nods to nine apiece for *Hurt Locker* and *Avatar*. Oscar organizers promised a fast-paced show with lots of laughs from co-hosts Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin. And after an old-style musical from Neil Patrick Harris with showgirls and men in tuxedos and tails, Baldwin and Martin put on a stand-up routine picking out stars in the audience. "There's that damn Helen Mirren," Martin said. "No Steve, that's Dame Helen Mirren," Baldwin came back.

Winners

82nd Academy Awards

Best picture

The Hurt Locker

Best actor

Jeff Bridges, *Crazy Heart*

Best actress

Sandra Bullock, *The Blind Side*

Director

Kathryn Bigelow, *The Hurt Locker*

Foreign language film

The Secret in Their Eyes (El Secreto de Sus Ojos)

Supporting actor

Christoph Waltz, *Inglourious Basterds*

Supporting actress

Mo'Nique, *Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire*

Original screenplay

Mark Boal, *The Hurt Locker*

Adapted screenplay

Geoffrey Fletcher, *Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire*

Animated feature

Up

Animated short film

Logorama

Art direction

Rick Carter and Robert Stromberg (art direction) and Kim Sinclair (set decoration), *Avatar*

Costume design

Sandy Powell, *The Young Victoria*

Makeup

Barney Burman, Mindy Hall and Joel Harlow, *Star Trek*

Cinematography

Mauro Fiore, *Avatar*

Live action short film

The New Tenants

Documentary feature

The Cove

Documentary short

Music by Prudence

Visual effects

Joe Letteri, Stephen Rosenbaum, Richard Baneham and Andrew R. Jones, *Avatar*

Sound editing

Paul N.J. Ottosson, *The Hurt Locker*

Sound mixing

Paul N.J. Ottosson and Ray Beckett, *The Hurt Locker*

Film editing

Bob Murawski and Chris Innis, *The Hurt Locker*

Original score

Michael Giacchino, *Up*

Original song

The Weary Kind, *Crazy Heart*

SOURCE: REUTERS

Gowns and gems dazzle on the red carpet

Hollywood's leading ladies, including Sandra Bullock, Cameron Diaz and Zoe Saldana, awed fans with gowns in many colors and shimmering metallics

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP, LOS ANGELES

Sandra Bullock dressed the part at Sunday's Academy Awards: She wore a gleaming, metallic, slim-fitting gown that seemed fashioned after the Oscar statuette itself.

The dress was a winner, making the best actress one of many who stepped up their style on what is considered Hollywood's most important runway. Top actresses made bold color choices, donned stiffer shapes and used sparkle strategically to get them noticed.

"This red carpet was whimsical,



Charlize Theron, left, and Anna Kendrick pose during the Governors Ball after the Oscars. PHOTO: REUTERS

thank God. It was the most interesting red carpet in a long time," said Suze Yalof Schwartz, *Glamour* magazine's executive fashion editor at large. "You want to see a dress that makes you say 'Wow!' and I saw at least six of those." There had been a trend in recent years to make safe choices at the Oscars, with celebrities knowing that the photos taken there would follow them for the rest of their lives. But there was a refreshing sense of fun — and some directional fashion — this year.

"We're moving into architectural shapes and away from all the drapery. There were not a lot of 'goddesses' this year," observed Sharon Graubard, senior vice president of trend analysis at forecasting firm Stylesight. "This was about glamour, very tasteful, grown-up glamour." Gold was a huge trend, with Kate Winslet looking like an old-school movie star in her sleek, strapless gold gown by Yves Saint Laurent and Deco-inspired US\$2.5 million yellow-diamond necklace from Tiffany & Co. Cameron Diaz, with bold red lips, was another screen siren in a gold strapless gown with metallic ribbons and paillettes by Oscar de la Renta; Miley Cyrus wore a bustier-style strapless gold number by Jenny Packham; and Sarah Jessica Parker chose a custom yellow Chanel with silver flowers around the bustline.

"I loved Sarah Jessica Parker in Chanel. It was interesting, romantic and she's a fashion risk-taker," said Mary Alice Stephenson, stylist and fashion commentator.

Flowers were another dominant theme at the Kodak Theatre in Los

Angeles. Bullock's Marchesa gown had a delicate floral embroidery and Mo'Nique complemented her electric blue Tadashi Shoji asymmetrical dress with gardenias in her hair. She said she did it in the spirit of the late Hattie McDaniel, who had done the same in 1940.

A few looks seemed sure to generate chatter because they weren't standard-issue, red-carpet styles. Jennifer Lopez's sculpted, strapless pale-pink Armani Prive had a dramatic slit on one side

Bullock, 'Transformers' make Razzies list

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP, LOS ANGELES

Sandra Bullock warmed up for the Academy Awards with a stop at the Razzies to collect a dubious honor: a worst-actress prize for her romantic comedy flop *All About Steve*.

Bullock swung by the Razzies on the eve of her expected triumph at Sunday's Oscars, where she won best actress for *The Blind Side*. Bullock was the first person to win an Oscar and a Razzie over the same weekend.

"I think this is an extraordinary award," said Bullock, who had promised throughout awards season that if she won the Razzie, she would accept it in person. "And I didn't realize that, in Hollywood, all you had to do was say you'd show up, and then you'd get the award. If I'd known that, I would have said I was appearing at the Oscars a long time ago." *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*

was picked as last year's worst picture and won two other Razzies, worst director for Michael Bay and worst screenplay for Ehren Kruger, Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman.

Bay and his team probably will not lose any sleep over it. Though reviled by critics, *Transformers* took in US\$402.1 million in the US, No. 2 on the 2009 box-office chart behind *Avatar*.

Bullock, who also shared the Razzie for worst screen couple with *All About Steve* co-star Bradley Cooper, was the first acting winner to show up at the Razzies since Halle Berry won worst actress for *Catwoman* five years ago.

As she took the stage, Bullock pulled a little red wagon filled with DVDs of *All About Steve*, saying she was giving a copy to everyone in the audience of about 300.

Bullock implied that many Razzie voters had not actually seen the movie but cast ballots for her hoping to get her

black Prada was adorned in unusual embroidery: tiny forks, knives and scissors. She said she didn't choose it to make a statement.

"I just thought it was really cool," she said. "It's not a dress where I have to wear Spanx or anything, so I'm good."

Another fashion-forward look was Zoe Saldana's Givenchy gown with a sparkly light pink bodice and a lilac skirt that descended into tight ruffles in all shades of purple. Queen Latifah's one-

Bullock, 'Transformers' make Razzies list

to show up at the awards. Bullock said if they watched the DVD — "I mean really watch it" — and decided it was not the worst performance of the year after all, then she would come back next year and "give back the Razzie ... then we'll go drink afterwards."

The worst actor Razzie went to siblings Kevin, Joe and Nick Jonas for *Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience*. The Jonas' pal Miley Cyrus, star of *Hannah Montana: The Movie*, lost the worst actress category to Bullock.

Will Ferrell's action comedy flop *Land of the Lost* had come in tied with *Transformers* for the Razzies lead with seven nominations, but it was nearly shut out in every category.

Once ballots had been counted from the roughly 650 Razzies voters, *Land of the Lost* was tied for the group's worst remake, rip-off or sequel prize. Razzies founder John Wilson, who votes last, gave

shoulder Badgley Mischka was a lovely shade of pink and the mermaid shape "is the right way to dress a curvy woman," said Yalof Schwartz.

Mariah Carey seemed a little tame in her navy dress, but she promised that the slit on her Valentino would blow wide open if the wind kicked up.

But in fashion, it was Bullock going for the gold, said designer Patricia Field, who called it "simple, classy — it looked good on her."

Bullock, 'Transformers' make Razzies list

the tie-breaking vote to *Land of the Lost*. "It really did stink and I thought, well, it ought to get something, because it is a very bad movie," Wilson said.

Razzie voters also made worst-of-the-decade picks, with John Travolta's science fiction debacle *Battlefield Earth* winning worst picture.

Among all-time Hollywood dreck, *Battlefield Earth* is "like the 800-pound mongrel gorilla in the room," Wilson said. "It's one of my favorite type of bad movies. It's so bad, it's entertaining, in ways that the people who made it had no idea it would be."

Paris Hilton was chosen as the decade's worst actress for movies such as *The Hot Chick* and *The Notties* and *Repo: The Genetic Opera*. Eddie Murphy, a 2009 Razzie nominee for *Imagine That*, was named the decade's worst actor for such bombs as *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*, *I Spy* and *Meet Dave*.