

'Mask' leads films in Razzie dis-honors

By DAVID GERMAIN
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LOS ANGELES

Bad sequels and remakes tortured movie audiences last year, and they provided a smorgasbord for the Razzies, an Academy Awards spoof that pays heed to the worst in Hollywood.

Four of the five worst-picture nominees for the Razzies were sequels or remakes, led by "Son of the Mask," which had eight nominations Monday, including worst actor for Jamie Kennedy and supporting actor for Alan Cumming and Bob Hoskins.

The other worst-picture contenders were Rob Schneider's sequel "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo," Jenny McCarthy's raunchy romance "Dirty Love," the TV update "The Dukes of Hazzard" and the horror remake "House of Wax."

Razzies will be announced March 4, the day before the Oscars.

Tom Cruise earned three Razzie nominations, as worst actor for "War of the Worlds" and two of the five slots in a new Razzies category for most tiresome tabloid targets. Cruise was nominated there for his anti-psychiatry rant and for his public romance with Katie Holmes.

"He had been a very private person up until this past year," said Razzies founder John Wilson. "It certainly was a bizarre turn in terms of how he handles his personal life and the access that he gave the media to himself. The endless posing on the red carpet and just smooching like they were on the couch at home."

"Son of the Mask," a flop that starred Kennedy as a new father whose son is born with the shape-shifting powers showcased in Jim Carrey's original 1994 movie, was an early Razzies favorite when it came out nearly a year ago. As Wilson was preparing for last year's Razzies ceremony, his family went to see "Son of the Mask."

"I was working on the script for last year's show, and they got home and my son stuck his head in the



Jessica Alba has been nominated for a worst-actress Razzie for her performance in "Fantastic Four." Other

door and said, 'Dad, we've got one for next year,' Wilson said.

Besides Cruise and Kennedy, worst-actor nominees were Will Ferrell for "Bewitched" and "Kicking & Screaming," The Rock for "Doom" and Schneider for "Deuce Bigalow."

McCarthy earned three nominations for "Dirty Love," for worst actress, screenplay and screen couple (she and "anyone dumb enough to befriend or date her").

Her worst-actress competitors: Jessica Alba for

accesses to earn nods are Hilary Duff for "Cheaper by the Dozen 2" and Tara Reid for "Alone in the Dark."

"Fantastic Four" and "Into the Blue," Hilary Duff for "Cheaper by the Dozen 2" and "The Perfect Man," Jennifer Lopez for "Monster-in-Law" and Tara Reid for "Alone in the Dark."

Paris Hilton received two nominations, worst supporting actress for "House of Wax" and most tiresome tabloid target. Holmes also was nominated for worst supporting actress for "Batman Begins," along with Carmen Electra for "Dirty Love" and the Simpson sisters, Jessica for "The Dukes of Hazzard" and Ashlee for "Undiscovered."

• Wing

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

dealing with the presidential election between Democrat Matt Santos (Jimmy Smits) and Republican Alan Vinick (Alan Alda).

The series finale will deal with the inauguration of the new president and the departure of the Bartlet administration.

"That's a perfect ending," Wells said. "We were very fortunate to get two more wonderful actors (Smits and Alda), who you could actually believe could be president of the United States."

Paying tribute to creator Aaron Sorkin, Wells said another major success ingredient was showing the remarkable strength of American democracy.

"That was one of Aaron's original concepts," Wells said. "And the peaceful passing of power from one leader to another expresses this strength and makes for wonderful storytelling."

So who will win the election? "Obviously, we won't share (the winner) with you, because that wouldn't be fun for anyone," said Wells.

So the guessing game begins while the question is asked: In the blabbermouth world of Hollywood, will the final plot remain secret until air time May 14?

The death of Spencer (Leo



AP PHOTO

Episodes of "The West Wing" leading up to shows on April 2 and 9 deal with the presidential election between Republican Alan Vinick (Alan Alda), left, and Democrat Matt Santos (Jimmy Smits).

McGarry, formerly Bartlet's chief of staff and then Santos' running mate) happened at a point where producers and writers had "pretty much" made a decision, according to Wells.

Perhaps Spencer's death has changed the original thinking.

There's a feeling among some critics and NBC insiders that having Alda's Republican candidate win the election would be a tour de force ending for "The West Wing," which has projected a Democratic liberal face during its run.

The show's cancellation hasn't put a negative spin on cast members' attitudes.

"It's a miracle to be able make a living in a non-humiliating way

as an actor," said Bradley Whitford (Josh Lyman). The actor stressed that "The West Wing" has offered creativity on a cultural level in an arena (commercial TV) where the stakes are high.

Shen said all the cast members felt they were involved in something special when the series started.

"The only real doubt we had was whether it would work on network television. It was a political show. There were no car chases or fires. The action was in the word. We wondered if the audience and sponsors would support us. And we quickly found there was a market for this type of show," he said.

• Music

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

instrument designer.

He recorded and performed with Paul Simon from 1999 to 2001, and he has worked extensively with composer Elliot Goldenthal on music for several feature films, including "Titus."

His musical credits also include stage productions like "Twelfth Night," with Helen Hunt and Kyra Sedgwick, and "The Lion King."

Stewart fashions his instruments in his New York Lower East Side "lab," where tradition-

al and new instruments such as the Garglephone coexist. The contraption consists of narrow, U-shaped piping with part of a 2-liter bottle attached to one end.

Schwimmer is a composer, pianist, singer and arranger who has performed and recorded throughout the world. He describes himself as street educated in music.

"I play everything," Schwimmer says in a telephone interview from his home in Brooklyn, N.Y.

One of Schwimmer's specialties is the theremin, an electromagnetic instrument controlled by hand gestures.

He has written screenplays, including one that won an

Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film.

His CD *Theremin Noir*, with pianist Uri Caine and violinist Mark Feldman, was called haunting and unforgettable by *The Wire* magazine in the United Kingdom.

Schwimmer expects some interesting sounds at The Commons, especially when nose flutes are handed out to the audience.

With the plastic contraptions that fit over the nose and mouth, visitors will join the duo in a musical number.

"It's an amazing sound," Schwimmer says.

Yet, even with the funny stuff, "the music is serious," he says.

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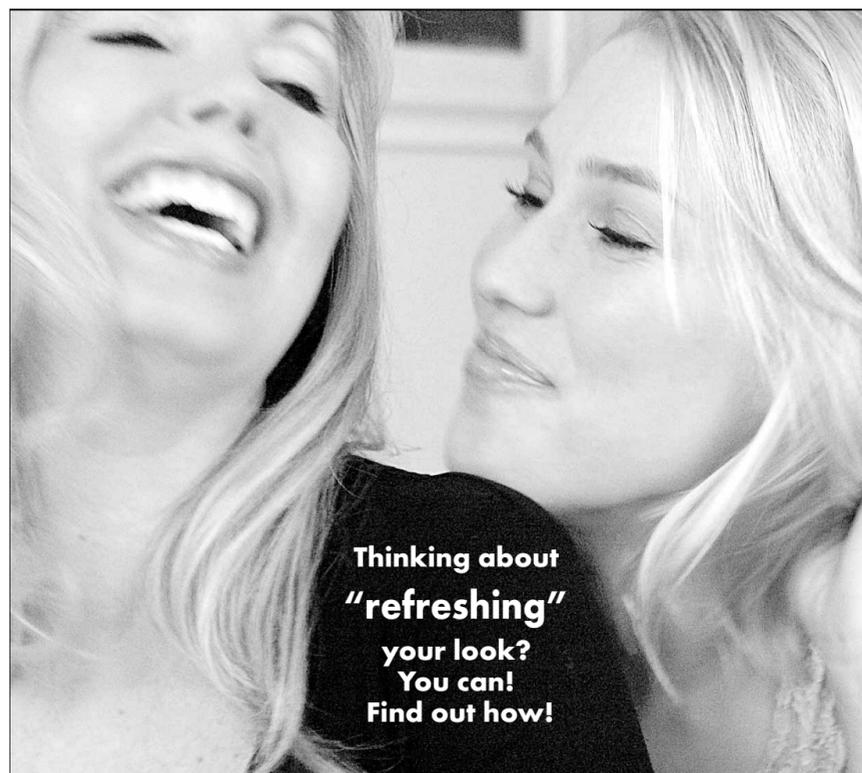
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