

# Actress weighs in on awards season

## Cate Blanchett adds two cents on parenting

By SANDY COHEN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### LOS ANGELES

Cate Blanchett is logging lots of travel time these days. Luckily, she's been able to catch a lift from New Orleans to Los Angeles on Brad Pitt's plane.

The "Babel" co-stars are working together in the Big Easy on "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," and both are making frequent trips to L.A. as Hollywood's awards season ramps up.

But the sprawling, international drama, "Babel," which won the Golden Globe for best motion picture drama, isn't the only film bringing Blanchett back to Southern California.

She also stars in "Notes on a Scandal," which earned her a best supporting actress Oscar nomination and co-star Judi Dench a best-actress nod.

"Notes" focuses on the relationship between two teachers, one of whom is having an affair with student.

After putting her two sons, ages 5 and 2½, to bed, Blanchett, 37, spoke by phone on Sunday about dealing with the pressures of awards season, what she looks for in a role and the next challenge on her horizon.

**AP: What is it about "Babel" that has inspired so many to connect with the film?**

**Blanchett:** When you read about it, you think you're going to sort of be hit over the head with some enormous political message, and I think (director) Alejandro (Gonzalez Inarritu) has been able to make an intensely personal film that's really about parents and children



Cate Blanchett, left, and Judi Dench star in "Notes on a Scandal." Blanchett was nominated for a best supporting actress Oscar and Dench for best actress for their roles in the film.

and husbands and wives.

It's both domestic and epic at the same time, and to have this incredible backdrop that so voices people's base anxieties at the moment, stuff that we're all really in a day-to-day way dealing with, this disconnection between what we think we know and what we actually know and what we feel. I think that he's tapped into something quite primal.

**AP: "Notes on a Scandal" is also very topical. What was it like making that film?**

**Blanchett:** It was hilarious and shocking and confronting. I was so pleased to have the opportunity to work alongside Judi Dench, so that was extraordinary.

The great thing about the way Patrick Marber writes is that he doesn't shy away from unpalatable situations. He sort of gives dramatic voice to the undesirable bits of our inner monologue that we don't want to reveal to anyone.

**AP: What's the best and worst part of awards season?**

**Blanchett:** I had a ball the other night at the Globes. I just suddenly realized there were so many people that I hadn't seen for ages. It's a bit tricky when you're working. It's a bit of a juggle, particularly when you're proud of the things you're being recognized for, because you do want to show up and celebrate the fact that

they're being recognized.

But you're also in a completely different zone because you're in the middle of creating something else that you hope will be extraordinary.

**AP: What do you look for when you're choosing a role?**

**Blanchett:** I'm incredibly fatalistic about work. ... Generally I tend to choose the things that take me completely by surprise. ... There's no grand plan. I suppose the classic one for me was the Bob Dylan project, the one that Todd Haynes did. (In "I'm Not There," Blanchett is one of several actors portraying the singer-songwriter.)

It's insane, I've always known I wanted to work with Todd like I've always known I wanted to work with Scorsese and with Alejandro. So the characters become, I suppose, the tertiary part of the project. It's the director and the script and the other actors and then it's like, "What am I going to be doing in it?"

**AP: Does genre play into your choice, like, "I'd like to do something funny now?"**

**Blanchett:** Oh, absolutely. I'd love to do something light and fluffy, just like I'd love to do something with heaps and heaps of action. What's the point if you don't get the chance to try out as many different genres as possible?

**AP: You are returning to your theatrical roots as co-artistic director of the Sydney Theater Co.**

**Blanchett:** My husband (playwright Andrew Upton) and I have been announced (that) in 2008 we're taking over as co-artistic directors of the Sydney Theater Co. When the idea first came up, it was a very curious and surprising idea. ... It felt like a lot of things and ideas and concepts and hopes and ambitions that have been floating around in the ether suddenly had an anchor and a focus and an outlet, so I'm really thrilled by it.

# TOP 5 of the week

## Television

1. "AFC Championship Post Game Show," (10:18 to 10:23 p.m.), CBS
2. "AFC Championship: New England at Indianapolis," CBS
3. "American Idol," (Tuesday), Fox
4. "American Idol," (Wednesday), Fox
5. "AFC Championship Post Game Show," (10:23 to 10:41 p.m.), CBS

— Nielsen Media Research

## Movies

1. "Stomp the Yard," Sony/Screen Gems
2. "Night at the Museum," Fox
3. "Dreamgirls," Paramount
4. "The Hitcher," Focus/Rogue
5. "The Pursuit of Happyness," Sony

— Exhibitor Relations Co.

## Songs

1. "Irreplaceable," Beyonce. Columbia
2. "I Wanna Love You," Akon with Snoop Dogg. SRC
3. "Fergalicious," Fergie. will.i.am
4. "Say It Right," Nelly Furtado. Mosley
5. "Smack That," Akon with Eminem. SRC

— Billboard magazine

## Albums

1. Soundtrack: "Dreamgirls." Music World
2. "Konvicted," Akon. Konvict
3. "FutureSex/LoveSounds," Justin Timberlake. Jive/Zomba
4. "Daughtry," Daughtry. RCA
5. Soundtrack: "Jump In!" Walt Disney

— Billboard magazine

## Tours

1. Barbra Streisand
2. The Rolling Stones
3. Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band
4. The Who
5. Aerosmith/Motley Crue

— Pollstar



## DINING WITH DUFFY

### Lockerbie Pub

Address: 631 E. Michigan Ave., Indianapolis  
Phone: 631-9545  
Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Monday to Friday; 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. Saturday; closed Sunday  
Credit cards: Major cards accepted  
Entrée price range: \$5 to \$8

# Indy pub locks in flavor on stews, hamburgers

The historic Lockerbie neighborhood, on the east edge of downtown Indianapolis, was home to poet James Whitcomb Riley and artist Johnny Gruelle, literary creator of Raggedy Ann.

Lockerbie Pub, in a sturdy and weathered-brick building at Michigan Street and College Avenue, has been a watering hole for decades.

Over the years, the pub has been called Hob Nob Inn and Golden Slipper Supper Club. It became Lockerbie Pub about 25 years ago.

For the past five years it has been run by Bob Deckard, who has made it a reliable forum for hearty, reasonably priced lunches

and post-work unwinding for both the day shift and night shift.

The menu brags of its homemade soups, chili and stews. The beef stew (\$2.75, cup; \$4, bowl) has large, tender chunks of beef, carrots and potatoes in a tasty and rich gravy-like broth. It is a flavor revelation, with a delayed reaction kick from spicy seasonings.

Seven chicken breast sandwiches are offered in assorted decorator sauces, be it buffalo, barbecue, teriyaki, mushroom and Swiss, and the "Chicken Lockerbie" smothering of hot sauce, bacon and Swiss cheese.

Grilled and breaded pork tenderloin, barbecue pork, hand-

breaded catfish, BLTs, spinach melt, New York strip steak and ham-turkey-and-bacon highlight the sandwich board, along with several wrap sandwiches.

There also are the usual hot wings, potato skins and cheddar fries.

But as I gazed about this unpretentious, 28-seat bar, with its 10-stool bar, TV, pool table and two dartboards, I had to satisfy my sudden desire for a bacon cheeseburger.

I figured a place like this would get the job done.

The fried Lockerbie bacon cheeseburger (\$6) is a half-pound of ground chuck deeply flavored and juicy in tandem with its

Swiss and thick bacon additives, augmented by onion, pickle, tomato and mayo.

The beef stew and cheeseburger provided one of the better pub-grub repasts I've had in a while.

For the record, the Lockerbie Pub is closed on Sundays, except for select Colts games.

I have reason to believe it will be open on the first Sunday in February, when the Colts are said to have an important road game in Miami.

Veteran restaurant critic Reid Duffy writes a weekly review for the Daily Journal. Comments may be sent to letters@thejournalnet.com.

## • Alice

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

Lindsey Brand of Greenwood plays the Mad Hatter and works on props.

A secondary education major, she decided to take the class because it was so different from her regular courses.

Her part in "Alice in Wonderland" is the first time she's been on stage or worked with props.

"It's a lot more work than it looks like," says Brand, who has 18 lines in the tea party scene.

The cast and crew have rehearsed for 4½ hours a day four days a week since Jan. 3.

For students majoring in theater, productions like "Alice in Wonderland" have

helped them find their strengths.

In high school, Alycyn Pratt of Columbus wanted to be an actress.

"It was my primary interest," she says.

As a freshman at Franklin College, she got involved in stage work and has decided she likes the technical side of theater.

"Franklin is a good place to study theater," says Pratt, now a junior. "It's a liberal arts school, and you get to study everything about theater."

"Each experience opens new doors for me," says Pratt, who worked as the set leader for the play.

"Alice in Wonderland" is 40 minutes long with no intermission. The characters will gather in the lobby to meet the audience after the play.

## • Aces

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

to take Israel into custody.

But word of the \$1 million contract gets out among various lowlifes, all of whom compete to get to Israel first.

Among them are bail bondsman Jack Dupree (Affleck) and former cops Pete Deeks (Peter Berg) and Hollis Elmore (Martin Henderson); the sexy but dangerous assassin duo of Georgia Sykes (Keys) and sniper Sharice Watters (Henson); and an insane trio of chain-saw-wielding skinhead brothers (Chris Pine, Kevin Durand and Maury Sterling).

There's also Pasqual Acosta (Nestor Carbonell), an expert in elaborate torture techniques, and the shape-shifting Lazlo Soot (Tommy Flanagan).

You'd be justified in feeling confused after just reading all that.

"Smokin' Aces" crams in too many characters.



# Welcome

## Ashlee Cave DDS

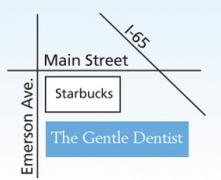
Dr. David Goris & Associates would like to introduce you to Dr. Ashlee Cave. She has joined our Greenwood Gentle Dentist office, and is accepting patients now!

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