

EVENTS

Comforting Crafts
6:30–7:30 p.m. Jan. 21
Student Union Building
Georgian Rooms

Join the Student Activities Board in a relaxing environment to unwind from the hectic week. Students can decorate mugs and create their own sugar scrubs.

Art Exhibit Reception
6–7 p.m. Jan. 26
University Art Gallery, OP 1114

The University Art Gallery will feature artwork from Ricardo Quiñónez Aleman, Danielle Yakle and James Ehlers. The Art Gallery exhibits are free and open to the public.

CALLING ALL COOKS

THE INDEX IS LOOKING FOR RECIPE SUBMISSIONS.

IF YOU HAVE A RECIPE YOU WANT FEATURED,

PLEASE SEND:

- LIST OF INGREDIENTS
- INSTRUCTIONS
- PICTURE OF THE FOOD
- SHORT BLURB ABOUT WHY THE RECIPE IS SPECIAL TO YOU
- HEAD SHOT OR SELFIE

TO INDEX.FEATURESEditor@GMAIL.COM.



TOP 5 Nominated Films You Should Watch Before the Oscars



"The Martian" already won Best Picture at the Golden Globes, but it was in the Musical or Comedy category at the time. Still, there's no denying that the film's uplifting story about one man's survival and the entire world who rallied together to save him is something worth an Oscar.



1

"Mad Max: Fury Road" made waves last year when director George Miller delivered an action film to beat all action films with its use of mostly practical effects. The movie has been on many best-of lists, and has a total of 10 Oscar nominations.



4

"Room" could possibly be the underdog that surprises everyone who didn't see it. Unafraid to tackle sensitive material, "Room" tells the story of a mother who shelters her son from the harsh truths of the life they live as captives inside a single room.



2

"The Big Short," a true story about the 2008 financial crisis and the guys who knew about it before it even happened, turned what could be a confusing topic for general moviegoers into a funny, yet tragic, take on a real life event.



5

Even if there isn't much to the story, the imagery and the performances by Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy make "The Revenant" worth seeing, if only to be in the know come Oscar time. If you are looking for a revenge story, this one's for you.

REEL.talk

"THE REVENANT" CHOOSES STYLE OVER SUBSTANCE

BY KATEY STOETZEL
Features Editor
index.featureseditor@gmail.com

Although I'm a couple weeks late with a review for "The Revenant," last week's Oscar announcement keeps the film, written and directed by Oscar winner Alejandro González Iñárritu, up front and center in conversation with its 12 nominations, including Best Picture and acting nominations for Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy. While Hardy and DiCaprio's performances are fantastic, I'm here to tell you why I think "The Revenant" might not be so deserving of its top nomination.

My bias for another Best Picture nominee starring Hardy, "Mad Max: Fury Road," notwithstanding, "The Revenant," with all its beautiful imagery and cinematography, and its promising and suspenseful trailers, ends up being nothing more than a pretty, shallow story about revenge.

The film follows the true story of Hugh Glass, played by DiCaprio, a frontiersman known for his remarkable hunting and tracking abilities, whose rivalry with fellow frontiersman John Fitzgerald, played by Hardy, comes to a head after Glass is attacked by a bear and Fitzgerald kills Glass' son.

The first 30 or 40 minutes of this movie work beautifully as a short film, if that short film was about a guy who gets attacked by a bear and is left for dead by his friends. Glass and his party are out hunting and gathering pelts when they are attacked by a Native American group. The ensuing fight is bloody, graphic and visceral, choreographed so well it's like you're watching a dangerous dance across the screen.

People keep saying this is DiCaprio's year to get an Oscar, and I would be inclined to agree. After the bear attack, much of DiCaprio's scenes involve no dialogue, just raw and gritty acting. But personally, I'm partial to Hardy's unpleasant Fitzgerald. He's mean, crude and hilarious, and he really nails that accent. To be honest, I'll be more upset if Hardy does not win Best Supporting Actor than if DiCaprio loses Best Actor again.

But that's where I run out of good thoughts about this movie. During marketing for this movie last year, I remember being really excited. "The Revenant" is done by the same writer and director as last year's Oscar winner "Birdman," a movie I mostly was indifferent to. However, the trailers for "The Revenant" were great and I posted them to Facebook every chance I got.

The final product didn't live up to the trailers, though, and maybe that's a part of a larger discussion about movie trailers' roles in the marketing process. But where I think the main problem with "The Revenant" lies is with its story, and what exactly it's trying to say. I think Iñárritu is trying for something profound here. The hints to God and the multiple dream sequences with religious/afterlife connotations to them definitely prove that, but it all feels like an afterthought among the pretty imagery. As a result, all that's left is revenge, and it's not very sweet.

There are also attempts at world building on Iñárritu's part by including many scenes of the Frenchmen and the Native Americans. While it's great he made this attempt, none of those stories really mesh well with the one about Glass and his revenge.

I'm afraid "The Revenant" will take that top Oscar win simply because it covers two major areas that are important when it comes to winning Oscars — it's mainstream, so the larger masses have access to it, but it could also be considered an art film, or in other words, Oscar bait. **Grade — B+**

I'll be rooting for that other Hardy movie Feb. 28. In the meantime, I'll leave the Oscar talk until then, and focus on more important things, such as superheroes and their red band movie trailers.