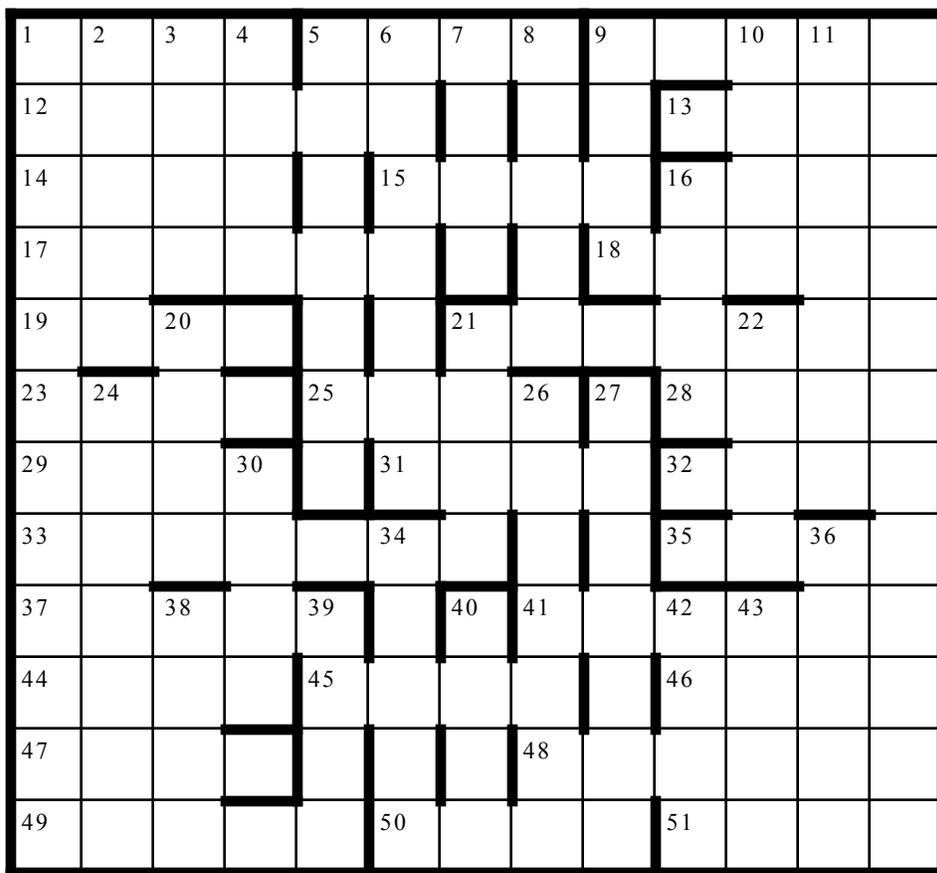


Mixed Reviews

by Ucaaimhu

Twenty Down answers must be altered before entry, in tribute to four pairs of Best Picture nominees: five will experience a low-oxygen situation, five will cast TOM HARDY, five will change in a (kanga)rooish manner, and five will be intermittently “tight” (i.e., anagrammed). Altered entries will include two first names and an initialism.

The remaining 20% of the Down answers will be altered in tribute to one more Oscar nominee; in case you have difficulty deducing the film from the alterations, an appropriate 20% of the Across clues have an extraneous letter, and these letters spell a key word in its title. All the other Across clues work normally, but some are entered in a compact way. When the grid has been filled, its (unclued) left and right columns will show you some relevant reactions to this year’s nominees.



ACROSS

1. The old and (by the way) informal agreements
5. Don't alter the Hindi part of *Hulot's Asian Holiday*
9. My “M” is shaped like a borogove
12. Beer and pop corrupted a Syrian city
13. Word that means “place” when after “in” and “rest” when before “up”
14. Singer Sumac covers middle-grade Village People song (*abbr.*)
15. Employs men and other people to obtain selenium
16. Sonically jar a reptile
17. Put soot on defeat-shrouded Greek character [NI2]
18. Where you'll find Scotland's quintet of hyacinth eukaryotes (*2 wds., abbr.*)
19. Spheres of gold? Balderdash
21. Bring back Penny Cole, who sang a number at Cab's place (*2 wds.*)
23. Dine before Oscar's left work
25. Sum, being interrupted by no-good MIT grad, perh. (*abbr.*)
28. Hens gab when roaming around nine yards?
29. Shirtless Norse god at a circle dance
31. Magi ultimately put next to author Fleming and Carlo Menotti's forerunner?
32. Finally spied two oxen Pamela sent Robert in *The 39 Steps*
33. Pronoun used by a monarch, of course, after unwrapping a brownie
35. Talk lovingly about Canadian legislator and German salt, say
37. Kind of blood a couple from Ypsilanti found in interior of motel (*hyph.*)
41. Every other part of gorillagram *SCTV* airs describes goo derived from petroleum vapor (*2 wds., hyph.*) [NI2]
44. Discussion of drug effects goes quickly
45. Party with Costello, the comedian that's painful to your dears
46. A live stream in Switzerland
47. Wine-related prefix is superficially obscure? No

48. Toe holding up end of the rug
49. Welles or Bean or Child
50. Before the midpoint, Easter's overwhelming Santa's chief helper (*abbr.*)
51. Office furniture of the French king

DOWN

2. Tree of greater age
3. Scope out a Texan river
4. Schilling received money to get sterilized
5. Second trio of pedalers went fast
6. Sound of something hitting glass-and-metal golem's nose
7. Make less tense stranger see *Lear*
8. An Asian philosophical concept involved hot tea (*2 wds.*)
9. Coating containing no carbon or iron oxide
10. Partly Voltairean river in Yorkshire
11. Device that shoots meshes upwards
16. Church near Io's and Homer's birthplace
20. Donkey from Brooklyn or Queens on the radio
21. Present a picture on a computer terminal from Egypt
22. Go around female enemy and very naughty characters (*2 wds.*)
24. Vocal nobleman is landing
26. Makes fun of faceless bores
27. Indicate Italian flower forming part of body art (*2 wds.*)
30. Resorts fools flipped over
34. Heard a Eurasian river
36. Heard a musical about flower children's lagomorphs
38. Times during which the world orbits around a diarist with grand desires
39. Unpowered aircraft's route, in part
40. Iron-like poet Eliot consumes food
42. Praise pad Paul redesigned
43. Republicans, having admitted one error, run wild (*2 wds.*)