

Hue Oughta Be In Pictures

by Ucaimhu

This puzzle includes multiple colorful tributes:

(I) In tribute to four pairs of this year's Best Picture nominees, sixteen Down answers must be altered before entry, in four different ways: (1) four will feature retreating from France, (2) four will employ the imperative mood, (3) four will be things with ads, and (4) four will be monstrous (i.e., anagrammed); the entries resulting from these alterations will include a queen and a goddess.

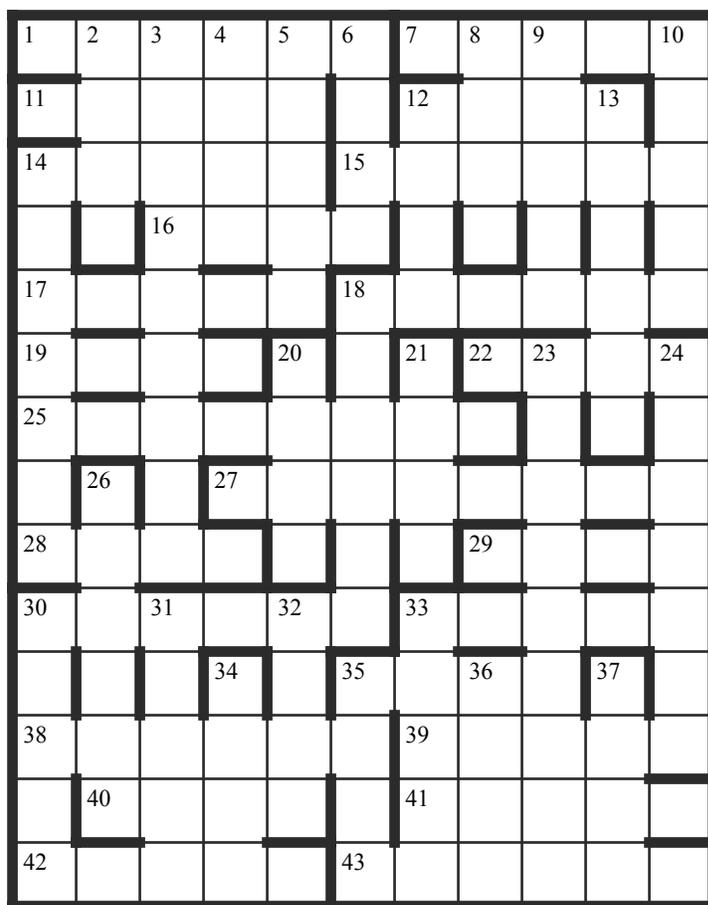
(II) In tribute to other colorful nominees, two other Down clues and six Across clues are wordplay-only, cluing colors; the answer to each is too long for its space, forcing its first or last letter to be written outside the grid. For the Downs, color this letter and its entire half of the grid the clued color; for the Acrosses, move this letter 1 square-width out and 5.5 up and connect it to the grid with a horizontal line of the clued color. You are now almost finished drawing (in unusual colors) the item named by the exterior letters.

(III) In tribute to the three pairs of Across colors, each of the remaining eighteen Across clues must have one word altered before solving: (a) six will have their left and right end switched, (b) six will have two adjacent color letters blend into one using pigment rules (as one might blend the *usual* colors of the item from (II), or of a crossword), and (c) six will add a letter at the center of the word (as a certain movie character, named by those letters in clue order, colorfully journeyed to the center of somewhere).

Finally, in each of the seven remaining Down clues, the wordplay yields a letter string with one extra letter; note the "bigram" (two-letter sequence) this forms with the next letter (it will be the same in all cases) and when you enter that next letter in the grid, make it huge. In each clue from (III), if the altered word is the *m*th from the clue's start and the *n*th from its end, circle the *m*th letter from the clue's start and the *n*th letter from its end. The *m*th letters, and (separately) the *n*th letters, in clue order, will each identify (in terms of the bigram) a color. Fill in the huge letters with the two colors so as to give the greatest contrast with the background, and your item will finally be colorful enough to join the similar items in the Oscar nominee that most prominently features the bigram.

ACROSS

1. Operates a tackler after finally repairing fissures
7. Paul's getting remarkable pot grade from schools (2 wds.)
11. The Spanish gyro with bass replacing egg upset a UK spectre
12. Romeo exhibits salon's eggs containing uranium
14. Genet's *My Mostly Barbarian Lord* depicts Bill from *Religulous* and *Real Time*
15. Commonplace book next to old ruby, making unsatisfactory pair in Indonesia
16. Tate, before the fourth, captivates rough folks in flotillas
17. An equid adorned like a tier with two pieces of zesty lingerie
18. Characters in the Book of Ezekiel deliver every speech Hosea ever spoke, at the start
19. Arizona city of old people, on the eastern side
22. In 1 Kings, I see "somersaulteth"
25. I note an island of exile that has rotted is apt to be sequestered
27. Pilot Solo put in deer after Friday, using no apparatus
28. Had a large prod — or five, as reported in Paris
29. Eccentric carrying MDMA took tory large amounts of drugs
30. Was brave enough to grab Kramer's clothing (2 wds.)
33. You could change a loopy character into a cryptic constructor
35. Hard, uncoated, reversible ties will spell out a prefix used with "port" or "pad"
38. One sunny, jolly bribe for a director who's Taiwanese (2 wds.)



39. To take flight with Eliot the Pot's little pigs
40. Forecasting maybe shows shirtless head of cattle
41. Vehicles hired to carry people, potatoes, et cetera will have deal expunged
42. Shout, "I have just experienced a painful sensation!"
43. Restaurateur Lagasse had to be heard

DOWN

2. Method to determine the mass of sounds
3. Bright dancing in vile number (2 wds.)
4. Page actress Michele loudly
5. End small-time operation
6. Cries of southern male swans
8. Lover dances at club, too
9. Show embarrassment about yours truly
10. Palm-derived starches lower cost, mostly
12. Love-filled sheep are wandering
13. Heard no German musical
14. Harriet Nelson's husband's going after 1100 "skeeters," as Australians say it
18. Read about a cartoon Chihuahua's butt (2 wds.)
20. Crude, backless propellers
21. Bill's partner eats the French margarine
23. Sun creatures that gnaw wheels
24. Sliding one predecessor of JFK into shortened skirt
26. Tavern runs a scam on noblemen
30. Cutting device was spinning
31. Stuck luger has makeshift solution (var.)
32. Three scruples about Square's *Final Fantasy*
33. Wench uncovering sheds thou initially dost wall up
34. King who called for a bowl of cabbage used in slaw
35. Listen to Troy's ticker
36. Ignore odd aspects of plaudits for surrealist Buñuel
37. Buñuel's other bed starts to rattle