

# Line Producer by Ucaimhu

As per this year's five pairs of Best Picture nominees, Down answers will be altered before entry in five ways: (1) four will become nonkosher at the start, (2) four will send their Back to the Future 3 places (in Caesar's style), (3) four will become universally monstrous (that is, all will be anagrammed), (4) four will be observed starting at the SE, and (5) four will gain the first positive integer at the start or end. Each of three altered answers is some subset of abbreviated, NI3, capitalized, multi-part, and not entirely alphabetic; also, each Down clue contains a noncryptic clue to its altered answer.

Some Across answers extend beyond the edge of the grid to name an Oscar-nominated performer and role with some memorable lines. Of the twenty-nine Across clues:

(A) In each of twelve, the middle letter of one word must be deleted before solving; if this is the clue's *n*th word, circle its *n*th-from-last word. The six circled words for one letter, and the other six, will each (in clue order) form a thematic line (the latter line precedes the former).

(B) Each of five must have one word altered as per one of (1–5) above (in clue order) before solving; the altered words will form one line that precedes the two (A) lines.

(C) A third name, another role from the same film (also Oscar-worthy), appears vertically in the grid. Each of the twelve other Across answers intersects one of the three names at some letter; where this is the answer's *p*th and *q*th-from-last alphanumeric character, note (i) the *p*th and (ii) *q*th-from-last letter of its clue. All the (i) letters, and then all the (ii) letters (each in clue order) will form an ambiguous cryptic clue that can solve to either of two parts of the line that precedes all the (B) and (A) lines.

## ACROSS

1. Dig Ian McKellen's trailers before both *Terminator* & *Crash* that will be without content
6. Dress without an extended sleeve cap whirls around Sally, the ecdysiast that's shoed first
10. Duo from Ottumwa turned and ran before KYOU unveiled the home of *M\*A\*S\*H*'s clerk
11. Closing utterance of "Deck the Hall" singers the Italian meets outside of Atlanta
12. Beam out a message to awesome orb near Europa
13. What URLs may appear to the right of rotating hemisphere you find times in (*abbr.*)
15. A base gp. of legislators or gp. of tsarlike rulers (*abbr.*)
16. Orange dwarf rodent wheedling behind a western MO neighbor (2 wds.)
17. Often untried garment from adult's dream location?
18. Say "Using 21W at 21V with 21¢ Acme PC" evenly (*hyph.*)
19. Tsk! That gaol's holding a film's backer
20. One shielding others in grooves and ruts ne'er excited love at the final location (2 wds.) [NI3]
21. A musicmaker named Sheena tossed a stone
24. Contribute (when gamboling) alpha-emitting, neutron-light, highly unstable isotope of element seven (*hyph.*)
25. When the penultimate pair of nymphs in the sea screams, the rest will look like geeks
27. One Rhineland city fermented zin, which mother caps
28. Is offering a chance to catch a ball it shot unusually (2 wds.)

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13			14		15				16			
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20								21	22	23		
24				25	26				27			
28					29		30					
31		32	33		34			35	36			37
38				39					40			
41				42				43				
44						45						

29. Reviled fool was ill
31. Maybe sat substitutes down near Zed in whirling brine
34. Myope mostly makes my true double roof where panels on booth sides are removable (*hyph.*)
36. Hide belated attire underneath my overshirt
38. A group including Em and Kevin is going to composer Kurt
39. Claim to be perpendicular to someone backtilting? No
40. Song featured on a 45 is "Sid Undressed Beau" (2 wds.)
41. Loud buzzer made from oak Oz mangled
42. Tamil captivates island community north of OK's heart
43. Al in ER after turning (behold!) into real moneymaker [NI3]
44. Yosemite's dottiest character obstructs Mr. Fudd with more deciduous, arboreal, temperate flora [NI3]
45. Latter half of dragonets redeployed around area where Ea-nāšir had his own copper ingot business (2 wds.)

## DOWN

1. Quintet of results from inverting gates Tonka entangles
2. Flora's warden is prone to shift angles, in a way (2 wds.)
3. "New" affix is what's at the end of "Halloween," to Petrov
4. Tending to carry crystal to the east Irish county
5. Made flint tools Spanky stripped, spun, and rested on quiet Ed
6. Cuts small little things left when a fire runs out of fuel
7. Kay is getting to either side of hollow rock where Scots pray
8. In an archaic way, eliminate reckless Ares
9. 20% of stone, as a rule, superficially seems to be noncool
14. Canvas covers evacuated tube and normal teaspoons
20. Date each item at the bottom of suboptimal contract
22. Young woman's faulty Sims
23. Plus, smell west of Chi stops causing disgust (2 wds.)
25. Country in the 45A becomes more righteous but loses an NBA player named James
26. Beer holder ingesting a can with S&L Scandal figure Charles
30. Dee will probe negative answers to make points
32. *Xanadu* band, with secondary and tertiary characters from Wells Fargo in the rear (*abbr.*)
33. Oslo blackthorn conceals boor
35. Suffix for theaters that play movies — and the overture from *Pagliacci*, by law — in Rome
37. In a couple of spots, emerge on the outside!