



Observer Showbiz

Every Week in the Melbourne Observer

Sandra Bullock nails the Oscar



● Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin brought an understated but funny hosting to the Academy Awards, broadcast in Melbourne on Monday afternoon. Channel 9 took a live feed from Hollywood, repeating an abridged show that evening. Sandra Bullock (pictured above) took out the award for Best Female Actor for *Blind Side*.

Jim's 'Oscars Quiz' answers

■ Here are the answers to the **Oscars Quiz** compiled by **Jim Sherlock**, and published in last week's *Melbourne Observer*.

1. 1953 in the U.S.
2. *Gone With The Wind* [1939].
3. 34 cm, or 13.5 inches high.
4. 'Wings' [1929].
5. Disabled WWII veteran Harold Russell in 1946 for Best Supporting Actor in 'The Best Years of Our Lives' and a special Oscar for bringing hope and courage to fellow veterans.
6. Dame Judi Dench and Kate Winslet for their performances as Iris Murdoch in 'Iris' in 2001, and Kate Winslet again and Gloria Stuart for their portrayals of Rose DeWitt Bukater in 1997's 'Titanic.'
7. Lina Wertmuller for 'Seven Beauties' in 1976, Jane Campion for 'The Piano' in 1993, Sofia Coppola for 'Lost in Translation' in 2003, and Kathryn Bigelow for 'The Hurt Locker' [2010].
8. Hattie McDaniel for Best Supporting Actress in 'Gone with the Wind' [1939].
9. Bob Hope with 19 times, between 1939 and 1977.
10. George C. Scott for his performance in 'Patton' [1970].
11. Katharine Hepburn for 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' in 1967 and for 'The Lion in Winter' in 1968.
12. Nominated 16 times, and won two for Best Actress in a Supporting Role for 'Kramer vs Kramer' [1979], and Best Actress in a Leading Role for 'Sophie's Choice' [1982].
13. 'Say You, Say Me' from the film 'White Nights.'
14. Paul Gauguin.
15. Screenwriter Robert Towne used the name of his sheepdog, P.H. Vazak, when nominated for 'Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes' [1984] because he was dissatisfied with the film.
16. Sir John Mills for his role as the deaf mute in David Lean's 'Ryan's Daughter' [1970].
17. 'The Turning Point.'
18. 'Oliver' in 1968.
19. 'Midnight Cowboy' in 1969.
20. Marlon Brando as Don Vito Corleone for Best Actor in 'The Godfather' [1972] and Robert De Niro for Best Supporting Actor for his performance as Don Vito Corleone in 'The Godfather: Part II' [1974].
21. 'The Apartment' [1960]. *Though the.

majority of Steven Spielberg's 'Schindler's List' [1993] is in black & white it has colour sequences throughout.

22. Peter Finch, for his performance as Howard Beale in 'Network' (1976).
23. 'Marty,' in 1955.
24. 'Ben-Hur' (1959), 'Titanic' (1997), and 'The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King' (2003), all with 11 awards each.
25. 'Cimarron' in 1930/31, 'Dances With Wolves' in 1990 and 'Unforgiven' in 1992.
26. Oscar Hammerstein II, for Best Song in 1941 and 1945.
27. Jack Nicholson with 12.
28. Adrien Brody in 2002 at 29 years of age for his performance in 'The Pianist.'
29. Charles Chaplin with a Special Oscar at the 1927/28 Oscar ceremony, Laurence Olivier with a Special Award in 1946 and Best Actor in 1948 and Roberto Benigni for Best Actor in 1998.
30. 'Network' (1976) received five nominations and three awards: Best Actor for Peter Finch (Won), Best Actor for William Holden, Actress for Faye Dunaway (Won), Best Supporting Actor for Ned Beatty, and Best Supporting Actress for Beatrice Straight (Won).
31. Walt Disney with 22 awards as producer of films honoured, he also holds the record with the most nominations of all time at 60.
32. Katharine Hepburn with four wins for 'Morning Glory' [1933], 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' [1967], 'The Lion in Winter' [1968] and 'On Golden Pond' [1981].
33. 'Gandhi' with eight, including Best Picture and Best Actor for Ben Kingsley.
34. Shirley Temple received a special Academy award at the age of six for her 'Outstanding Contribution to Screen Entertainment' in 1934.
35. Tatum O'Neal at the age of nine for Best Supporting Actress in 'Paper Moon' [1973].
36. Henry Fonda at 76 for 'On Golden Pond' [1981].
37. Jessica Tandy at 80 years and eight months old for Best Actress in 'Driving Miss Daisy' [1989].
38. 'Sleuth' starring Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine [1972].
39. Maggie Smith in 'California Suite' [1978].
40. Susan Sarandon in 'Dead Man Walking' [1995].

- James Sherlock

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PLUS THE LOVATT'S MEGA CROSSWORD

Melbourne Observer
SECTION 3

COP THAT!

SQUARE EYES with Flip Shelton



■ *Homicide, Division 4* and *Cop Shop* paved the way for our modern day cops and crime shows. And it seems we can't get enough of the stuff with our local production of such shows as strong as ever.

More good news is that all of these shows are rating very well for their respective networks, with most winning their timeslots and ranking in the top most watched shows for the night.

Currently on the box or slated to screen at some stage this year, are cop dramas (and or emergency services) in the form of *City Homicide*, *Underbelly*, *Rush*, *Rescue*; and crime reality shows in *Customs*, *Border Security*, *Gangs of Oz*, *The Force*, *Crash Investigation Unit*, *Highway Patrol* and *Missing Person's Unit*. That's 12 local productions with two new dramas set to be produced by **Channel 7** and **Channel 9**.

The as yet unnamed **Channel 7** drama will show the ugly face of the underworld from the police point of view, with production starting soon in **Melbourne**. The series will focus on the 1988 *Walsh Street* killings and recreate the events leading up to the ambush of the two young policemen - 20-year-old **Damian Eyre** and **Steven Tynan**, 22. Word is the families of the slain men are said to be pleased that their lives and sacrifice will be honoured.

A **Channel 7** source says this show will show the 'real' story of the underworld, and not the 'glamourised' version of events, as they say, of **Channel 9's** show *Underbelly*.

That said, I have seen the first two episodes of *Underbelly III The Golden Mile* and they are mesmerising. It certainly does not glamourise the underworld - quite the opposite. It shows the players as 'successful' crims and corrupt cops for a while but ultimately deluded and in many cases dead. Fast paced and brilliantly shot it is set between 1988 and 1999 in **Kings Cross**. Newcomer, **Firas Dirani** is brilliant as the charismatic **John Ibrahim** as is **Sigrid Thornton** as AFP cop **Gerry Lloyd**. However the entire ensemble cast with **Peter O'Brien** and **Dieter Brummer** are terrific. Its must see TV.

That said - will the show make it to air? Like its previous series, *Underbelly* has come under fire before it has gone to air.

There had been speculation for ages - even before the first frame had been shot, that there could be legal trouble - given it is only in the 'distant' past and further suspicions were raised when all TV reviewers had to watch the show in the **Channel 9** boardroom. Thankfully no strip searches were demanded.

Now former NSW police constable **Wendy Hatfield**, who lives in **Victoria** and has mar-



● Viewers can't get enough TV crime

ried, has launched legal action against **Channel 9** and the production company **ScreenTime** claiming her reputation will be destroyed by the series if it were to air. It will be **Justice Ian Harrison's** decision this Friday that will determine what unfolds.

Channel 9 are also producing another cop drama, simply called *Cops*. It is being filmed in **Sydney** with **Kate Ritchie**, former *Home and Away* lifer, reportedly signed on for one of the lead roles.

As far as international cop and crime shows go, **Channel 10** screens *NCIS* (Tuesday 8.30pm) with *NCIS LA* (Tuesday 9.30pm). This show has done very well for Channel 10 and often ranks in the top most watched show for the night. Last night (Tuesday) was the 150th episode of *NCIS*. Titled *Flesh and Blood* the guest star was none other than **Robert Wagner** as **Anthony DiNozzo Senior**, **Tony's Dad** and strangely enough they looked like father and son.

(In the States, *NCIS* goes from strength to strength and earlier this year. An episode titled *Jettlag*, had an impressive figure of 20.15 million viewers up against *American Idol* which still rates very well.)

Also in **Ten's** schedule is the (weaker) *White Collar* (Fridays 10pm) and the two quirky but very enjoyable shows in *Burn Notice* (Wednesday 10pm) and *Life* (which will return later this year).

Channel 9 screens *Cold Case* (Wednesdays 9.30pm), and the *CSI* franchise. The original remains the best for me, although with **Gil Grissom** (as played by **William Peterson**) having left the series my flame is beginning to wane. Only recently did

Channel 9 stop screening *Without a Trace* starring **Aussies' Anthony La Paglia** and **Poppy Montgomery** because the show was not be renewed in the US.

Channel 9 also slips the **British** version of *Cold Case*, - *Waking the Dead* - in and out of the schedule but you have to be quick to keep a track of it.

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