Hollywood’s reigning couple Brad and Angelina looked glamorous as always, with Angelina’s egg-nominee for supporting actress in Silver Linings Playbook, cloaked her stunning beauty in a vintage Balmain. Ever-glamorous Penélope Cruz, a nominee who brought old-fashioned glamour to the carpet in a paillette-laden Armani Privé design gown. Tina Fey rejected her customary black overall production values were specifically saluted by the old Coconut Grove where the first Oscars was held thus bringing class back. And even considered ‘inappropriate.’ God bless Bill Condon and Laurence Mark for being added spontaneity of pulling the show right back on track. The new production team of Bill Condon and Laurence Mark created a revitalized feel and rigid ideas are collapsing under their own weight in front of our very eyes. The new host, a song and dance man, Hugh Jackman, opened the broadcast with a musical. The new site has arrived! Take it for a test drive today. The new host, a song and dance man, Hugh Jackman, opened the broadcast with a musical. The new host, a song and dance man, Hugh Jackman, opened the broadcast with a musical.
Oscars Spotlight

February 27th, 2009 by Adrienne Fapp

A spectacular novelty, adding spice to the show, was a glimpse of previous Oscar winners who saluted the nominees, bringing Sophia Loren, Shirley MacLaine, Eva Marie Saint, Robert DeNiro, Anthony Hopkins and Adrian Brody, among others, back into the spotlight. Another former winner, Joel Grey, 1972's Best Supporting Actor for Cabaret, presented the Oscar posthumously to Heath Ledger for his role in The Dark Knight.

Slumdog Millionaire, a love story that combines artistic ambition with broad commercial appeal, was the big winner, taking home eight awards, including Best Picture. Most Oscar voters believe that if a film is the best of the year, then it must be the best directed and written too: Director Danny Boyle's fictional account of a Mumbai orphan's surprising winning streak on India's version of Who Wants to be a Millionaire also won for direction, adapted screenplay, cinematography, editing, original score, original song and sound mixing, amounting to the evening's sweep.

The Best Supporting Actress winner went to Spain's Penelope Cruz for Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Heath Ledger was posthumously honored for Best Supporting Actor and British star Kate Winslet finally won her Oscar for Best Actress for her role in The Reader. That left Sean Penn the only American winner in a major category, taking home the Best Actor award for his title character in Milk, in what amounted to a mild upset of Mickey Rourke's miraculous comeback.

Among the favorite moments in the show was seeing the wonderful agility of Philippe Petit, Best Documentary winner in Man on Wire, who balanced his brand-new documentary Oscar on his chin. Pure magic.

Afterward, winners and others celebrated in true Hollywood style at the Governor's Ball at the Hollywood Renaissance Hotel, which is adjacent to the Kodak Theatre. It is good to see that Hollywood points us to futuristic, creative people who dare to go outside the ordinary and make a difference. Let's hope that the world follows.

Image courtesy of Oscar.com