The Night Of A Thousand Dreams

Inside the Oscars  By Adrienne Papp

The recent Academy Awards celebrated Oscar’s 80th anniversary with a combination of international award winners, unexpected emotions, and some genuinely spontaneous and heartfelt moments.

Any Oscar show is bound to have a surprise or two, an unpredicted win that claims one of the coveted statuettes. But often, some of the most surprising and honest moments occur offstage, behind the scenes where the cameras aren’t switched on. Like the shape-shifters in other cultures, our movie stars transpose themselves to take us to previously unseen places. The Academy Awards gives us an opportunity to catch a glimpse of them as they really are, providing some of the show’s most unforgettable highlights.

Actress in a Leading Role
Marion Cotillard plays Edith Piaf, the legendary French singer who rose to international fame from her beginnings on the streets of Paris.

Style: in a Jean Paul Gaultier mermaid-inspired gown with Chopard jewelry, including a champagne necklace layered with brown diamond bead necklaces and a square-cut yellow diamond ring. She selected Sergio Rossi evening shoes.

Cameron Diaz in a Dior by John Galliano bloush pink silk taffeta gown with drape details and Bulgari jewels.

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Actress in a Leading Role

There Will be Blood
As Daniel Plainview, Daniel Day-Lewis plays a ruthless California oilman who will stop at nothing to achieve wealth and power.

Whilst host Jon Steward kept the official proceedings rolling smoothly, it was the unscripted moments backstage that helped make for a lively, more spontaneous evening. Like presenter Katherine Heigl, reminiscent of the gorgeous Marilyn Monroe in a stunning red dress, asking for a cigarette from a stagehand to help fend off a case of nerves.

Before his trip to the stage, Tom Hanks, one of America’s most honored actors and the man who stormed Omaha Beach in Saving Private Ryan, commented on the irony of being confronted backstage by a makeup artist with a powder puff.

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Onstage, Daniel Day-Lewis, winner for Best Actor, accepted his Oscar from Helen Mirren on one knee. The closest thing to a knighting the entertainment industry will probably ever see.

Mamie Gummer, one of the night’s numerous hamburgers, was wearing a red dress and her hair in a ponytail. She had been playing a supporting role in the hit TV show "Matilda’s Kitchen" along with Graeme’s wife, Claire. Mamie had been nominated for her role in the film "Matilda’s Kitchen" but had lost to Claire. Afterward, Mamie congratulated Claire for winning the award. "I’m so proud of you," said Mamie. Claire replied, "Thank you, Mamie. It’s an honor to have you at the award show with me."

"Supporting Role" is a difficult category, especially when it comes to a red carpet event. A few years ago, William H. Macy accepted his Oscar for "Slyvester" while walking the red carpet with his wife, Felicity Huffman. Felicity later said, "I’m so happy for William. He deserved it."

"I was so nervous before the ceremony," said Felicity. "I had my speech written down, but I didn’t know what to say. I was just so happy to be there." William’s speech was cut off by the audience, who were cheering and clapping. "It was such an honor to have this moment," said William. "I’m so grateful for all of you."