

Be forewarned, I'm going to kind of be a little all over the place this week because there's a lot I want to comment on and have very little space to do it.

First, I'm going to extend voting for the pitches another week. It feels like people kind of got busy over the weekend because voting was way down and I really want to give people a chance to participate. I'll repost your three finalists again for any new readers and for the people that just didn't have the time to get their votes heard.

Let's chat about the minor awards ceremony that took place Sunday night.

The Golden Globes.

I'm sure a lot of you choose to ignore a lot of the awards shows, but I don't. I love 'em. For the record it's not because I give two shits (streak over) who's blowing what designer. I leave that for old hacks like Joan Rivers to dissect and Midwest housewives to care about.

I love them because, and yes I am tooting my own horn here, I can typically pick most of the winners.

Mostly because I see EVERYTHING.

I love movies so much that I will sit through just about any movie. It's what I do. I have to know what's going on out there.

I will freely admit, award season is HARD.

During awards season you have to sit through films dealing with guys cutting their arm off, women dealing with losing their minds after taking the lead in a ballet, guys coming down with Alzheimer's, women dealing with trying to hold their family together after their kids find their biological father, kings who stutter and women who have to deal with the death of their son.

Really fucking depressing shit.

At one point, while trying to watch all of the academy screeners (a perk of working for Oscar-winning producers) I needed such a break that I took a week off and watched such mindless films as: Sex and the City 2, Leap Year, Dinner for Schmucks, Twilight: Eclipse (send your hate mail/commiseration mail now), Harry Potter and whatever he's dealing with in THIS flick Part 1 and just because it's an all-time favorite of mine, Airplane!

I had to.

If I watched one more movie about a character dealing with an ailing disease or dealing with how fucked up their life is...I was going to either slit my wrists or send angry letters to the filmmakers that they should just submit their story to fuckmylife.com and get over it.

So why do I do it?

More importantly, why should YOU do it?

Because these films are the best that's out there. The performances. The writing. The direction. This is what you should, strike that, NEED to be striving to create yourself.

People who go out and see The Social Network and rave about Jesse Eisenberg's performance and then scoff that Colin Firth won because they ignored The King's Speech 'cause it looked "boring" are simply robbing themselves of seeing an actor REALLY step up to the plate and provide one of the best performances of the year.

Guys, you don't want to see Black Swan because it's about a bunch of "chicks and ballet"?

Okay...ladies, I need to talk to just the guys for a second...excuse us...

grabs the guys and gets into a huddle...whispers

Okay...I know the flick sounds lame, but there's this scene where Mila Kunis and Natalie Portman totally do it and it's wicked hot, trust me on this. You have to see it...wait...shh...be cool!

looks up...sees the ladies coming back and breaks the huddle up.

...STRONG FEMALE CHARACTERS WITH GRIPPING, EXCITING DANCE SEQUENCES. SHAME ON YOU FOR NOT WANTING TO SEE THIS EXCITING FILM!

Don't worry ladies. Totally handled it. Set them straight.

On to screenwriting.

Aaron Sorkin deserves every award he's given for his script of The Social Network.

Yeah, it SEEMS like it's about a bunch of fucked up college kids that have no clue how to interact with one another, but it's not. It's brilliant. It has all of the elements that make up classical story telling since the days of Shakespeare and Greek mythology.

Deceit. Revenge. Backstabbing. Drama.

Issues we can really sink our teeth in.

Last thing I want to talk about is the host: Ricky Gervais.

This writer, if you've been following my column, has taken some heat for my...um, comedic stylings. So I paid extra close attention to the jokes he flung in his monologue and throughout the show.

Not surprisingly, I thought the motherfucker was brilliant. Not only that, but dead on.

Here are my comments on the highlights:

Charlie Sheen jokes: Um, was he wrong? Charlie Sheen isn't hiding it. He doesn't seem to be curbing his ways and why would he? Two and a Half Men is still one of the highest rated shows on TV and the dude makes fucking 2 million dollars an episode. AN EPISODE! I'd be banging hookers, porn stars and

getting wasted in Vegas every weekend if I knew I could act like a fucktard and get a raise! Wouldn't you?

The Tourist: I didn't see it, did you? Was he wrong? Nope. Box office reports can attest to that.

Cher jokes: Yeah, really? I saw Burlesque. It was so bad it was bad. I had such a good time watching it and playing "Manny's-one-man-Mystery-Science-Theater-3000" to that piece of shit.

FYI: Screenwriters: Burlesque is a GREAT drinking game for writers. Anytime you can predict the next line...take a shot. You'll be trashed by the 20 minute mark. Try it. It'll be good times.

Sex and the City 2 joke: The only thing I want to point out is that during this joke they cut to Chris Noth (a.k.a. Mr. Big) and not only did he laugh, but he nodded. 'Nuff said.

Certain "Gay members of Scientology" (allegedly): Really? You know it. I know it. South Park knows it. Ricky is the only one to put his balls out there and said it. Time we take this fucked up power house down and we have to do it quick before they get Will Smith all the way in.

Hugh Hefner: Come on! Someone had to say it. As far as I'm concerned that was the greatest bit of comedy to be on a network in years. The man imitated a 24 year-old, giving an 84 year-old a hand job. On NATIONAL TV! While trying not to gag! I don't care how conservative you are. You heard that engagement announcement and had to swallow back a little throw up yourself. You know you did.

Mel Gibson: Easy target, but again...not wrong.

Bruce Willis being Ashton Kutcher's Dad: Easy again, but yeah...can't live that down.

Tom Hanks vs. Tim Allen: I'm from Detroit. Tim Allen was a shit comedian with ONE hook that provided him an even shittier show that gave him a career. Look up his mugshot. He sold coke in D-town back in the day. Gervais 1, Allen 0.

Okay, so was he mean?

No.

He was saying things that EVERYONE thinks, but doesn't have the balls to say.

Is Manny (and yes, I just pulled a T.O. and referred to my ass in the 3rd person) wrong?

Nope.

I just have the unfortunate responsibility of being the messenger who has the nutsack to tell you like it is.

Even when you don't want to hear it.

Okay...end of topic.

Last, but not least...here are your nominees for the final 3 pitches...

1. *Archaeologist Susan finds a gold bowl, a possible ancient Atlantean artifact. Reporter Mac hears of mysterious deaths from a secret military base in Alaska. Mac's editor doesn't believe him and assigns him to a climate conference. He reluctantly goes and meets Susan. Susan shows slides to prove a comet hit earth thousands of years ago. Astronomers predict the imminent arrival of a threatening comet. NASA will launch a missile to destroy it. Susan convinces the President that she can find the key to human survival in the Yucatan, then persuades Mac to help her. General Ruckus tells the President the Alaskan antennas will find more oil, while hiding his use of the antennas as weapons.*

The next two acts follow Susan and Mac as they search for Atlantis in the Yucatan. Ruckus sends men to stop them. Susan and Mac combat snakes, grave robbers, and the henchmen, while enduring dangerous river rapids and high waterfalls. Ruckus and his girlfriend target Beijing on the high tide, solar eclipse, full moon day of the comet's arrival. Mac knocks out Ruckus, blows up the antennas, crashes a bulldozer, and is left for dead. Susan survives a deathly hot crystal cave, but eventually finds an artifact. After she opens a box, a laser beam shoots upward into space, hits the Face on Mars, then bounces back to Earth, hitting the Sphinx. Atlanteans appear. Nuclear weapons soar into space and explode the comet. Ruckus is jailed. Susan is awarded the Nobel Peace prize. Mac posthumously gets the Pulitzer Prize. In the end, Mac realizes that he has had amnesia after hitting his head on the dozer windshield. Susan places the box and the gold bowl in the Metropolitan Museum. Susan leaves the museum, then picks up a newspaper. Date on paper is 12-21-2012. Mac finds Susan. He kisses her and tells her, "You're my biggest story". A happy ending keeps them together, ready for another adventure.

2. *Troubled by his vices, Professional screenwriter Richard Elkhart, creates a screenplay about a screenwriter, Alan, who has problems with his lack of imagination. But, just as Richard manipulates Allan's world, he soon finds all is not as it seems in his own. His daughter Jenny disappears, and his only communication with her is via his computer -- in screenplay format -- and cell phone.*

From the opening scenes we see that we're in for a mind bending ride as we follow this trio and offbeat supporting characters while they work through their dilemmas, through three interconnected plot lines, in this PG 13 rated, multi-genred story based on the craft of screenwriting.

3. *Hero Island is a family survival thriller in the vein of "Deliverance." It focuses on a work-obsessed dad, his unappreciated wife and their two headstrong kids as they try to save their marriage by spending a week long vacation reconnecting on a remote tropical island. A vacation won by their son in a video game contest. Problems occur when the son finds a waterproof digital camera with incriminating photos of a kidnapped young woman, floating off shore. To the family's shock; a billionaire yachtsman appears who wants the camera back and the family dead.*

The family must now run for their lives only to discover that the camera and billionaire were all a set up for a new interactive game. But they soon find out that real military pirates are on the island. The family pulls together as a team until the wife, daughter and son get kidnapped. Now the dad can no longer out-manuever the pirates but must confront them head-on to rescue his family. Yet, little does the family know... there is one final twist.

Send in your votes and any other questions or comments on the Globes to weekendread@gmail.com. You're only voting for your top choice this week. Please refrain from commentary on your votes, it's totally not necessary.

Also, for the people who made the finals, remember, you can't vote for yourselves. You have to vote for one of the other two.

Till next week...