

'Dune,' 'The Power Of The Dog' lead BAFTA nominations

LONDON, Feb 5, (AP) — Sci-fi epic blockbuster "Dune" and Jane Campion's dark Western "The Power Of The Dog" lead the nominations for this year's British Academy Film Awards, with Benedict Cumberbatch, Leonardo DiCaprio and Lady Gaga among those up for leading actor awards.

"Dune," starring Timothee Chalamet and Zendaya, received eleven nominations Thursday including best film, cinematography and original score. "The Power of the Dog," set in 1920s Montana and starring Cumberbatch as a ranch owner, follows close behind with eight nominations, including best director and best film.

Kenneth Branagh's semi-autobiographical "Belfast," which tells of a childhood in Northern Ireland during the bloody conflict known as The Troubles, was also nominated for best film and five other categories.

Branagh did not make it onto the best director list, but he said Thursday that the nominations were "an amazing tribute to a remarkable part of the world." He said: "We are humbly and delightfully gobsmacked!"

The other two contenders for best film are "Don't Look Up," the disaster comedy starring DiCaprio, and coming-of-age drama "Licorice Pizza."

DiCaprio and Cumberbatch are among those nominated in the leading actor category, along with Will Smith, who received his first BAFTA nomination for his role as the father of Serena and Venus Williams in "King Richard."

Cumberbatch said he was "deeply humbled and grateful." "The journey to play Phil Burbank took me a long way from anything familiar to me and this recognition of that work feels like com-

pleting the circle and coming home," the actor said in a statement.

The leading actress list included Lady Gaga for "House of Gucci," Alana Haim for "Licorice Pizza" and Emilia Jones for "Coda."

Notable absences in Thursday's shortlist included Olivia Colman for "The Lost Daughter," and Kristen Stewart, who plays Princess Diana in "Spencer."

Daniel Craig's last James Bond film, "No Time to Die," and Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" both received five nominations.

The awards organizers say they are committed to supporting new talent, and this year all the performers in the supporting actor category are first-time nominees. They include Woody Norman for "C'mon C'mon," who at just 11 years old is the youngest nominee of the year, and Ariana DeBose, who plays Anita in "West Side Story."

Honored

"It's really humbling, and I'm honored and just blown away," DeBose told The Associated Press, praising the supporting actress shortlist as a diverse and international group of women.

In keeping with recent years, most acting nominations have gone to non-British performers.

The annual film awards celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, and winners will be announced during a ceremony hosted by Rebel Wilson at the Royal Albert Hall in London on March 13.

Also:

NEW YORK: After the pandemic forced the South by Southwest Film

Festival to turn virtual the last two years, the Austin, Texas, festival is plotting a largely in-person event this March that will feature the premieres of the third season of **Donald Glover's** "Atlanta," the latest from **Richard Linklater** and the **Sandra Bullock-Channing Tatum** comedy "The Lost City."

SXSW announced its slate of 99 feature films, including 76 world premieres, on Wednesday. All of those films, organizers said, will have in-person premieres. Films that choose to will also have online screenings for badge holders the following day.

In the first days of the pandemic in the US, the 2020 edition of SXSW was canceled just a week before it was to begin. An online component was later presented. Last year, the festival was held entirely virtually.

"The last two years have been complicated, and full of uncharted new waters for all of us. While there's been innovation in building community in isolation and figuring out how to pivot, we've intensely missed being able to gather together," said **Janet Pierson**, director of film for SXSW, in a statement. "For our 29th edition of SXSW Film Festival, we are thrilled to share a bounty of creative work to experience together, in-person, with some virtual possibilities, as well."

Premieres will include "Apollo 10-1/2: A Space Age Childhood," Linklater's coming-of-age tale set in Houston 1969. Its cast includes **Jack Black, Zachary Levi** and **Glen Powell**.

Closing night will be the long-awaited debut of the third season of FX's "Atlanta." After a hiatus of almost four years, the first two episodes of the series are set to air March 24.

Film

Variety



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Zach Holmes, (from left), Johnny Knoxville, and Rachel Wolfson in a scene from 'Jackass Forever.' (AP)

Film

'Ozark's' Bateman feted as Hasty Pudding Man of Year

Crash-test dummies return in 'Jackass'

By Jake Coyle

Pity those in charge of COVID-19 protocols on "Jackass Forever."

Imagine, just for starters, the challenges of monitoring the health of participants in something called the "Vomitron." I could describe this particular contraption of Johnny Knoxville's but the name pretty much speaks for itself.

Masks are seen here and there among the crew of "Jackass Forever," but they seem almost comical when, just a few feet away. Exposure isn't something to be mitigated in "Jackass," a bruised and fleshy world of saggy tummies, soiled garments and more. It's a way of life.

It's also never seemed a particularly sustainable way of life. Just how many crotch shots can one take? But, more than 20 years after "Jackass" first premiered on MTV in 2000, Knoxville and company, now in their 40s and 50s, are still trying to answer such eternal questions while also pursuing some personal white whales like actually, finally lighting a fart on fire underwater.

"It's good to have dreams," someone says. What began as gonzo stunts carried out with the fearlessness of youth have steadily morphed into a protest against maturity. Knoxville's hair is now gray and the recovery times for Stephen "Steve-O" Glover and Jason "Wee Man" Acuña are presumably longer. One line more or less sums up their predicament: "He's bleeding. My hairline is receding."

But the daredevil this-is-so-stupid pranks are much the same, sometimes exactly so. Knoxville again tussles with a bull, who leaves him concussed and with multiple broken bones. As he's stretchered off, his merry band applauds him with shouts of "Captain!"

Other things have changed, some of them unspoken. We know more now, for example, about the lasting effects of head trauma. The nastier bits of self-inflicted suffering also have strange echoes with the abuses of Abu Ghraib, which were likewise carried out with mugging for a camera. In the tradition of American torture, "Jackass" is the Looney Tunes variety.

But the "Jackass" ethos — that none of us are so

precious that we can't survive a snake bite or a pogo stick to the groin — still has charm. The "Jackass" gang make for a rollicking antidote to the beautiful, unblemished people who play superheroes that never so much as bleed. Here, there are no such delusions about humanity. Theirs is a real-life Fight Club, just with a whole lot more cackling.

Masculinity is a joke for the guys of "Jackass" but brotherhood isn't. The appeal of "Jackass" — now up to four films, all directed by Jeff Tremaine — is so predicated on the group support and belly-laugh reactions around the stunts. Here, their impish band has been enlarged.

Additions

Along with regulars including Chris Pontius, Dave England, Danger Ehren and Preston Lacy are new additions like YouTube star Zach Holmes and surfer Sean "Poopies" McInerney. Comedian Rachel Wolfson, the first woman to join the crew, gets in on the action in a segment called "Scorpion Botox." The largely white "Jackass" group is also joined by several Black members including Eric Manaka and Jasper, of Odd Future, along with his father. Guest stars include Machine Gun Kelly, Eric Andre and Tyler, the Creator.

The only real membership requirement for "Jackass" seems to be that pain is universally shared — no one is exempt — and that afterward you can laugh it off. What good is a "triple wedgie" if you can't share it with your pals? It's a formula that's been little changed in "Jackass" since its inception. But, you know. If it ain't broke.

"Jackass Forever," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for strong crude material and dangerous stunts, graphic nudity and language throughout. Running time: 96 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Also:

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: "Ozark" actor **Jason Bateman** was honored Thursday as Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals in Cambridge.

Students dressed in elaborate costumes bestowed the golden pudding pot — and a sparkly bra — on

Bateman, but not before poking fun at his various roles in television and film and even tossing him a toy sword to fight his younger self.

"Fun fact — because of the scheduling of that film (Teen Wolf Too), Jason technically didn't finish high school," Hasty Pudding Theatricals President, **Nicholas Amador**, said. "All for a movie that only got eight out of 100 on Rotten Tomatoes."

To earn his pudding pot, Bateman, 52, had to endure a little extra embarrassment: The Pudding members had Bateman sing Bangles hit "Eternal Flame," (Bateman sang a rendition of the song in 2002's "Sweetest Thing") with a frozen banana acting as his microphone.

Thursday evening's festivities marked the first time the award was presented since the coronavirus pandemic began in 2020.

The last Man of the Year was **Ben Platt** in 2020. Past recipients include **Clint Eastwood, Tom Hanks, Robert De Niro** and **Samuel L. Jackson**. The 2022 Woman of the Year, **Jennifer Garner**, will be honored Saturday.

The "Arrested Development" star also produced and directed "Ozark," a popular Netflix series. He's the 55th recipient of the theater troupe's coveted pudding pot.

During the roast, Bateman called out to his former "Arrested Development" co-star **Will Arnett** and actor **Sean Hayes**, who were cheering him on in the crowd. Bateman, Arnett and Hayes currently host a podcast together, "SmartLess," and are embarking on a North American tour this month.

"I am flattered, grateful, mortified and oddly comfortable," Bateman joked, after receiving the award.

Bateman earned a Primetime Emmy for outstanding directing in a drama in 2020 for "Ozark," two SAG awards for acting in "Ozark," and a best actor Golden Globe in 2005 for his portrayal of **Michael Bluth** in "Arrested Development."

Bateman, whose acting career dates to the early 1980s, has appeared in multiple television shows and starred in several films including the "Horrible Bosses" movies, "Game Night," and "Identity Thief." (AP)

SANTA MONICA, Calif.: A Los Angeles judge on Friday appeared strongly inclined to allow **Bill Cosby** to invoke his Fifth Amendment privilege and avoid giving a deposition in the lawsuit of a woman who alleges he sexually abused her when she was 15 in the mid-1970s.

At a hearing to argue the issue, Superior Court Judge **Craig Karlan** agreed with Cosby's attorney that the 84-year-old has a reasonable fear of again facing criminal charges for one or more of the many sexual assault allegations that have been publicly alleged against him, and has a right to avoid saying anything under oath that might lead to such charges.

"It does appear he has a reasonable fear of prosecution, and if new information came out, that could cause a prosecutor to change their mind," Karlan said. "I don't see how one could find to the contrary, other than concluding that he has a reasonable fear."

Attorneys for **Judy Huth**, who alleges Cosby is seeking to compel Cosby to give a second deposition. Cosby's attorneys denied the allegation. He gave an initial deposition soon after the lawsuit was filed in 2014, before his two criminal trials and a later-overturned conviction in Pennsylvania.

Huth's attorney **John Steven West** argued that accusations against Cosby have been aired for years, and that all the alleged incidents date back decades. He said that any criminal charges would already have been filed.

"The facts that are known overwhelmingly show that Mr Cosby does not have a realistic fear of prosecution," West said. "Despite the fact that for 16 years his name has been at the forefront of accusations of sexual misconduct, there has been exactly one prosecution."

West pointed out that Los Angeles police investigated Huth's allegations seven years ago, that the district attorney declined to file charges, and that other prosecutors have done the same with other Cosby accusers.

The judge didn't buy the argument.

"The fact that prosecutors decline to prosecute, doesn't mean that a newly elected prosecutor won't take a different view," Karlan said, "nor would any future

district attorney be bound by a decision not to prosecute."

The judge planned to issue a written ruling later, but left little doubt that it would favor Cosby.

Cosby's lawyer **Jennifer Bonjean** argued, and the judge agreed, that the Pennsylvania case was a cautionary tale that applied here. Cosby, believing he had as-



Cosby



Bonjean

surance from a prosecutor that he would not face charges, then was prosecuted after making damaging revelations in a 2005 civil lawsuit. (AP)

SANTA FE, NM: The owners of a New Mexico home were doubly surprised over the weekend to

find a burglar in their house with an AR-15, and then to have him apologize, give them money and leave embarrassed.

The man had slept, bathed, dined and had some beer at the home on the outskirts of Santa Fe before the owners returned and discovered him, according to a **Santa Fe County Sheriff's**

Office police report cited by the Albuquerque Journal.

He had an AR-15 scoped rifle but didn't threaten them, or take any of their jewelry or other belongings.

Instead, he gave the homeowners \$200 as "reimbursement for the window he broke," the report said. (AP)