

'Beauty' entrances Academy Awards

By Sarah Baker

Senior editor

Sometimes, there's so much beauty that we just can't take it.

"Beauty" abounded at last night's 72nd Annual Academy Awards, where the dark, funny, crazy and absolutely true "American Beauty" won Best Picture, among a slew of other top awards.

"Beauty" producers Bruce Cohen and Dan Jinks won for the script originally given to them by Dreamworks Chairman and directing guru Steven Spielberg. It is the duo's first award.

"Beauty's" director Sam Mendes took kudos for his directorial debut and sent out kudos to his amazing cast of actors.

The Best Actor of the night was Kevin Spacey, whose portrayal of Lester in "Beauty" captured the picture of weirdness in the face of normalcy. In the way of all Spacey performances, the weirdo became someone the audience could identify with.

"This is the highlight of my day," Spacey said, before dedicating his award to acting legend Jack

Lemmon.

"American Beauty" also walked away with awards for Best Original Screenplay, written by Alan Ball, and Best Cinematography, filmed by Conrad L. Hall.

Oscar's show - billed as the first without the musical dance bits - fooled everyone by starting out with none other than a little dance and a lot of song.

But it was a good, good song.

The beloved Billy Crystal, back for his seventh stint as Oscar's host, sang and danced to his heart's content and to the delight of everyone in the audience.

"There'll be no dance tonight, and yet the show will still run too long," he crooned. "Make this endless show end tonight!"

First-time Oscar producers Richard Zanuck and Lili Fini Zanuck proved Crystal's tune right, as they failed in tightening it from the usual sleepy four and a half hours.

But the show was full of the historical glamour we all expect and, in essence, is what the ceremony is really all about.

The show made stars of the people we all wanted to see most - the actors themselves.

Hilary Swank took home the statue for Best Actress in "Boys Don't Cry," wherein she played Brandon Teena, a rural Nebraska girl who lived her life as a boy. Swank beat heavyweights Julianne Moore, nominated for "The End of the Affair" and Annette Bening, nominated for "American Beauty."

Best Supporting Actress went to a tearful Angelina Jolie for her brilliant work

playing a psychotic young woman in "Girl, Interrupted." Jolie's acceptance speech was short but heart-wrenchingly sweet as she shared a moment of joy with her brother, fellow actor James Haven.

Michael Caine took home Best Supporting Actor for his work in "The Cider House Rules," beating both the

Hollywood favorite - Tom Cruise in "Magnolia" (the one all the girls were hoping for) - and the picture of young Hollywood - 11-year-old Haley Joel Osment who, as we all know by now, "sees dead people."

Best Foreign Film went to Spain's "All About My Mother," directed by the brilliant Pedro Almodovar. The award was presented by best sensual foreign duo - Antonio Banderas and Penelope Cruz.

Phil Collins won Best Song for "You'll Be in My Heart," from Disney's animated jungle flick "Tarzan."

Best Score went to John Corigliano for "The Red Violin," a touching and oddly engaging film with a classical soundtrack.

Best Documentary Film went to "One Day in September," Kevin MacDonald and Arthur Cohn's chronicle of the terrorism of the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. The film beat the widely known "Buena Vista Social Club" and "Speaking in Strings," both nominated in the category.

"The Matrix" walked, or rather, floated, away with four Oscars, cleaning up in the categories of Film Editing,

Please see OSCARS on 11



best picture
American Beauty
The Cider House Rules
The Green Mile
The Insider
The Sixth Sense

best foreign film
All About My Mother - Spain
Caravan - Nepal
East-West - France
Solomon and Gaenor - United Kingdom
Under the Sun - Sweden

best actor
Russell Crowe - The Insider
Richard Farnsworth - The Straight Story
Sean Penn - Sweet and Lowdown
Kevin Spacey - American Beauty
Denzel Washington - The Hurricane

best actress
Annette Bening - American Beauty
Janet McTeer - Tumbleweeds
Julianne Moore - The End of the Affair
Meryl Streep - Music of the Heart
Hilary Swank - Boys Don't Cry

best supporting actor
Michael Caine - The Cider House Rules
Tom Cruise - Magnolia
Michael Clark Duncan - The Green Mile
Jude Law - The Talented Mr. Ripley
Haley Joel Osment - The Sixth Sense

best supporting actress
Toni Collette - The Sixth Sense
Angelina Jolie - Girl Interrupted
Catherine Keener - Being John Malkovich
Samantha Morton - Sweet and Lowdown
Chloe Sevigny - Boys Don't Cry

best director
Sam Mendes - American Beauty
Spike Jonze - Being John Malkovich
Lasse Hallstrom - The Cider House Rules
Michael Mann - The Insider
M. Night Shyamalan - The Sixth Sense

Source: The Associated Press

Melanie Falk/DN



Neal Obermeyer/DN

Bemis Center shows deviate from artistic norms

By Shelley Mika

Staff writer

The rather obvious goal of the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts is to provide a place for current works to be shown. But two new shows, "The Beautiful Waitress" by Jo Harvey Allen, and "Alternate Tracking" by Warren Rosser, not only bring recent works to Omaha, they also challenge the viewer by taking atypical approaches to art.

The easy way to describe "The Beautiful Waitress" is to say it is a collection of pictures of waitresses who work in truck stops.

But Allen pushes traditional limits both in her presentation of the show, as well as in its origins.

"It's not just photos," said Kelly Goodall, spokeswoman for the Bemis Center, 724 S. 12th St. "The whole show together is more like an installation than a show of photos. There's sounds going on like you'd hear in a diner, a video component and quotes next to each photo. Those things together

Warren Roser - "Alternate Tracking" and Jo Harvey Allen - "The Beautiful Waitress: Photographs by Jo Harvey Allen"

WHERE: The Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, 724 S. 12th Street, Omaha

WHEN: Continues through May 28

COST: free

THE SKINNY: Dual shows present different takes on contemporary art.

er make up the whole of the piece."

Allen's photos tell a story, but with the help of clinking plates and ringing cash registers, Allen places the viewer in the scene.

Chip Stanley, Bemis sales director, said Allen's photos originally served as research for a performance art project she worked on in the 1970's called "Counter Angel," which is played on video at the exhibit.

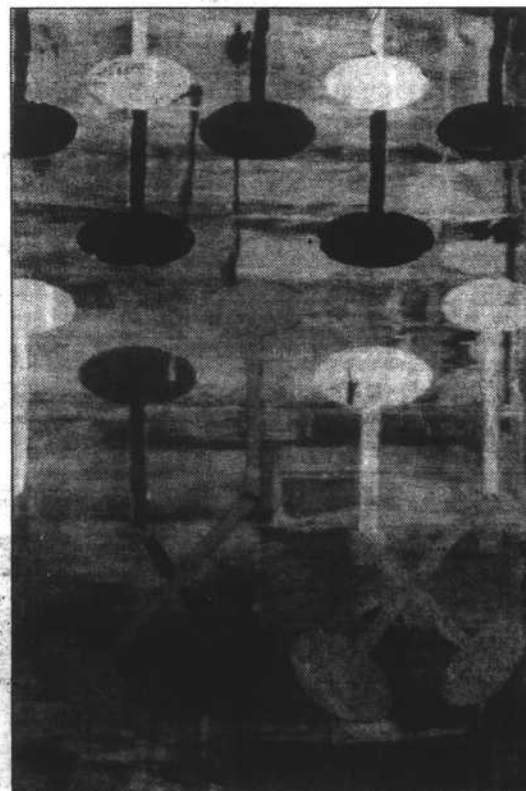
"The photos she's taken are to be considered as an artist's research for the writing and acting of the play," Stanley said.

In the '70s, Allen worked for two

years in truck stops across the Southwest as background for "Counter Angel," which explores the lives of waitresses. The piece was then performed in truck stops, art galleries, museums and theaters.

Allen, who has appeared in numerous theater, film, television and radio programs, combines her talent as an actress and her sociological observations into performance art.

"The Beautiful Waitress" is about humanity and the lives of these waitresses," Stanley said. "The exhibit was



Courtesy Photo Warren Rosser's "Return... To Sender" is part of a show at the Bemis Center for Contemporary arts in Omaha. The show runs through mid-May.

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