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For Your Consideration

Lost your faith in the little gold men?
Here are my alterna-statuettes.

Is Hollywood tired of us already?

Just one year after the queerest Oscars of all time—*Brokeback Mountain*, *Capote*, *Transamerica*—onetime Best Picture frontrunner *Dreamgirls* and gay director Bill Condon couldn't even get nominated. And I am telling you: I'm not going to enjoy this year's ceremony as much.

At least the dykes will be happy. Ellen DeGeneres is hosting, and Melissa Etheridge is performing Best Song nominee "I Need to Wake Up" from *An Inconvenient Truth*.

But forget about the official awards. In continuing a six-year tradition, I'd like to bestow some dubious distinctions that you won't find anywhere near the red carpet.

GET SHORT-EYES

Although *Little Children* didn't contain any queer content, former Portlander Todd Field aimed his piercing lens at familiar subject matter: the hysterical reaction of a paranoid suburb when a sex offender moves into the neighborhood. The big-screen version of Tom Perrotta's novel was, without a doubt, the year's best film.

HEAD OF THE CLASS

Two other smart adaptations, *The History Boys* (based on Alan Bennett's Tony-winning play) and *Notes on a Scandal* (based on Zoë Heller's novel), presented sharply differing observations on the education system, with each story involving a teacher's inappropriate advances on a student. *History* took a hopeful tone about one gay man's lifelong impact on his pupils, while *Scandal* featured a bitter, psychotic lesbian who considered her job little more than "crowd control."

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Sadly, what could've been the year's biggest lit-to-flick transfer ended up being the year's biggest disappointment. *Running with Scissors* took Augusten Burroughs' too-good-to-be-true life story—about a gay teen whose nutty mom sends him off to live with her unorthodox shrink—and turned it into a too-annoying-to-be-watchable bomb.

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR

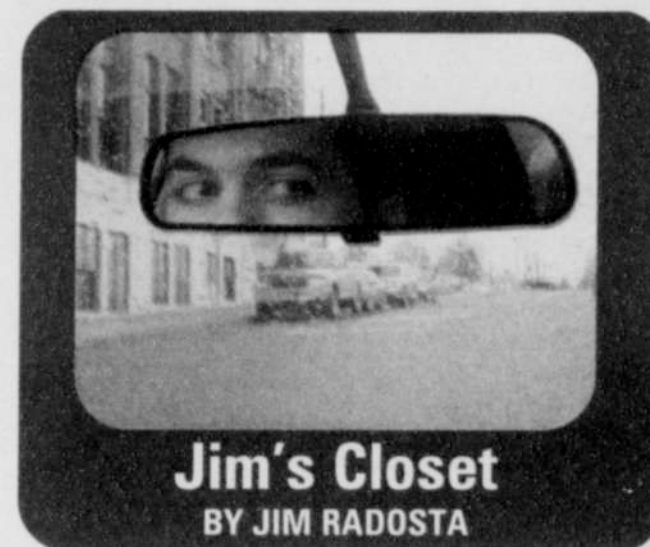
Are they just pals, or friends with benefits? That's what audiences were wondering when homoerotic subtext revealed itself in the chummy relationships among two spinsters in *Miss Potter*, two camping buddies in *Old Joy* and two bored Mexican teenagers in *Duck Season*.

BETTER OFF DEAD

Blue was the new black in '06, with morbid queens gracing screens throughout the year. Richard Dreyfuss played a suicidal gay man in the overbudget *Poseidon*, while Steve Carell did the same in the overrated *Little Miss Sunshine*. Meanwhile, the latest film from reliable French auteur François Ozon focused on a misanthropic dying protagonist who knew it was his *Time to Leave*.

YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE

Daniel Craig resurrected the James Bond franchise with his thrilling debut as the most fuckable 007 ever in *Casino Royale*. He continued to woo queer audiences, too. After starring as Francis Bacon's



Jim's Closet
BY JIM RADOSTA

hunky boy toy in 1998's *Love Is the Devil* and a straight man stalked by a gay maniac in 2004's *Enduring Love*, the 38-year-old actor portrayed a murderer who locked lips with the *Infamous* Truman Capote.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

First it was Tinky-Winky. Then it was SpongeBob SquarePants. This year's animated enemy of the Bible bangers? Penguins.

"As in so many other recent films, there's a subtext that appears to plead for endorsement of gay identity," sniffed right-wing blogger Michael Medved. "Mumbles (the voice of Elijah Wood) displeases his parents and the leaders of his community because he's born different, and makes an impassioned plea that he can't possibly change—and they should accept him as he is.... Consider yourself warned: *Happy Feet* deserves designation as *Crappy Feet*."

Touché, good sir!

MINORITY WITHIN A MINORITY

Several films shined the spotlight on queers who break the mold: heroic rugby players (*United 93*), Mexican thugs (*Quinceañera*), cross-dressing Filipino boys (*The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros*) and even self-fellating swingers (*Shortbus*). It's about time!

FULL-FRONTAL ASSAULT

Shortbus may have had 2006's most memorable display of male genitalia, but this year we also got a glimpse at the goods of Gael García Bernal (*The Science of Sleep*), Stephen Dorff (*Shadowboxer*) and James McAvoy (*The Last King of Scotland*) along with, unfortunately, the balls of Ken Davitian (*Borat*).

TITLES WITH GREATEST GAY PORN POTENTIAL

Fags of Our Fathers, *Thank You for Smoking Pole*, *Bi-Curious George*, *A Guide to Recognizing Your Taint*, *Factsctrotum*, *The Pursuit of a Penis*

TITLES THAT ALREADY SOUND DIRTY

All the King's Men, *The Queen*, *Stick It*, *Kinky Boots*, *Fur*, *Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story*, *Inside Man* 10

The 79th annual ACADEMY AWARDS air 5 p.m. Feb. 25 on ABC. See Page 27 for details on an Oscar Night America benefit for the historic Hollywood Theatre.

Arts and Culture Editor JIM RADOSTA needs your feedback. Write to jim@justout.com.