



Actor Jamie Foxx received a best actor nomination for his role in "Ray," as well as a supporting actor nomination for "Collateral."

# Oscars Dole Out Nominations

'Ray,' 'Hotel Rwanda' receive recognition

It was the best year ever for black performers, who had five of 20 Oscar nominations announced Tuesday.

Jamie Foxx scored two nominations—as best actor for the title role in "Ray" and supporting actor as a taxi driver whose cab is hijacked by a hit man in "Collateral." Foxx's dead-on emulation of Ray Charles has made him the front-runner in the lead-actor category. The film was also nominated for best picture.

Morgan Freeman also grabbed a supporting actor nomination for his worldly ex-boxer role in

*Foxx's dead-on emulation of Ray Charles has made him the front-runner in the lead-actor category.*

"Million Dollar Baby."

"Hotel Rwanda" received consideration, doling out two acting nominations. Don Cheadle has a chance at best actor with his role as hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina, while Sophie Okonedo could take best supporting

actress as the innkeeper Rusesabagina's wife.

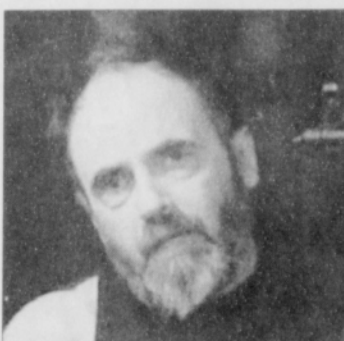
Other notable nominations were "Tupac: Resurrection" in the best documentary category and South Africa's "Yesterday" in the foreign-language film genre.

The Howard Hughes epic "The Aviator" led Academy Awards contenders with 11 nominations, including best picture, plus acting honors for Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett and Alan Alda and a directing slot for Martin Scorsese.

ABC will broadcast the Oscars live Feb. 27 from Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. Chris Rock is the show's host, the first time since 1996 that either Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg or Steve Martin has not been master of ceremonies.

## Video Shows U.S. Hostage

(AP) - A videotape monitored Tuesday shows an American abducted last November by gunmen in Baghdad pleading for his life and appealing to Arab rulers, including Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, to intercede to spare his life.



A man who identifies himself as American Roy Hallums pleads for Arab rulers to intercede to spare his life in this video released Tuesday by Iraqi insurgents.

Roy Hallums, 56, was seized Nov. 1 along with Robert Tarongoy of the Philippines during an armed assault on their compound in Baghdad's Mansour district. The two were working for a Saudi company that does catering for the Iraqi army. Both are missing.

On the tape, Hallums, with a rifle

pointed at his head, stated his name and said, "I have worked with American forces."

"I am please asking for help because my life is in danger because it's been proved I worked for American forces," he said. "I'm not asking for any help from President Bush because I know of his selfishness and unconcern for those who've been pushed into this hellhole."

Hallums, speaking slowly, said he was asking for help from "Arab rulers especially President Moammar Gadhafi because he's known for helping those who are suffering."

## War Spending, Deficit Soars

(AP) - As Congress started to digest a new Bush administration request of \$80 billion to bankroll wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, its top budget analyst on Tuesday projected \$855 billion in deficits for the next decade even without the costs of war and Bush's Social Security plan.

The budget office estimated if U.S. troop strength in Iraq and

Afghanistan declines gradually after 2006, those wars would add \$590 billion to deficits over the next decade. The price tags of Bush's goal of revamping Social Security could cost \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion and dominate this year's legislative agenda.

Also left out were the price of extending Bush's tax cuts and easing the impact the alternative minimum tax would have on

middle-income Americans, which could exceed \$2.3 trillion, the report said.

By pushing war spending beyond \$300 billion, the latest proposal would approach nearly half the \$613 billion the United States spent for World War I or the \$623 billion it expended for the Vietnam War, when the costs of those conflicts are translated into 2005 dollars.

## Bush Seeks Fresh Start with Black Leaders

(AP) — President Bush is opening the White House this week to black leaders including pastors and legislators, a second-term overture to a community that overwhelmingly opposed his re-election.

"I believe in fresh starts," said

Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N.C., new chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, which has had an adversarial relationship with Bush but has a chance to get off on a better footing at a meeting Wednesday.

The meeting with black lawmak-

ers follows Bush receiving 14 black clergy and 10 black leaders in business and non-profit agencies Tuesday afternoon.

Exit polls showed that Bush received just 11 percent of the black vote in November's election.

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## Lead-Safe Families

## Bush to Seek Cuts in Medicaid

(AP) - President Bush is readying a new budget that would carve savings from Medicaid and other benefit programs, congressional aides and lobbyists say, but it is unclear if he will be able to push the plan through the Republican-run Congress.

White House officials are not saying what Bush's \$2.5 trillion 2006 budget will propose saving

from such programs, which comprise the biggest and fastest growing part.

But lobbyists and lawmakers' aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, say he will focus on Medicaid, the health-care program for low-income and disabled people.

Many expect him to propose giving states more flexibility in using

the \$180 billion in federal Medicaid funds each year, but to limit the program's growth on a per-patient basis - in effect forcing the states to find ways to save money.

After two straight record federal deficits that peaked at \$412 billion last year, many Republicans are eager to constrain government spending by curbing the growth of benefits.

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**WHEN:** MONDAY, February 28 through FRIDAY, March 11, 2005, 9:00am – 4pm weekdays

**WHERE:** Apply in person: U.A. Local 290 Training Center, 20220 SW Teton Avenue, Tualatin, Oregon 97062; 691-1997. Contact: Robert Kimes

**AGE:** Must be at least 18 years old (proof required – non-returnable copy of birth certificate, or current driver's license)

**REQUIREMENTS:** High school graduate with C average or better **OR** GED with a minimum score of 255 if test was taken before 1/1/02 or a score of 2550 if the test was taken after 1/1/02; **AND** C or better in one year high school algebra. Official transcripts are required and must be mailed **directly** from the institution to Local 290 Training Center by March 18, 2005.

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