

Zany Boobos Enliven Big Award Night

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Hollywood—Once each year, at Academy award time, movietown dons its best bib and tucker to present a dignified front to the world, which occasionally elicits an unexpected laugh, a zany booboo or a dramatic and un-scheduled tear.

For instance, there was the time when malaprop-prone Sam Goldwyn enlivened the Oscar show by introducing Hedy Lamarr as "Hugo Carmichael."

And Spencer Tracy's face drained of color when he was handed an Oscar for "Captains Courageous" (1937) with an inscription reading "Dick Tracy."

Long before the advent of television Frank Capra was humiliated when Will Rogers, acting as master of ceremonies, praised the great directorial genius of that year's winner (1933) and ended by saying, "Come and get it, Frank."

Wrong Frank Capra sprang to his feet and was half way on stage when he realized the award was for Director Frank Lloyd. In recollection Capra says, "My return to my seat was the longest crawl in history."

Louis B. Mayer, the greatest mogul of them all, was called upon to present an Academy award to William Goetz, who also happened to be his son-in-law. In all seriousness, Mayer handed the statuette to Goetz loudly proclaiming: "Some day you will be as great as I am!"

Movie-goers are alerted to look for similar gaffs on April 8 when the 35th Academy award show takes to the telewaves (ABC-TV) for the annual Oscar bash.

Ronald Reagan will never forget his most embarrassing moment.

He introduced a reel of film clips from former Oscar-winning pictures, announcing, "This film embodies the glories of our past, the memories of our present and the inspiration for our future." But when the film came on it was running upside down. Run for Award.

Foot races are not uncommon to Academy award shindigs either.

In 1944 it was announced that "Casablanca" had won best picture honors. Producer Hal Wallis and studio chief Jack Warner ran down the aisles to the stage. Wallis, slow about, lost out.

A dramatic off-stage development occurred in 1947 when Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine (sisters) were in the running for best actress award. When Olivia won she cut sister Joan dead.

Not everyone in the world cherishes the Oscar, as the Academy discovered back in

1939 when it voted an award to George Bernard Shaw for the script "Pygmalion." The fiery playwright grumbled: "It's an insult for them to offer me any honor. They might as well send some honor to George for being the only king in England."

An uncomfortable moment in 1932 arose when the Academy found itself short an Oscar because Frederic March and Wallace Beery tied for best actor of the year.

DeMille Goofs
The great Cecil B. DeMille

drew gasps in 1941 when he inadvertently introduced a visiting Chinese envoy as "the ambassador from Japan."

The late, eccentric director Preston Sturges was fond of practical jokes and chose the awards show for a laugh that didn't quite come off. He was a relatively unknown screen writer when he won the Oscar for "The Great McGinty."

When his name was read Sturges grabbed the Oscar and said, "Mr. Sturges was so overwhelmed at the thought of winning an award that he

stayed home, and I have taken his place." But he was so unknown that nobody knew the difference.

Even movie tough guys get weak in the knees at Oscar time.

When Jimmy Cagney strode on stage in 1942 for his Oscar he became so flustered he grabbed Gary Cooper's arm (Coop was presenting the award) and begged, "Pal, don't leave me up here by myself."

Modesty is the order of the day as stars give all the

credit to their co-workers. Back in the 40s everyone squirmed when Olivia de Havilland determinedly read off all 27 names of her cast and crew.

Less self-effacing was Donald Ogden Stewart who won the best screenplay one year. He said, "There is so much back-patting here tonight that I am happy to say I am entirely responsible for the success of 'The Philadelphia Story'." And then he sat down.

Least impressed of nominees was child star Jackie Cooper in the fourth year of the Oscars. He fell asleep during the show on Marie Dressler's lap while Lionel Barrymore beat him out for the award.

In recent years television has complicated the big blow-out. Five years ago the awards were all presented and done with, but 15 minutes of air time was still to be filled. Jerry Lewis was pushed onstage and strove mightily for a quarter of an hour to keep people from

heading for home. Eva Marie Saint gave network panjandrum near heart trouble when she was voted best supporting actress in 1955. Very much with child, the blonde winner announced "I just may have the baby right here."

Booth Stumbles
Shirley Booth, the very model of dignified star back in 1953, executed a half-gainer with a full twist when she stumbled on the steps as she trotted onstage.

An uproar took place in

1957 when the writing award was announced for "The Brave One" under the name of Robert Rich. No one came forth to claim the Oscar. It turned out later that a member of Hollywood's "unfriendly ten" had written the script - Dalton Trumbo, who claimed he had been black-listed in tinsel town.

Gate crashers are always a problem at the awards. Academy members still have no idea of the identity of a bearded stranger who sneaked into press photographs of the 1939

winners. And last year professional crasher Stan Ber-nan leaped on stage amidst the awards.

Perhaps the whackiest anecdote of all happened during the 1934 awards when Claudette Colbert won best actress honors for "It Happened One Night." She told the audience, "I'm happy enough to cry, but I can't take the time."

With that she dashed to a waiting taxi which rushed her to a Santa Fe train that had been delayed 20 minutes for its very important passenger.

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Curb on Illicit

Drug Traffic Asked

Washington—(UPI)—A presidential commission called today for a nationwide crackdown on illicit drug traffic through a "massive attack" on big-time smugglers and peddlers.

An interim report to President Kennedy by his advisory commission on narcotic and drug abuse also recommended "strict federal regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of all habit-forming hypnotic and stimulant drugs which are subject to abuse."

Among these, the report included "the barbiturates, the amphetamines, and the so-called tranquilizers."

The report said that long-term prison sentences now meted out to all drug offenders, with no chance for parole or probation, should be relaxed for small-time peddlers and persons caught in possession of drugs but not selling them.

Goldwater Seen as Republican Choice

Syracuse, N.Y.—(UPI)—Frank S. Meyer, senior editor of the National Review, predicted Wednesday night Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) would be the GOP presidential nominee next year and would "deliver the worst defeat to President Kennedy the Democrats ever experienced."

Speaking at a Conservative party rally, Meyer said New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller would not be nominated once Republican leaders "realize that he cannot carry his own state in the election."

The Conservative party was formed in New York State last year by a group of dissatisfied Republicans to oppose Rockefeller's reelection as governor. Meyer also forecast the death of the GOP if it does not begin to reflect a philosophy of opposition toward "Democrat liberalism."



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