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For Politicians in a Misleading Role...



This is Oscar night, when all eyes are on the competition for Academy Awards at Los Angeles' Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. After mudslides, floods, forest fires and an earthquake, Southern California has earned the right to an evening of fashion and fantasy. The entertainment industry is to Los Angeles what politics is to New York the source of emotional health and economic success.

For Southern Californians, the Academy Awards provide a chance to display the newest lapel ribbon color, the most invisible eyelift, the deepest cleavage and highest slit. And there are always pleas to the captive audience to save the world's most forgotten group. Who can forget Richard Gere's appeal for a moment of silence on behalf of Tibet?

Since most New Yorkers prefer the live drama, comedy and warfare of local politics to the packaged celluloid version (not to mention the hassle of waiting on long movie lines), here are my picks for the winners of the 1994 "Baked Apple Awards":

The "Mrs. Doubtfire" Award goes to Rudy Giuliani for proving that a mayor can take the oath of office while simultaneously serving as a nanny.

The "Fugitive" Award to Alfonse D'Amato, for successfully eluding prosecutors and then guiding investigators to a new target.

The "Like Water for Chocolate" Award to Daniel Patrick Moynihan for believing that ideas are potent political stimulants.

The "White Men Can't Jump" Award to Mario Cuomo for sticking with the two-handed jump shot.

The Leo Durocher Sportsmanship Award to David Dinkins, whose gracious election night concession speech proved that nice guys do finish last.

The "Home Alone" Award to Mark Green for finding new digs after the City Council takeover of his office in City Hall.

The "Working Girl" Award to Susan Molinari for demonstrating that a woman from Staten

Island can find fame and a husband in the nation's capital rather than on Wall Street.

The "Honey I Shrunk the Kids" Award to Peter Vallone for his adept use of reward and punishment techniques to discipline and diminish City Council members.

The "Much Ado About Nothing" Award to Ruth Messinger, who launched her campaign for mayor before the current mayor took office.

The "Fort Apache, the Bronx" Award to Fred Ferrer for his efforts to keep the Yankees in the Bronx by building a new police academy nearby.

The "On the Waterfront" Award to Manhattan Congressman Jerry Nadler for his faith that cargo shipping can save New York.

The "Raging Bull" Award to campaign consultant David Garth for his gentle touch with candidates and the media.

The "Network" Award to Brooklyn Congressman Charles Schumer for not letting anyone come between him and the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour.

The "Silence of the Lambs" Award to Don Imus for eating politicians for breakfast every morning.

The "In the Name of the Father" Award to Adam Clayton Powell IV for attempting to build a political career on his dad's moniker.

The "Do The Right Thing" Award to Ray Kelly, who neither leaked nor shredded police department memos prepared by his subordinates.

The "Getaway" Award to Joseph Fernandez, who left town with over half a million dollars in taxpayers' money and the Rainbow Curriculum.

In "In the Line of Fire" Award to ex-White House counsel Bernie Nussbaum, who took the bullet while protecting his boss.

The "Unforgiven" Award to Dr. Lee Patrick Brown for his handling of the Crown Heights riots.

The Felix Rohatyn Humanitarian Award to Al Sharpton for his skill at commanding attention from the media.