



By Kim Devore
Entertainment Editor

MALIBU SEEN



Courtesy Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Meryl Streep and local Julia Roberts bring in huge acclaim for their latest film.

THE OSCAR COUNTDOWN IS ON...

What a movie season it is! Critics and major honchos like Harvey Weinstein have been all abuzz about one of the best seasons in years. This lineup includes many locals and famous faces who have made multiple trips down the red carpet.

Will bridesmaid but never the bride, Leonardo DiCaprio make it to the altar for the critical favorite "The Wolf of Wall Street?" And what about his longtime pal and collaborator, the great Martin Scorsese? Will longtime local Matthew McConaughey be a good bet for "Dallas Buyer's Club?" And there are picks for "Captain Phillips" starring Tom Hanks and "All is Lost" with the legendary Robert Redford. Both have been said to have given the greatest performances of their careers. And don't forget about critical darling Bruce Dern in "Nebraska."

But for now, director David O. Russell seems to be the leader of the pack with "American Hustle."

There's also Alfonso Cuarón's lost-in-space adventure "Gravity," starring Sandra Bullock. The out-of-this-world adventure also earned 10 nominations.

Many of the brightest stars also shined at the Golden Globes Gala.

Some have said this might signal a changing of the guard in Hollywood. Christian Bale for "American Hustle," Leonardo DiCaprio for "The Wolf of Wall Street" and Chiwetel Ejiofor for "12 Years a Slave" all have a younger demographic than the old school guys and gals. "12 Years a Slave" is already up for nine Academy Award nominations, including best picture, best director (McQueen) and best actor (Ejiofor) and it already snagged a prize at the Golden Globes. "Philomena" with Judy Dench is also in the running for best pic, best actress and original screen play. The dynamic duo of Julia Roberts and Meryl Streep are up for their acting roles in "August: Osage County." It has already picked up the best ensemble cast at the Screen Actors Guild.

As a casual viewer, "American Hustle" might be the one to beat. The picture has received rave reviews and has been hailed as "the best picture of the year" and "as perfect a film as it gets." It also received three Golden Globes, including Amy Adams for Best Actress, Jennifer Lawrence for best supporting role and best picture. New Yorker critic David Denby calls it "an ensemble cast that is equal of anything in Hollywood's Golden Age."

Also keep an eye out for Leo, Matthew and Tom, who are said to have given their best performances ever.

I say "American Hustle" and "Wolf of Wall Street," but like the Super Bowl, it's down to the wire and anyone's guess!

Bee smart



Photo by Lisa Hall

The fifth- to eighth-grade annual Spelling Bee finalists from Our Lady of Malibu School hold their certificates.

Our Lady of Malibu School hosted its annual Spelling Bee Jan. 10. Quinn Conway won the competition. He will

compete in the Los Angeles County Spelling Bee at Walter Reed Middle school in February. The fifth-grade finalists

were Charlotte White and Ava Arlidge. Six-grade finalists were Caitlin Flynn and Quinn Conway. Jillian Neuner

and Roman Cortese were the seventh-grade finalists. Abby O'Bryan and Anais Juarez represented the eighth grade.



Photo courtesy Judi Ubbas

Display of talent

Wes Van Dyke will be exhibiting his newest work, originals and prints as part of the Solo Artists Series in Agoura Hills. The series is hosted by the Agoura Hills Cultural Arts Council to support and promote local artists. The opening reception for Wes' work is scheduled for Feb. 7 and sponsored by The Sheri Karp Group at Sotheby's.

Van Dyke, 28, is a painter who focuses on the outdoors by creating detailed, realistic landscapes and seascapes with acrylics and oils. Wes is the grandson of Malibu local Dick Van Dyke. For more information about the show, call 818.597.7361.

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Crazy creativity



Photo courtesy Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School

Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School students had a chance to show off new, temporary hairstyles on "Crazy Hair Day."

Successful schooling

Sean Starlin Junkins, a third-generation Malibuite, recently graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Kansas Wesleyan University (KWU). He is the son of Mary Ellen Starlin Junkins and the grandson of Al and Eleanor Starlin.

Sean attended Malibu schools and graduated from Crespi High School, where he played on the 2004 CIF championship football team. He accepted an athletic scholarship at KWU, earning a starting role on its football team.

Sean has accepted a position at an international mortgage company.



Photo courtesy Mary Ellen Junkins

Third-generation Malibuite Sean Starlin Junkins recently graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Kansas Wesleyan University.

Day of dancing



Photo courtesy Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School

Students at Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School had the opportunity to watch Polynesian dancers at an assembly last week.

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