

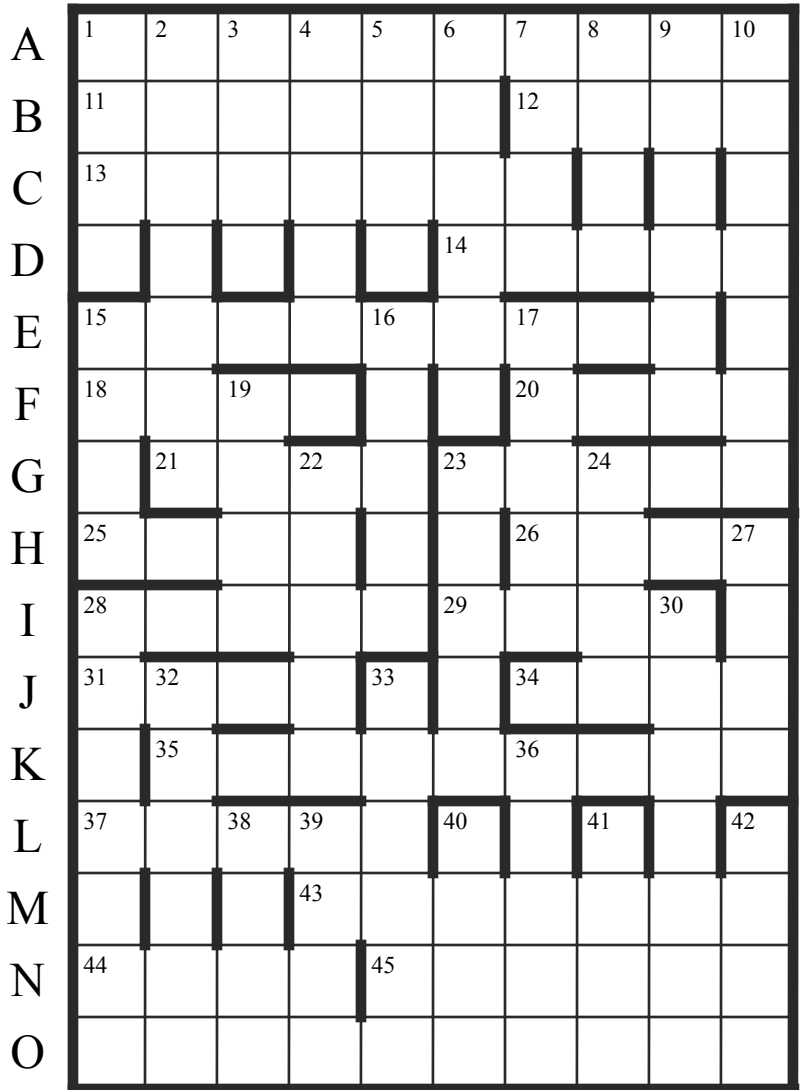
Left Off The Grid

by Ucaoimhu

In tribute to four pairs of this year's Best Picture nominees, Across answers will be altered before entry, in four ways: (1) five will contain a mammal, (2) five will (as imperative sentences do) omit "you," (3) five will be nonflowing at the end, and (4) five will boil down to just four letters. (Altered entries will include two hyphenated adjectives, an NI3 verb, and a proper noun or two.)

Down answers will be entered normally, but in each Down clue one word has an extra letter that you must ignore when solving. For each *nonfinal* extra letter, if it is the *n*th letter of the word it is in, circle the *n*th letter of (i) the clue itself and (ii) the grid row named by the extra letter. The (i) letters in clue order, and (separately) the (ii) letters in grid order, will name one more thematically-linked pair of nominees; the (ii) letters (in two ways) will also indicate what both of the nominees are (though on two very different scales).

In case it is too obscure, the *final* extra letters (in clue order) will say what the (i) title signifies; the grid's (unclued) top and bottom rows, in addition to naming a non-nominee, will (using a more Gallic turn of phrase) explain why the (i) title was the only one not used in the grid at all.



ACROSS

11. Midmonth day that is truncated
12. A chicken for the Spanish sun god
13. Music producer, for example, does cartwheels
14. Promoted to "co-lieutenant," essentially, by editor
15. They're, like, *Let's be nuts!*
18. Octet of seraphim I met iterated mineral's name [NI3]
20. Way cheer becomes audible
21. Thus regret returning French bread
23. Thin fabrics from Georgia confused Zeus
25. Violet wears dry suit
26. Odd parts of Kmart hacksaw near Japanese glyphs
28. Digs sheltering us!
29. Behold church where Scots can immerse themselves
31. Oratorically inspires snakelike character's victories
34. Heartless wretch provided false scent
35. Fourth feature of Phnom Penh clay furnace type (*hyph.*)
37. Get air-and-rhenium stuffing clean
43. Nick and Molly might be attractive
44. More cheerful May Queens captivating Rhode Island
45. Deteriorating LEDs go downhill fast

DOWN

1. The eleventh of Bartholomew or Kay's toiles (4)
2. Tend to fill up (golly!) French and English interpreter (7)
3. Claim Diana's getting back in tuba (4)

4. Fivesome of food-aware people for whom is named the palace Canada is governed from (5, *var.*)
5. Acquires gun when running aground (4)
6. Fly that originally rests on bottom of badger (6)
7. Took enthralling drive, causing fuss (2-2)
8. Brief engagement upset tense, quiet partner of Mac (4, *abbr.*)
9. No older than any other long demo of energetic redactions (6)
10. Rigs 1000 sleds, including 500 from Romeo (7)
15. British Peg's offers to buy what people are smelling (4)
16. Disorderly sty's small skewers and elec. grid, say (5, *abbr.*)
17. Misdescribed earl to muse (5)
19. Garbo, in earlier roles, is not right (4)
22. Ocean bass, at 3:45, is flat (5)
23. Eta Chi's head galoot elevated low-lying gland (5)
24. Arizona-raised Cher ignoring English thespian Braff (4)
27. Did note dump truck in back, ineptly stripped twice (4)
28. Drink damaged the beard (4 3)
30. Performer Dunst from *Greedy Nuts Frisk Hamilton* (7)
32. Initially claim hotter rash (yuck!) may be inflorescence (6)
33. Stud freaks out after Asner has no cleaning spray (6)
36. Siri, in which section is rye rising for Björk's dough? (5)
38. Dozier, barely moving Pinza, who in *South Pacific* played the cheap romancing Nellie (4)
39. Turning *ces nez de Renoir* uniform and beige (4)
40. Poke zany when you writhe the wrong way (4)
41. River of yellow gold enveloping elk (4)
42. Arose with more intensity to start organizing change (4)