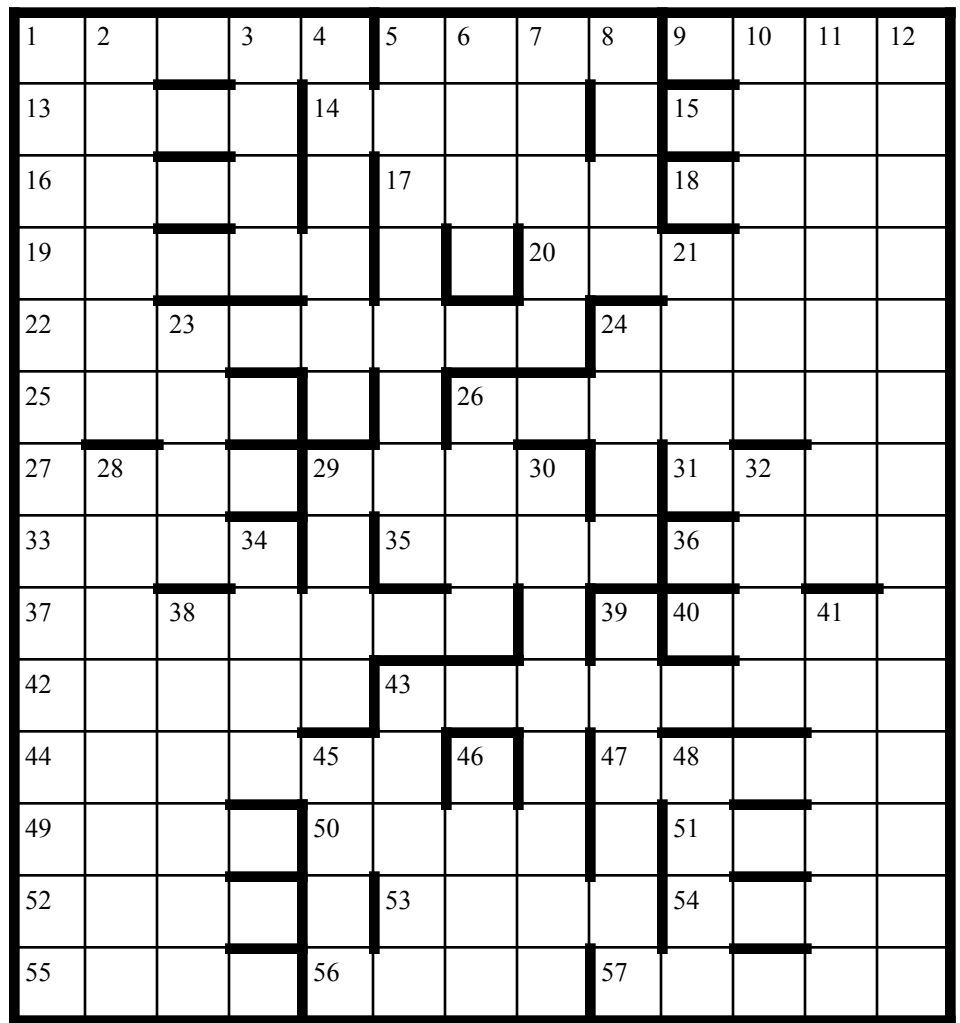


'10 10 Adulation

by Ucaaimhu

It is now the far-future year 2010, and the Academy has cloned all of the Best Picture nominees, thus yielding twice as many as in previous years! These can be divided into pairs, each sharing one trait, and these traits determine how you must modify the Down answers before entering them in the grid: Five will become alien, five will go in a certain direction, five will have one of their eyes damaged, five will have an encounter with a Jewish educator, and five will allow you to extract a particular (otherwise meaningless) seven-letter sequence (though not all in the same word). Altered entries include one slang term, one first name, and one [46 Down]ishism.

The Across answers will all be entered normally, and one third of the Across clues work normally. In another third of the Across clues, though, the cryptic part yields an extra letter at the start, and in the remaining third it yields an extra letter at the end; these sets of letters will tell you what cloned pair is responsible for all of this. If you look at all Across clues above the normal clues, and at all Across clues below the normal clues, their first letters will give the names of another cloned pair that is involved; if you look at their last letters, you will get (cloned) an individual who will *definitely* be an Oscar winner tonight, and who would have had no problem in assembling any number of [1 Down] [12 Down]!



ACROSS

1. Persians who issued decrees and quiet sounds of pleasure (5)
5. Ash covers the center of Pretoria? That's utter palaver (4)
9. Straddling Italian river, performed for music producer (4)
13. In Paris, this cold chill returned (4)
14. Lead has to perform what's agreed to (4)
15. Taking back retro work like *Fidelio* (4)
16. Essentially, furious and flushed! (4)
17. Egg producer in Wisconsin with inquiry about timing (4)
18. Quartet of invisible unicorns like fungus-riddled cheese? (4)
19. Cautious editor reacted to a mouse (5)
20. Get coated with spots or first couple of blotches (6)
22. Metal-clad communist sounded like a stud (8)
24. Violet, in part, preferred to be embraced by Salvatore (5)
25. Court assumes Greek character to be King of England (4)
26. Biting rare, unusual, stalklike plant part with an edge like a pinking shear (7)
27. Flower of Spain's male, male sib (4)
29. Start to copy, in French, the iron staff's inscription (4)
31. Considering nothing after half the NFL gets half-sold (2 2)

33. Party is least risky after snake leaves (4)
35. Green plot turned Ayn Rand heartless (4)
36. Eroded with misdirected grinder (4)
37. Exclamation that precedes entry a young fox thus put on paper (2'1 4)
40. Org. that protects creatures in funny caps (4, *abbr.*)
42. *A la mode* styles of clothes superficially covered with plant grown on ceramic (5)
43. Mightiest effort by Mr. Stiller to claim Stone is erotic (4 4)
44. A repair worker in *Trek* goes loco (6)
47. Loony Suzi initially used Japanese auto (5)
49. Dramatist who wrote *Bus Stop* and *Nude Men Following Mongo's Leader* (4)
50. Suggestion to avoid five- or six-sided objects (4)
51. Rhode Island guys backing Mideastern leader (4)
52. Tex's neighbor ought to start keeping lanthanum (4, *abbr.*)
53. Woman in black heard nary an item (4)
54. Ickily cute clone mostly has duplicated the face of Eliza (4)
55. Bug molts for 1/3,600,000,000,000 hr. (4, *abbr.*)
56. New York baseball team's host, hosting more than one alien (4)
57. In the end, actors and singers that one writes about! (5)

DOWN

2. Leather strap drops out of your mouth
3. Ugly house I'd demolished
4. Agents claiming Diana overuses salsa?
5. Three in Germany directing Spike vocally without emotion
6. Expressions meaning "I'm impressed," or, contrariwise, "Get out of here"
7. Occasions for romance and fruit
8. Center occupied by son and spouse
10. Tankard often holds English pint [N12]
11. Right half of that gold-plated speaker
21. Patron deity of warriors in land units
23. Strange company taking on mentalist Geller, and you and me
24. Village leaders in Dorset only read Poe
26. Handles gutless Glaswegian's denials
28. Writes on prepared skin
29. My bad parody almost gets put up
30. Swamps ends of five poles
32. Luxurious bribe upset Henry
34. Also touching \$1000 stole
38. "Fireplaces," in this language in Spain
39. One group's capturing fifty bits of land
41. Said submachine gun, um . . . is more prone towards seepage
43. Port, in Australia or Britain, is poison
45. Crazy Eddie at last is prepared
46. Such ultimately comes out of fire!
48. Winged creature eats up Dick Tracy's wife Angela in the cinema