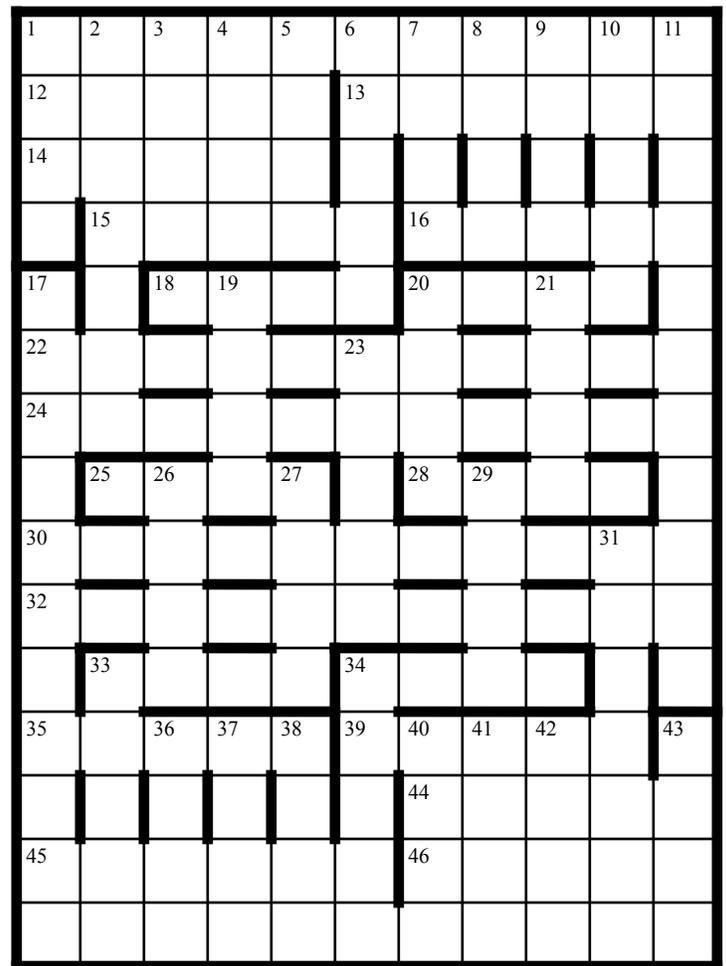


A Number of Competitors

by Ucaimhu

In tribute to this year's five pairs of Best Picture nominees, Across answers will be altered before entry, in five ways: (1) four will be female, (2) four will yield up a sticky substance, (3) four will be universal, and thus limitless, (4) four will specifically have a form of 5 6, and (5) four will Cruise Around (that is, be anagrammed). Altered entries will include five two-word phrases, three names (those categories overlap), and an abbreviation; also, some word sequence in each Across clue is a straight clue for its altered entry.

Of the Down clues, (a) eight are ambiguous, yielding two possible answers (tagging may apply to either answer), (b) eight have an extra word, to be deleted before solving, and (c) the other thirteen each have an incorrect letter, to be corrected before solving. If you always take the (a) answer described by the extra word from the symmetrically opposite (b) clue, the top grid row will give a part of, plus a description of, another Oscar nominee in its *original* form; always taking the other (a) answer will give the same things for the form *I* first saw it in. The bottom grid row will describe what that part of the nominee does in the nominee; in clue order, the *correct* letters from the (c) clues will say what to take from the parts of the bottom grid row to get what the *incorrect* letters say.



ACROSS

12. Smaller round navel originally is not so deep
13. Amidst these quarter-dozen items that conclude Charlton Arthur's *Sword Holder* (2 wds.)
14. *Family Circus*'s largest child-tender at gym
15. Dang! Silly people finally will meet Romeo's glances
16. Also left principal in seat with stooges
18. Stud with stone the whole moon region to the east
20. At a higher level of showiness, following trollop's lead?!
22. What sends out beams termite damaged
24. Current *Hair* performer taking the title role in *Trixie* or *Angela's Ashes*
25. Cores of corn and (e.g.) every kind of pear must be cobalt?
28. Diana stops weedy one's recorded latenesses at school
30. No *Hamilton* character sung "What Westchester is to NYC"
32. Second mature person who could, for example, explain scripture while standing on one foot
33. Rinses unlacquered cup ahead of time for short critter
34. Tampa Bay team vocally imitates clams
35. Tenor is a less sound witness for legal purposes in the UK
39. Mock arrogant food-seasoner
44. Reddish horses nearest yon bat sense asp in the middle
45. Duck that gets joyous on the right MDMA and herb
46. Ancestors of typical Tolkien creatures that differ from trees only slightly

DOWN

1. No sand by the Viennese square
2. Reorder one silver device that makes barriers less defeasible
3. Man ignoring Ucaimhu and *Nebraska* star Hathaway
4. Feature of pitchfork, fourthly, sitting on Indiana earth

5. High up above (yes!) weird reactions to Godzilla in the road?
6. Some oath-reechoing figure with two curves (2 wds.)
7. At one end have a sign next to Em's edible animals
8. Illicit slat-examination attorneyish type (when just starting out) attends (2 wds.) (abbr.)
9. Atmospheric gas with weight *n* spinning around band (hyph.) (hyph.)
10. Financier to begin wearing semi-gold color that's yellow-like (2 wds.)
11. One back in Caen with Ali to authorize a description of rights specified in the Declaration of Independence
17. Actor Stewart has ne'er upset the hero who formerly carried Rita Repulsa's Sword of Adamsian Darkness (2 wds.)
19. Life ultimately has 51.1 troubles
20. Short commercial containing orange amphibian
21. Gaelic feminine pronouns have completely lost Fitch
23. Balt's sound when put through the hoop towards 7:30 or so?
26. Eyes coats of hater-beraters
27. In chapter 101 ("After Reelection")
29. Suffix attached to *flex* and *gull* and *crib* and *half*, minus the first two letters
31. List part of Broadway musical in which man dances
33. Good, good Parisian elevated the disunited French
34. Mathematical ruse'd confused member of Mideastern sect
36. Irish sun god going both ways when pivoting beam (hyph.)
37. Spaceman is heading away from the unspacy earth location
38. Energy gun turning eternally fishy
40. Rotational axes disheartened a page immediately (abbr.)
41. Pierce and Al pointed at the Naval Observatory 25 years ago
42. Oswin evaluated each draftable person (hyph.)
43. Stags annihilating motel's sculpture and such