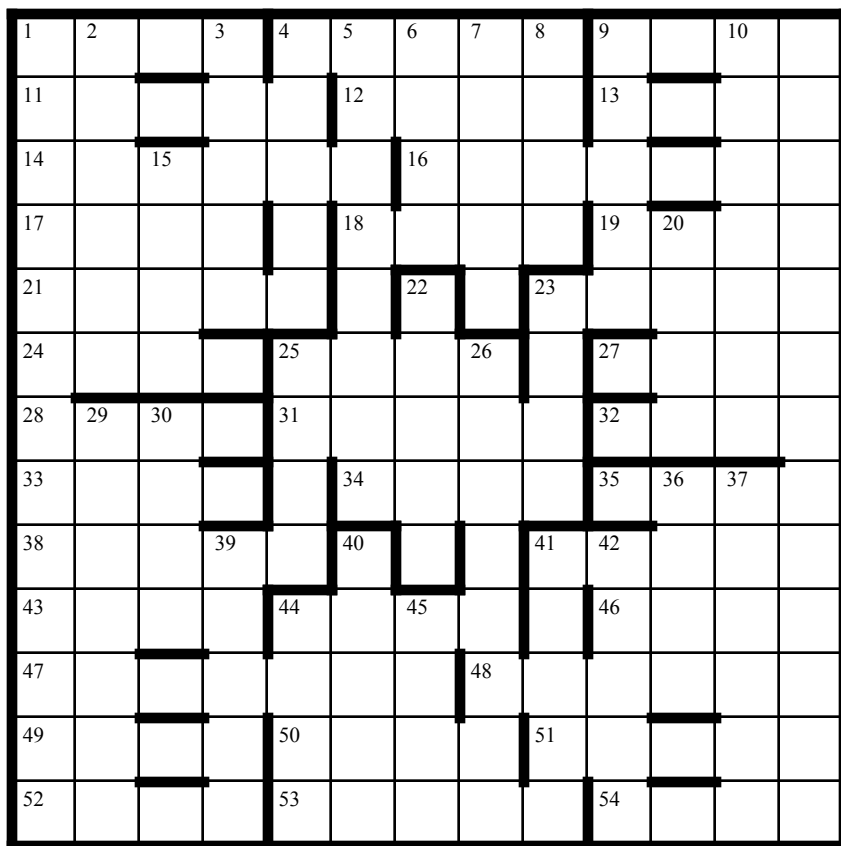


Every Five's a Critic

by Ucaaimhu

In this cryptic, all Across clues work normally and their answers are entered normally. However, most of the Down answers must be altered before entry; as a tribute to four pairs of Best Picture nominees, (1) five will orbit a measured amount (one way or the other), (2) five will get Greek-like, (3) five will be fraudulent with an NY twist, and (4) five will be under Lincoln. (Altered entries will include an NI3 form and three proper names.) The five remaining Down answers will be entered normally, but in each of their clues the wordplay yields a letter sequence that is missing two letters; shade the corresponding two squares in the grid. Together, these shaded grid squares will name a noted film critic, and (in code) that critic's pick for the Best Picture of 2013; the unclued Down entry on the left side of the grid will name another (unnominated) 2013 film that that critic really liked, and the one on the right will say what these two critical favorites have in common.



ACROSS

1. Machine that transports Dutch humorist (4)
4. Country almost bankrupted airline (3 2)
9. Spin facts slightly (1 3)
11. Retro *Repo Man* barely resembles a work like *Aida* (5)
12. *Newhart* character that is round, ursine Muppet (4)
13. From the east, / Like this clue's / Term for yeast / Cake with booze (4)
14. Bit of mead or beer or spirit (6)
16. In arid place, Earl proposed Mormon state (7)
17. From your mouth, eject completely purple fruit (4)
18. Grass spiked with Ecstasy, on reflection, is okay (4)
19. Don't start unoriginal story (4)
21. One Parisian possessing lady-like bones (5)
23. A small amount's turned equally vile (2 3)
24. What heads Ozward, following child! (4)
25. When inverted, skillets break like twigs (4)
27. For a masculine hairdo (4)
28. Edward gets state founded quickly (3'1, *abbr.*)
31. Back in Scotland, I disagree with that company's her-ring supplier (5)
32. I beheaded a guy in *Crimes and Misdemeanors* (4)
33. Wort-cooking droid model in *Star Wars* (1 3)
34. Race topless around an Ivy League school (4)
35. Apple type Charlie and Pierre's friend flipped over (4)
38. Watson's partner is a pain in the neck (5)
41. Sound from *The Net* is beginning to stir desire (5)
43. Hot core of the ice planet in *Empire Strikes Back* (4)
44. Ms. Sarandon shuns North Elamite capital (4)
46. Colonist I opposed (4)
47. Fencer is inside shoddy tepee (7)
48. Pay attention: 50 is a solution to $x^2 + 500 = 60x$ (6)
49. Attach curved metal items to small gardening tool (4)

50. Last random hurdle for future attorneys (4, *abbr.*)
51. Iridescent coating on, ultimately, 160 square rods (5)
52. Toast second piece of corn (4)
53. Restrooms occupied by black-and-gray wolves (5)
54. More than one can pet crawfishes (4)

DOWN

2. A sun god, therefore, left
3. Quietly put down work by someone like Shaw
4. Hot tub level disheartened *Harry Potter* actor Timothy
5. Butler from *Witchblade's Quintet of Mayan Cynics*
6. Half of yeomen protecting leader in downtown Tokyo, in bygone days
7. Fill the role of Mother the wrong way
8. Remarks from Santa about 1000 gps. w/ MDs (*abbr.*)
9. Clothing for torsos!
10. Boy eating real pig fat
15. Every other character leaves your rat's domed tent
20. Little pair of perpendicular lines that meet
22. Mentioned victim's commendation
23. Flesh-peddlers concealing Lucille's skin blemishes
25. Love Alaska's trees
26. All Pat destroyed is a city in Silicon Valley (2 *wds.*)
29. Part of a poem about Arizona and DC ballplayers
30. In part, show it to actress Alicia
36. Audible, strong, and full of little arachnids [NI3]
37. One that remains with ye inside Arcturus, say
39. That guy finally spoke with Joy
40. You and me and southern actress Rene
41. That man's superficially sexy and kind of fit
42. Actor Butterfield from *Hugo* attended (2 *wds.*)
44. The Italian lira's problems
45. Pierce brought up Oakland's baseball team