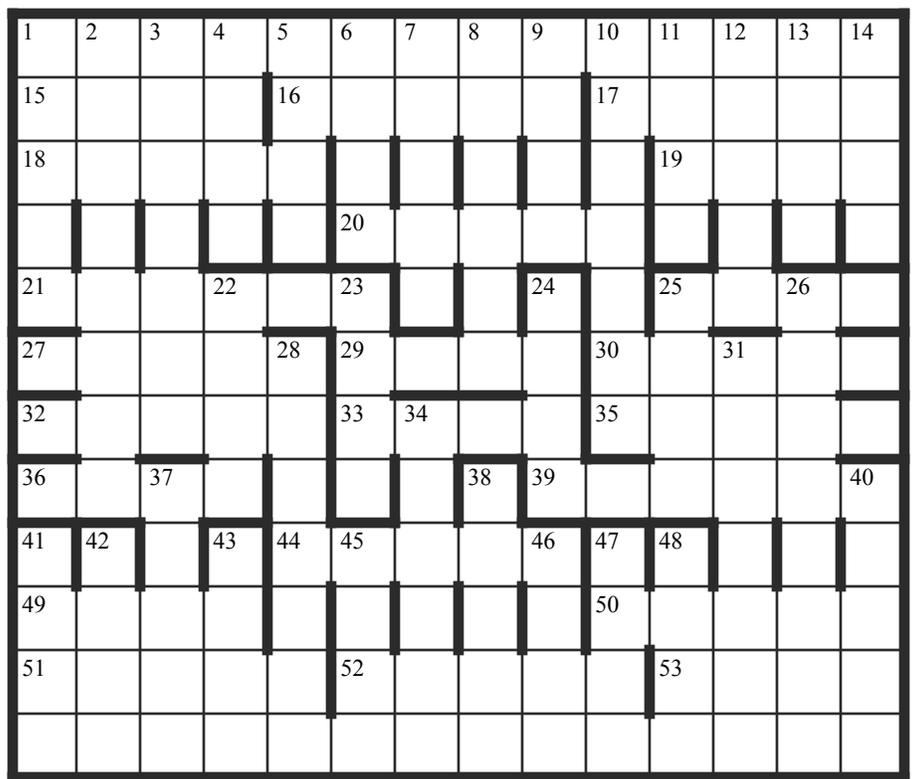


Guest Host by Ucaoimhu

Since there's no host at this year's Oscars, the sixteen Across answers must pay tribute to the Best Picture nominees (in pairs) themselves, by being altered before entry: Four will show a star shining brighter or dimmer, four will get an extra UKish letter, four will present a color that a given entity might have, and four will become a singular Latin ablative.

But wait! There are a host of (well, six) extra Across clues that have come from elsewhere! All their answers will be greatly altered (i.e., anagrammed) before entry, because they have all undergone the same experience. (One of the altered entries is a composer.) All but six Down clues have one extra letter each, which must be removed before solving; in clue order, these will describe the experience. The other six Down clues are normal, but their answers must be entered in a manner that shows this experience pictorially in one square. And once the grid is filled, the top and bottom rows will name an Oscar-nominated film that is very relevant to what has occurred.



ACROSS

15. Capsized in the French river
16. Alien who phoned that woman's number
17. "Trees," with a T initially
18. Charlie has to start evading pursuit
19. Left goatish deity to sleep
20. Choice of consonants in name for Dawn
21. What is inside the white binder an ox has discussed
25. Very close to a large west Asian country
27. Orator's encounters with nonvegan foods
29. More than one stocking tills is outspoken
30. Like certain minerals in Yokohama ficuses
32. One who plumbs the depths well after 504
33. Eater was scattering saline fluid
35. Downhill racers ignoring red expanses overhead
36. Note the absence of young lady
39. Hangs around Dutch authors
44. Originally horizontal spears can lean
49. Swan's ears' interior parts
50. Barely clip German crossbred cat
51. Brass instrument that's stripping plant spines
52. Penny, Rod, and Albert are important
53. Nuts he smashed with a huge fusion engine (2 wds.)

DOWN

1. Argot lexicon ultimately buried amongst worthless stuff coming from bore
2. Once copilots will play high tones in "The Stars and Stripes Forever," for example (2 wds.)
3. Weill, to a greater extent, is hidden under popular breathing-assistance device
4. Tact of Spanish, seen two ways
5. Roses will destroy second-rate crafts site
6. At first orally intone a word after *baba au*

7. Part of the tract that digests cantaloupe or honeydew containing 40% solid cobalt
8. Fare including bits of gumbo for terminally disputatious person
9. Navy leaders from Ealing run bay
10. Can lampoon a weird Central American city (2 wds.)
11. Torpless starship's captain has and exhibits annoying qualities
12. Contradictory answers from Germans ditching aesthetic, chiefly black-clad assassin
13. Perhaps done investigating a counterfeit, outspoken group rooting for the youngest Brontë? (*hyph.*)
14. "0 + 0i," by the way? That was a mistake
22. Daughter notices omen associated with moms
23. Does again crushed Ents
24. Animal keeper Costello heard movie witch Caine
25. Don't dot anything Garland's mentioned
26. Officers wearing an eagle or prickle had some corn in ears (2 wds.)
28. Munich, after Michigan's temperature hits the dew point, perhaps (2 wds.)
31. IVs after fogs run amok (2 wds.)
34. Earl, at 11, ushered caste out
37. Low note for Roger in *The Spy Who Loved Mae*
38. In Connecticut, behold a Delaware roof support
40. Bender is to make an observation about rink
41. In brief, cash one's goat at the bank 1,200 feet to the east (*abbr.*)
42. Cowl and Piglet's pal's ring turned up
43. IDs hen surrounded by three esses (*abbr.*)
45. Hen essentially remits half up front
46. Dullea, in *2001*, kept examining Io's irises on top
47. Divan unwrapped by ladies heading towards the North Pole, say
48. British establish outposts on Io & clones run wild