

FROM THE ACADEMY OF DEATH RACERS

Message from the Team

Merry Christmas, everyone!

With the year coming to an end, we wanted to take a minute to just thank all of our members for helping the Academy of Death Racers grow as much as it has in so short a time! You see, for the past years or so, we've been getting more and more worried about deathracing the Oscars. Seems we're all busy trying to beat the rest in our predictions, find awards material quicker and for less money, that movies and the cinematic experience are sort of getting lost in the shuffle.

But deathracing isn't just a preparing for a set of awards shows, it's a frame of mind. That's what's been changing, and that's why we're glad we're here.

Maybe we can do something, and bring real cinema to the world. As the year winds down, our team is gearing up to host the first ever AoDR festival, a film festival that will feature several shorts and features that just might go on to be instrumental in future deathraces, or even better, just might live on in your hearts and minds.

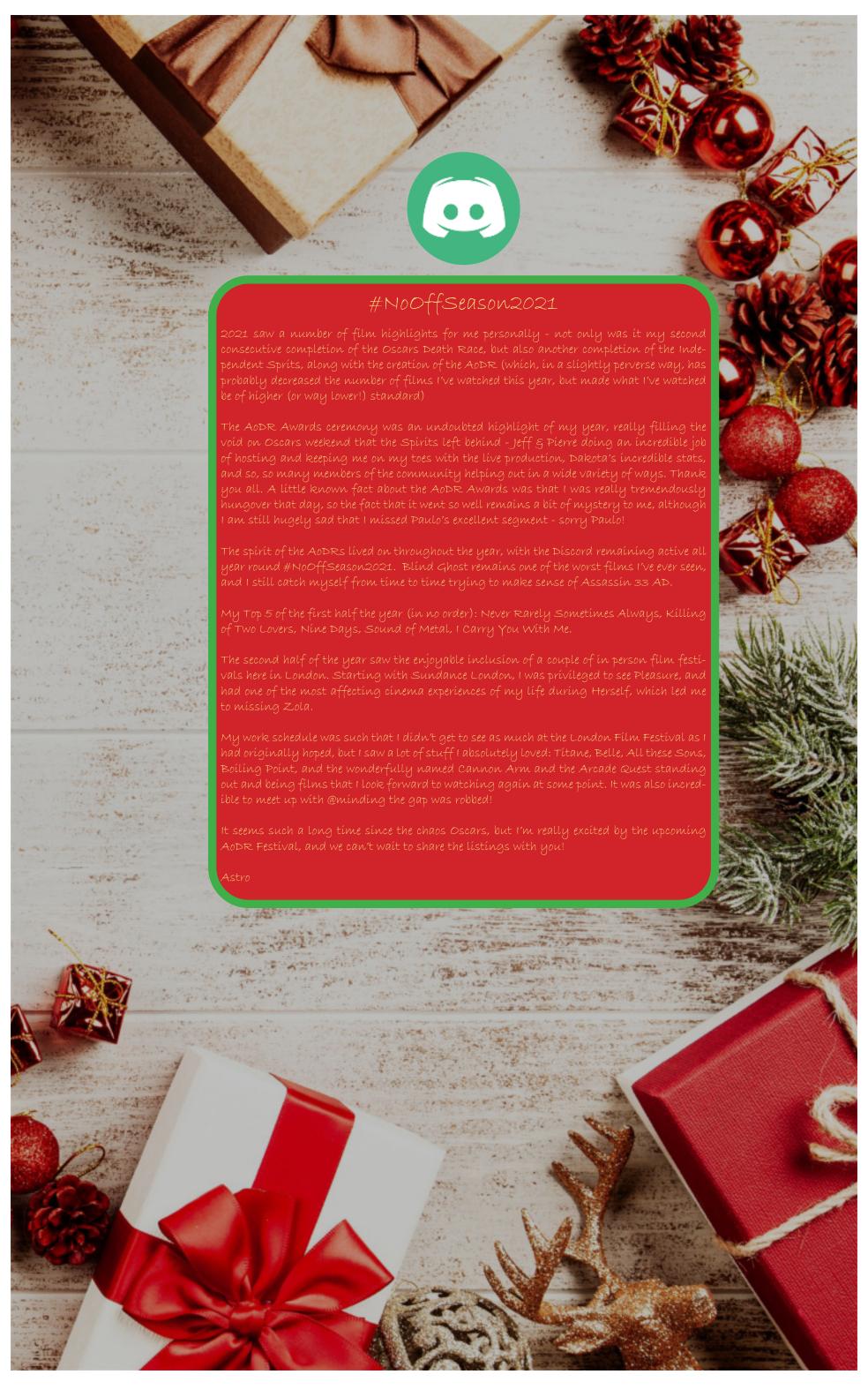
- Ian, Jeff, Mark, Alex, Cris, Sam, Lukas, Andy, Cathy, James





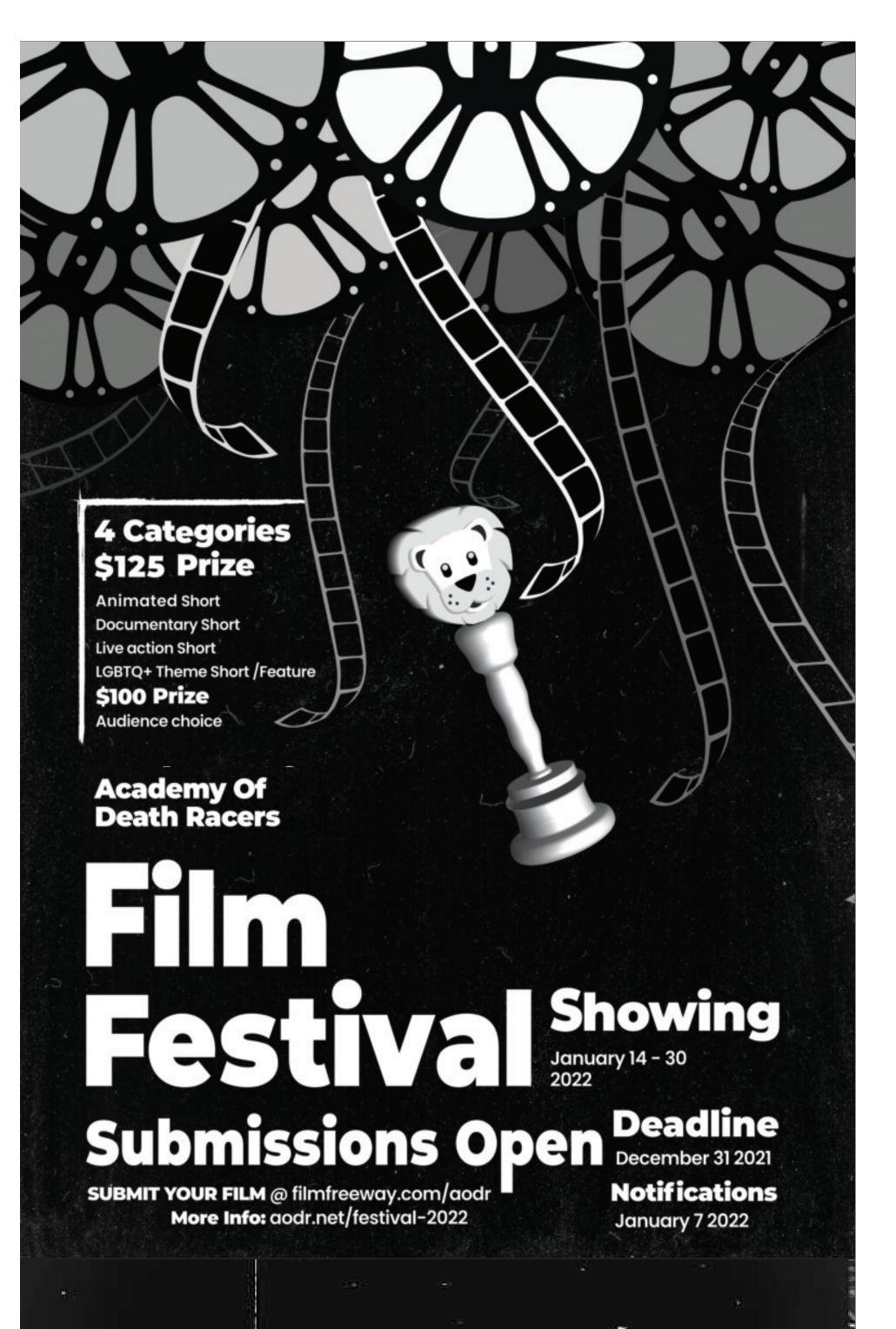












The Academy of DeathRacers Festival



The Academy of Death Racers Festival is an international online film festival celebrating the best short films of the year and promoting widely available screenings for the public. The first AODR Festival will be held from the 14th - 30th January 2022.

Whilst one of the aims of the Academy of Death Racers is to help as many people as possible watch every film nominated for an Academy Award in every category before the Oscars ceremony, we also want our community to be exposed to other interesting, thought provoking content which can sometimes be very difficult to access.

The 2022 AoDR Festival will have 4 competitive strands, the winner of each receiving a cash prize of \$125 apiece for excellence in the following categories:

Animated short film
Documentary short film
Live action short film
Film with LGBTQ+ theme (short or feature)

In addition, a \$100 prize for Audience choice will be awarded to the film given the highest rating by the attendees of the festival, with \$50 awarded to the 2nd and 3rd place films.

Selected filmmakers will also be given the opportunity to partake in live Q&A or panel sessions as part of the festival.

Winners will be announced in our live ceremony, which will take place online on Saturday 26 March 2022.

Rules & Terms

All genres of film are accepted, with a maximum runtime for shorts of 40 minutes including all credits. Films entered in the LGBTQ+ category can be of any length, and any genre.

Films should be submitted digitally (file, or link to streaming service) only through FilmFreeway.

A non-exclusive licence worldwide screening is expected for all films entered, however, we will consider and make reasonable accommodations for geolocking specific films in specific circumstances. As well as enabling us permission to securely stream the films, this licence would enable us to use short clips from selected films to create trailers for the festival, as well as extracts to display as part of the Awards ceremony.

All films should be submitted as a streaming optimized first (usually a .mov or .mp4 file), and have subtitles where English is not being spoken. As a festival with the aim of being as accessible as possible, we aim to offer closed captions for all selected films, so require either: an .srt (or similar) caption file, or the transcript of the film so we can generate captions.

Please also supply a digital version of the poster, selected stills from the film, details of the cast & crew, and a brief summary of the film, all of which may form part of the content on our website, and other promotional content we create. If you have one, please also include a link to a trailer for the film too.

The Academy of DeathRacers Awards (The Deathies)

In 2022, the mods of the /r/oscarsdeathrace subreddit and its associated Discord server will once again set up an official vote to see how its community ranks the nominated films and how these results compare with the official Academy's result.

This marks the begin of the second year of the official Academy of Death Racers

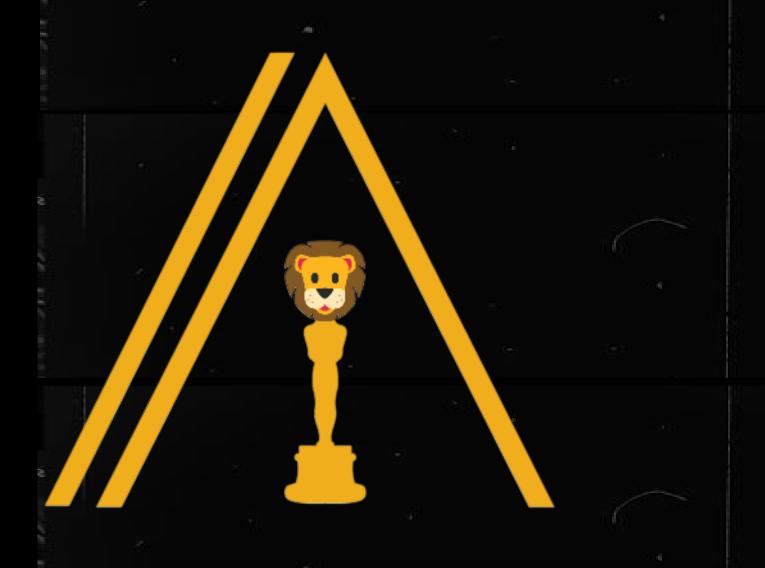
General Membership

- General membership in the Academy of Death Racers is free, and open to all members of the subreddit and Discord server community
- All members can vote in all categories, however, there is an expectation that members only vote in categories where they have seen all the nominated films (an option will be supplied on the voting form to skip voting on a particular category)
- General members can remain anonymous, but will require a Google account to cast votes, and prevent multiple voting
- All members of the Academy of Death Racers will cast secret votes on their favourites for each award category, with the winner of each category being the film that receives the most votes in each category, for which a preferential ballot will be used (inline with the Oscars' rules)
- A live streamed Academy of Death Racers Awards ceremony will take place prior to the Oscars ceremony, which will receal the winners, with involvement and interaction from the official branch members. This will be available for all members of the community to view online.

Branch Membership

- Additionally, members can join one of five official branches of the Academy of Death Racers
- Membership in each branch is free of cost, and can be applied for (along with suitable supporting statements/links/images) on the #join-a-branch Discord channel
- Membership of each branch is visible and transparent through clear membership groups on Discord. As a result, membership of one of these branches cannot be wholly anonymous, as it must be linked to a Discord username.
- Members can only have active membership of 1 of these official branches during any awards season. However, they can change branch membership between seasons by messaging the mods
- The five branches for this year's awards season are listed on the next page

The #join-a-branch channel officially opens December 25th, 2021





The Creators Branch

Membership of this branch should have experience in some sort of content creation - this can be audio (ie, podcasts), graphic design, video, writing or other creative field.

To qualify for this branch, members are requested to provide examples of their work or involvement in some creative endeavour. This can be professional or just for pleasure.

The winner of this branch's category will be the recipient of the Biggest Cow Award.



The Food and Drink Branch

Membership of this branch is non-restrictive, and can include anyone who would like to join. (But this branch is highly recommended for people who are into gastronomy)

The winner of this branch's category will be the recipient of the Best Food or Drink Scene Award.



The Animal Lovers Branch

Members of this branch should be people with a fondness for Animals.

The winner of this branch's category will be the recipient of the Johnny Award.





The Indie Branch

Members of this branch are outsiders, renegades, and misfits, who feel they fall between the cracks of the other branches. Ha ha, just kidding, although it is fairly apt.

The winner of this branch's category will be the recipient of the Too Indie for the Oscars Award.



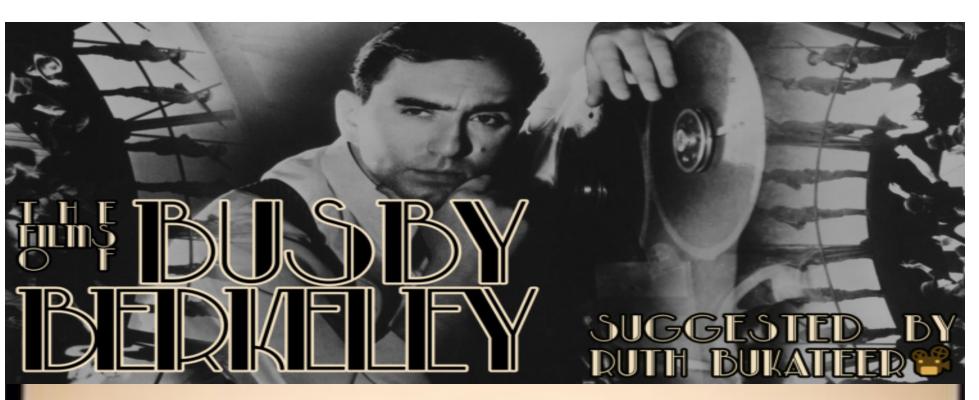
The Kino Branch

Members of this branch appreciate cinema in all its incarnations. Though not every film is suited to sweep the Oscars, BAFTAs, or Indie Spirits, that's not all that defines a true classic!

To qualify for this branch, members must also be members of the Movie Club, and register an account on aodr.net

The winner of this branch's category will be the recipient of the KINO Award.





Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933) dir. Mervyn LeRoy

Starring Warren William, Joan Blondell, Aline MacMahon Things get tough for Carol and her showgirl pals when the Great Depression kicks in and all the Broadway shows close down. Wealthy songwriter Brad saves the day by funding a new Depression-themed musical for the girls to star in, but when his stuffy high-society brother finds out and threatens to disown Brad, Carol and her gold-digging friends scheme to keep the show going, hooking a couple of millionaires along the way.



42nd Street (1933) dir. Lloyd Bacon

Starring Warner Baxter, Bebe Daniels, George Brent

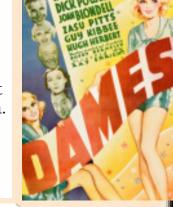
Renowned Broadway producer/director Julian Marsh is hired to put together a new musical revue. It's being financed by Abner Dillon to provide a starring vehicle for his girlfriend, songstress Dorothy Brock. Marsh, who is quite ill, is a difficult task master working long hours and continually pushing the cast to do better. When Brock breaks her ankle one of the chorus girls, Peggy Sawyer, gets her big chance to be the star. She also finds romance along the wav.



Dames (1934)

dir. Ray Enright, Busby Berkeley Starring Joan Blondell, Dick Powell, Ruby Keeler

Multi-millionaire Ezra Ounce wants to start a campaign against 'filthy' forms of entertainment, like Broadway-Shows. He comes to his relatives families and makes them members of his morale-boosting campaign. But Jimmy, another relative is producing a show, starring Ezra's niece Barbara. But he had bad luck with his backer, this person has given him an invalid check. Another of his victims, the show-girl Mabel has the idea of blackmailing Horace, Barbara's father, whom she has met before in a slightly

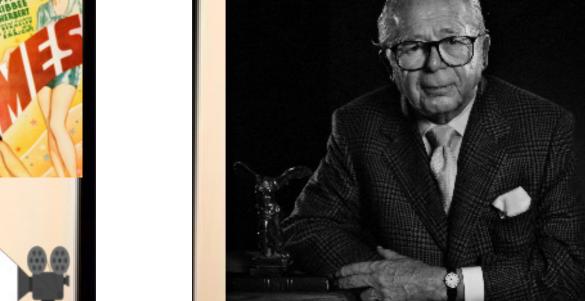


Gold Diggers of 1935 (1935)

compromising situation to get the money.

dir. Busby Berkeley Starring Dick Powell, Adolphe Menjou, Gloria Stuart

In a luxury hotel stage director Nicoleff stages a show to get the money to pay his bills. Mrs. Prentiss, who is backing the show wants her daughter Ann to marry the millionaire T. Mosely Thorpe, but Ann falls in love with Dick Curtis, while Dick's girl friend marries Ann's brother Humbolt. But the hotel stenographer Betty knows a way to avoid difficulties with old Mrs. Pren-

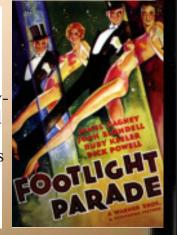


Footlight Parade (1933)

dir. Lloyd Bacon

Starring James Cagney, Joan Blondell, Ruby Keeler

Chester Kent produces musical comedies on the stage. With the beginning of the talkies era he changes to producing short musical prologues for mov ies. This is stressful to him, because he always needs new units and his rival is stealing his ideas. He can get a contract with a producer if he is able to stage in three days three new prologues. In spite of great problems, he does



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS RUTH BUILANTEER

Ruth Bukateer is one of the newest members of the Academy of Death Racers Community. A big fan of classic cinema, Ruth was particularly interested in diving into the filmography of 30s film director and musical choreographer Busby Berkeley!

We asked Ruth a few questions to learn more about his involvement with the community, and his 1930s sprint!

How did you get involved with the Oscars Death Race Community?

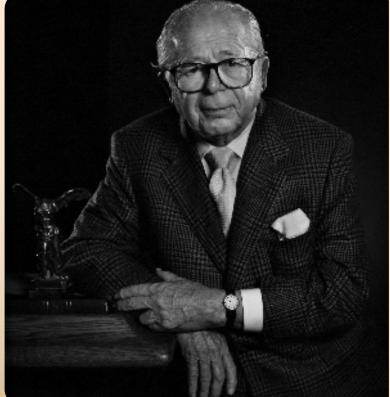
I was talking to someone in another server on Discord and they shared a link and that's how I found this server.

What is your favourite movie you've watched this year?

My favorite movie I've watched for 2021 is probably No Time To Die, but also either Barbie in The Princess and the Pauper or Diana the Musical.







Tell us about your sprint!

My sprint is about Busby Berkeley. It takes a look at the films he choreographed/directed, these films were released in the 1930s, and include notable stars such as Dick Powell, Ginger Rogers, Joan Blondell, and Ruby Keeler.

Who is your favourite film director and why?

I really don't have a favorite director, but if I had to chose one it would be Billy Wilder. I'm just a fan of his style and how he edits specific scenes. I think his masterpiece Sunset Boulevard, just everything about that film is iconic.





"Oh my God, thats my daughter."

Flag Day (2021) dir. Sean Penn

Starring Dylan Penn, Mitchell McCormick, Rom Anniko

Jennifer Vogel's father John was larger than life. As a child, Jennifer marveled at his magnetizing energy and ability to make life feel like a grand adventure. He taught her so much about love and joy, but he also happened to be the most notorious counterfeiter in US history. Based on a true story and directed by Sean Penn, Flag Day stars Penn and his real-life daughter Dylan Penn in an intimate family portrait about a young woman who struggles to rise above the wreckage of her past while reconciling the inescapable bond between a daughter and her father.





Starring George C. Scott, Peter Boyle, Season Hubley

Jake Van Dorn is a businessman from the American heartland who shares strong Calvinist convictions with most of his countrymen. His teenage daughter is missing from her church youth convention trip to California and Van Dorn hires a private investigator to find her. The result of the investigation is his daughter is spotted in a cheap X-rated movie. Van Dorn decides to bring her back personally and during the quest he becomes familiar with the pornographic underworld.



The Loved Ones (2009)

dir. Sean Byrne

Starring Xavier Samuel, Robin McLeavy, John Brumpton Lola Stone asked Brent Mitchell to the prom, but Brent said no, and now he's screwed. What happens when Lola doesn't get what she wants? She enlists Daddy's help to throw a prom of her own, where she is queen and Brent is king - whether he likes it or not. The Loved Ones is what happens when puppy love goes horribly, violently wrong. Brent should have said yes...



Blockers (2018)

dir. Kay Cannon

Starring Leslie Mann, John Cena, Ike Barinholtz

Single mother Lisa Decker drops off her young daughter, Julie, for her first day of kindergarten. She watches on as Julie is joined by two other girls, Kayla and Sam. Kayla's dad Mitchell and Sam's dad Hunter introduce themselves and become close friends after seeing the bond between their chil-



Get Out (2017)

dir. Jordan Peele

Starring Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams, Bradley Whitford Chris and his girlfriend Rose go upstate to visit her parents for the weekend. At first, Chris reads the family's overly accommodating behavior as nervous attempts to deal with their daughter's interracial relationship, but as the weekend progresses, a series of increasingly disturbing discoveries lead him to a truth that he never could have imagined.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: CHIS

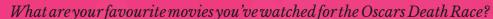
Cris designs most of the graphics for the Academy of Death Racers, including all our our merch, and last month's newsletter cover, "My Dinner with Tonno"!

This month, cris put together a whole sprint devoted to Daddies and their daughters! We caught up with cris as part of our year-end community spotlight!

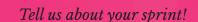
How did you get involved with the Oscars Death Race Community?

It all started when I saw a mutual on Letterboxd log the Opera (2021) short film, and I got curious because I was looking for that short to complete the shorts deathrace, so when I asked her over LB where did she found it, she told me about a Discord server. At that time (around February 2021) I barely knew what was Discord, I remembered I only had like a study group there but didn't use it much. So I got added by her to the server around March 2021 or so. At first I just peeped the convos that were going on there but wasn't active tbh. I'm very shy and timid at first so I didn't even try to talk, I just let time fly but every now and then I peeped once in a while what was going on and tbh when i read some messages and before knowing all this awesome people I only thought "this is such a cool group i want to be part of". So by July, someone (Andy 20) was streaming a terrible movie called *Me You Madness* and first I was really embarrassed to hop in the stream without saving anything but I did anyway, and that's one of the first most funniest moments I recall on the server, because I started to chat for the very first time with all and after that all went smoothly and now i'm really happy I'm part of this awesome internet family...





My favorite movies I've watched for this Death Race are: The Worst Person in The World, Memoria and Spencer. I really loved the three of them and currently are my faves this year. I honestly was never interested in completing the international submissions death race, but this year a lot of people on the server were doing it so I said why not? And I'm glad I did because Worst Person in the World and Memoria are movies from different countries (Norway and Colombia) that have stuck with me recently and have resonated with me too, and now I really hope they get some recognition by the Academy. I also liked the experience of expanding my knowledge on films from different parts of the world, so one can get to know about different issues going on around the world as well as get to know different directing styles.



Oh boy. My sprint came inspired by an inside joke in the community that involves dads. Yeah. Since we all watched The Strange things about the Johnsons (Ari Aster's short film) we came with the "daddy" inside joke, and because of that I wanted to suggest films where dad and daughter relationship is somewhat relevant in the film, I also wanted to showcase films of different genres so we can dive into this topic but through different tones (i'm suggesting horror, gore, comedy, drama, thriller and le mellieur film du Sean Penn) so yeah I think we'll get a good time with these.

Tell us about your favourite memory of you and your dad!

My dad and I are best friends. One of my favorite memories I have with him is when we had a flight and we were running late. We got out of the house like crazy and he went full Liam Neeson and drove like crazy through the city, I went praying the whole time and when we got to the airport we ran through all the place. I remember how my shoe broke from running so he just gave me his and we continued, the funniest part was when he arrived first at the departing door, the lady on the counter told him that the flight had been delayed for 2 more hours. We just laughed like crazy on the counter.













Collateral Beauty (2006)

dir. David Frankel

Starring Qill Smith, Edward Norton, Kate Winslet

When a successful New York City advertising executive suffers a great tragdy, he retreats from life. While his concerned friends try desperately to connect with him, he seeks answers from the universe by writing letters to ove, Time, and Death. But it's not until his notes bring unexpected personal responses that he begins to understand how these constants interlock in a ife fully lived, and how even the deepest loss can reveal moments of meanng and beauty.



A Madea Christmas (2013)

dir. Tyler Perry

Starring Tyler Perry, Chad Michael Murray, Tika Sumpter

Madea gets coaxed into helping a friend pay her daughter a surprise visit in he country for Christmas, but the biggest surprise is what they'll find when ey arrive. As the small, rural town prepares for its annual Christmas Carnival, new secrets are revealed and old relationships are tested while Madea dishes her own brand of Christmas Spirit to all.



Saving Christmas (2015) dir. Darren Doane

Starring Kirk Cameron, Darren Doane, Bridgette Cameron

Kirk is enjoying the annual Christmas party extravaganza thrown by his sister until he realizes he needs to help out Christian, his brother-in-law, who has a bad case of the bah-humbugs. Kirk's fresh look at Christmas provides Christian the chance to see Christ is where He has always been: at the center of our Christmas celebrations and traditions. Can Kirk save his in-law's opinions on Christmas or will he have to celebrate the holiday without hin



Elves (1989)

dir. Jeffrey Mandel Starring Dan Haggerty, Julie Austin, Deanna Lund

A young woman discovers that she is the focus of an evil Nazi experiment involving selective breeding and summoned elves, an attempt to create a race of supermen. She and two of her friends are trapped in a department store with an elf, and only Dan Haggerty, as the renegade loose-cannon Santa Claus, can save them.



Prometheus (2012)

dir. Ridley Scott

Starring Noomi Rapace, Logan Marshall-Green, Michael Fassbender ollowing a faint trail of clues, the accomplished archaeologist, Doctor Elizabeth Shaw, and her partner, Charlie Holloway, along with a seventeen-man crew, embark on an ambitious, deep-space scientific expedition. Aboard the evolutionary space-exploration starship, USCSS Prometheus, the team sets foot on the rocky terrain of the desolate exomoon, LV-223, in 2093, to investigate the existence of the superior extraterrestrial species known as the Engineers".



COMMUNITY SPOTITGHT: 1UCAS

occasionally TheLFY95) is responsible for suggesting some of the best movie-watching experiences many in the community have ever had! An absolute authority on KINO, Lucas is the first to officially have two sprints, returning this month with a full lineup of Christmas films! We reached out to Lucas to learn how he got his start n the deathracing community, and find out the true meaning of

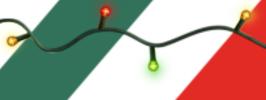
low did you get involved with the Oscars Death Race Community

the Oscars were something that always fascinated me nd in the last 4 or 5 years I tried to watch every film hat was available. I joined the Discord server [in 2020 because I'd [heard people discussing] Les Miserables and St. Louis Superman, which were my last 2 films left to watch. That was the first time I completed the deathrace

What are your favourite movies you've watched for the Oscars Death Race?

My favorite movie that saw only because of deathrace was *Pinocchio*, which was one of the most shocking experiences I ever had. And my favorite movies that I saw with the server are the ones like the chat goes nuts, like Assassin 33 A.D. Un Buen Dia, Tyler Perry's Acrimony and the most re cent film, Black Easter, the alternative cut of Assas in 33 A.D. which somehow makes it a worse film





Tell us about your sprint.

chose to do this sprint because I love Christmas films that are apposed to make you feel good, but I wanted to do the oppote of that. Three of the five films I selected are so bad that they re going to be a challenge for everyone who watches them. another one is the cult classic Kirk Cameron's Saving Christmas, hich I never saw, so I'm excited to watch it with an audience

What is the true meaning of Christmas?

The true meaning of Christmas is F9: The Family Saga, as acclaimed performer and musician Vin Diesel intended







Featured Review



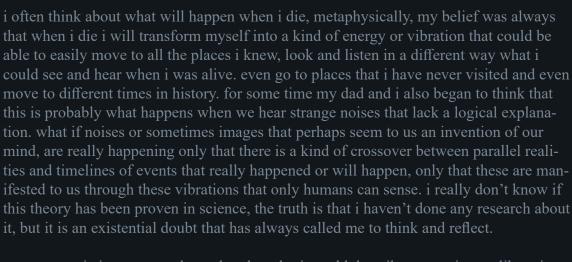




Memoria

Review by cris

i always liked to think we are vibrations that fluctuate in time and space adrift.



now, memoria in a way explores that thought. i would describe memoria as a liberating naturalistic journey and at the same time an exceptional sensory experience that the only thing that demands from its audience is its full attention (pretty difficult in the time we live) and mainly to activate their auditory sense to the maximum. memoria proposes us as humans to reconnect with our true nature. to forget - even for the duration of the film - the chaos and overwhelming tireless rhythm of modernity. to heal, reflect and return to our natural roots as a species. and at the same time, through a story that at the beginning may seem complex, disconcerting and disturbing due to its mysterious noise and crippling silence, it effectively manages to make one be able to contemplate that silence that was once lost, and appreciate behind that, the memories of our former or future personas.

the location where the story chooses to center is fascinating as well. Colombia, as well as other parts of latin america, -specifically locations in the latin american jungle- have their past and present marked by violent events against humanity and nature itself, and there are parts in the film where these marks are discovered, but they only fall on our own auditory ability and curiosity to pick the pieces left throughout the film to decode them. there is also this cultural matter, as in these places, specifically the jungle, there is a great belief in mysticism and spirituality. a sacred subject that allows locals to firmly believe in communication with their ancestors and supernatural forces.

i thought it was a genius choice to have Tilda Swinton to be the main lead. apart from the fact that she is excellent interpreting, i feel that the role of Jessica was thought exclusively for her. i have always seen Tilda with a kind of strangeness, she seems to me someone who is not from this planet, like if she is an alien force in a strange human form (not in a bad sense). simply because of her physical appearance, for me she has always had a strange beauty that turns her into a living enigma, and i think that here that physical natural rarity she owns, serves a smart purpose for the story: to portray a european foreigner living in a country far from her origin -in this case Colombia- and not only that, but to portray someone that is also alienated to her reality. it is a performance in my opinion of the best of her career because of the neutral bodily and gestural naturalism that she exudes.

memoria is a unique sensory experience that frankly i didn't expect to leave me astonished, restless, curious and reflecting so hard on the way it did. it should be noted that i am not familiar with the director's previous work, but after this spiritual experience i had with this film i will check out his filmography soon. ironically, before seeing the film i was strongly against its marketing, it felt pretentious to me to only put the film in theaters and never distribute it digitally, but i see why now: it is an experience that i feel is designed exclusively for the cinema, because it is not a conventional film, it is a work of art, whose sound design, for me, is the best of the year, so i only recommend seeing it in cinemas as much as possible, and if not, then see it with good headphones because the sound experience is one of the purest and most delicate that i have ever experienced in my life.



...a liberating naturalistic journey, and at the same time an exceptional sensory experience that demands from its audience [their] full attention...



