

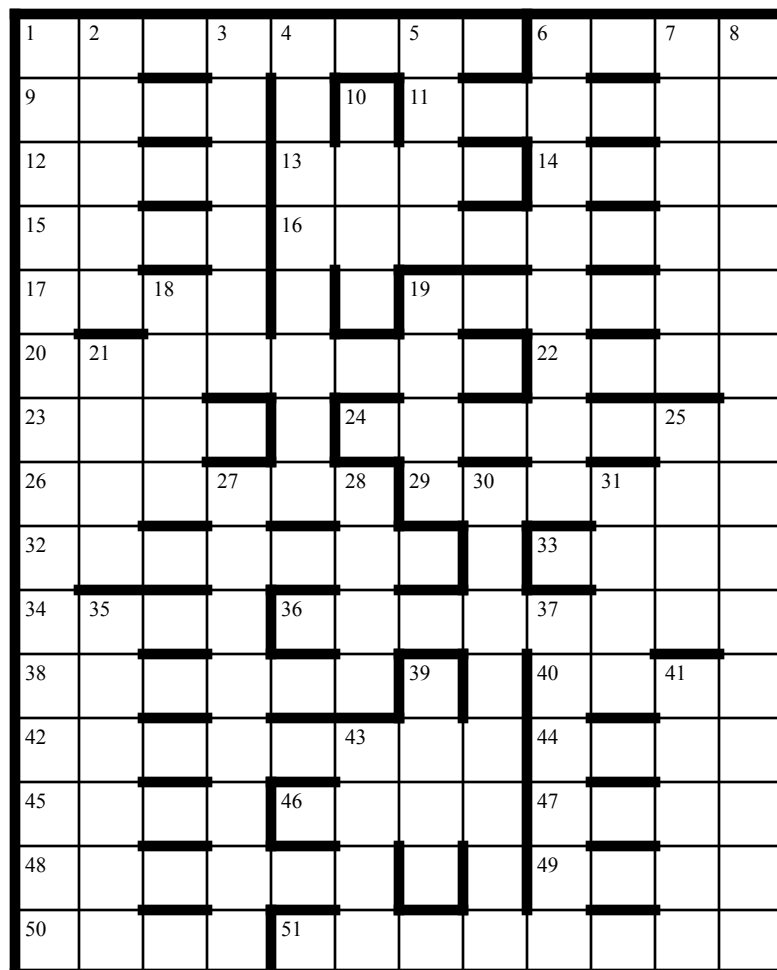
# Forty-Percent Word by Ucaoimhu

Reflecting this year's five pairs of Best Picture nominees, Down answers will be altered before entry in five ways: (1) four will involve a college, (2) four will join two dots to the fourth letter, (3) four will bring up some bit of song, (4) four will add a pair of identical letters to the six-letter string, and (5) four, each just as long as Asta, will be involved in a big switcheroo requiring some detective work. (Two altered entries are NI3, and altered entries include a prefix, three phrases, and four proper names; each Down clue also contains a straight clue to its altered entry.)

In addition, three altered Down entries are slightly too long for their grid spaces and must be entered with one letter on the thick bar at the end; these letters, in a line in the grid, form a word in the name of another nominee (a), and if each moves horizontally into the nearer of the two outside columns, another nominee (b) in (a)'s category will appear in those columns. Each Across clue has one extra word, to be deleted before solving; for each  $n$  1–8, the four extra words that are the  $n$ th word of their clues will (in clue order) form a cryptic clue for some other word. Remove the rest of (a) from the resulting eight-word list to see the other three nominees in (a) and (b)'s category; unlike (a) and (b) they *don't* contain (literally *or* figuratively) that word from the bottom bars.

## ACROSS

1. Forks taken by redtailed daw heading west have routes to the bottom (4 4)
6. For example, a Bohemian managers finally can tow (4)
9. James who wrote the screenplay for *The Foul Night of the Hunter* is adult? Wow (4)
11. Hope to emulate snake and anger Spike (6)
12. The cunning Italian embraces a French moon goddess (4)
13. Slight and Teutonic overture of opera causes ruin (4)
14. I opposed Lowe picture (4)
15. Michele from *Funny Bilingual Girl Friday* or *Page* (4)
16. Grub had gene changed, producing aphid (8)
17. A saint near India gives assistant sparkling wine (4)
19. Error serves some purpose as Shue goes astray (3 3)
20. Sweet Passover item from *Love Boat* follows guest who could play flamenco guitar set (8)
22. Is the top-rated Titan in Greek mythology (4)
23. Is etching each cross belonging inside of apsis (4)
24. Grand vessel mentioned somewhere in describing the Bay State (4 3)
26. Term followed in titles by "Restaurant" or "Vile Adventures in Wonderland, Like Getting Cooties" (5'1)
29. Analyze carbon rod that's expanded snake by a factor of six quadrillion (6)
32. More than twelve getting tense before long efflux? Yes (3 4)
33. Bug on the setter's podium or chimney part (4)
34. Yours are in rec room with college official (4)
36. Where you'll see autobiography swimmers produced miff rash lunatic (4 4)
38. German adored overbuilt being clad in surgical garb (6)
40. Many a dish presented to early software programs (4)
42. Type of eucalyptus supplying old individual drink to Reverend Spooner (5 3) [NI3]
44. Neither sounded masc. nor fem. in one utterance (4, *abbr.*)
45. Old Norse god recited poem separately that praises hotel (4)
46. Invertebrate rotated hollow capital sigma? (4)
47. Gyrate uncenteredly, automaton chilled brand-name foam rubber (4)



48. Vanished baseballer Ott joined Faraday with Williams (6)
49. In that case hidden by waif's small objects (2 2)
50. Many a belief of the philosophical gastropod is Mike's (4)
51. The uncivilized Swiss city where Swiss people are working around obedient person (8) [NI2]

## DOWN

1. [See instructions]
2. Times last of shivering fits in one "untimed" test
3. What sailors take in disheartened some alga ingester (2 wds.)
4. Wrinkled carpets concealing pill, maybe at the back
5. Decrepit Chevy or Ford offered at a low price doesn't start
6. Harold, who wrote *The Birthday Party With No Ring-Hunting Dog*
7. As roe we stir appeared
8. [See instructions]
10. Moon about new Dutch prefix for "Chinese" or "European"
18. Samoan currency hustler swats Hulot creator at the midpoint
19. Some watch a lot for an indication of sainthood
21. Stable without circular thing wasn't stable
25. Show bits 7, 5, 3, and 6 from surgeon's predecessor to Galba
27. Wants sheltered locations to protect Troy
28. DA we shifted put both feet in the water
30. A skittish horse, perhaps of a less glittery, more gray hue
31. Twelve or thirteen tricks of faith that will strike the leader
35. What is a bit over 2700 cubic centimeters when one omits red upper crusts
37. Gopher State author Farmer penultimately animated mouse
39. Believe in works by an older writer Scott rowdily embraces
41. Paste clean symbol for money on French or German menus
43. *Gotti* has a character that doesn't appear in the correct place, I understand (2 wds.)