



Who's Oscar bait?



- MOVIES: TRIPLE 9
- BOOKS: WHAT REMAINS OF ME BY ALISON
- MUSIC: LAST IN LINE BY HEAVY CROWN
- WINE: THE EURASIAN PARADOX
- FOOD: FEELING THE LOVE

The Oscars are less about rewarding the best films than affirming Hollywood's sense of itself. They are, as New Yorker stated, "Hollywood's idealized self-portrait." Film writer Jake Coyle thinks Academy Awards may be hooked on 'Oscar bait'. The 2016 ceremony will be broadcast live from 9am on Monday. **X3**



DRIVE IN

Lindsey Bahr, AP Film Writer

**CROOKED COPS GONE WORSE
IN MUDDLED 'TRIPLE 9'**

Triple 9" has everything going for it, and that's its biggest handicap. This tale of gangsters and crooked cops in Atlanta has got a murderer's row of acting talent — Casey Affleck, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Kate Winslet, and Woody Harrelson among them — an alluringly dark premise, and bombastic bursts of greatness. But ultimately, director John Hillcoat ("The Proposition," "The Road") fails to meld the storytelling with the film's ambitious scope, the way Michael Mann so proficiently did 21 years ago with his modern classic "Heat." "Triple 9" starts out auspiciously enough, with a pulsating and vividly executed bank robbery that crackles with tension and

immediacy as the criminals execute the heist and begin their escape through the busy streets of the gritty city. It's the kind of drawn out sequence that can be enough to propel an entire film as you wait for another set piece to top it. There is one other masterfully choreographed raid about midway through, but by then you're almost too caught up in the confusing who, what, where and why to indulge in the excitement. Hillcoat, working from screenwriter Matt Cook's Black List script, trusts the audience to weave together the narratives of its eight main characters by themselves without the help of exposition — a welcome challenge, but a frustrating one as well. There are just so many

characters, subplots and motivations to keep track of that it feels more like an extended pilot in the vein of "The Wire" or even "True Detective" than a contained movie. Essentially, there's a cabal of mercenary cops (Anthony Mackie, Clifton Collins Jr.) and tattooed, ex-military baddies (Aaron Paul, Norman Reedus, playing grease ball brothers) who do dirty jobs for Russian-Israeli gangsters (led by Kate Winslet, packing a thick accent, blonde bouffant and vampy press-on nails). After the opening heist doesn't go exactly as planned, Winslet's mob-boss demands one last job of her motivated ringleader (Ejiofor), who is forever tied to Winslet's whims because of



Terence Rosemore (from left) Woody Harrelson and Michelle Ang in a scene from "Triple 9"



Chiwetel Ejiofor (left) and Gal Gadot

the son he shares with her sister (Gal Gadot, who amounts to no more than scantily clad set dressing). Winslet is trying to get her husband out of a foreign prison and the answer apparently lies in Atlanta security facilities. Have you already lost track? It's not hard to, and we're only part of the way there. The crooked cops decide that the only way to carry out the new heist (breaking into a Homeland Security facility) is to stage a compelling distraction in another part of town — a "999," code for officer down. The unlucky sap they settle on to be the sacrificial lamb is the chief's (Harrelson) nephew (Casey Affleck), who just moved to town

and started work at the station. The problem is that Affleck's newbie cop turns out to be more than a charity case and the once generally straightforward "999" gets even murkier and more complicated. An unsatisfying third act turn also destroys the promise of the setup. The talented and endlessly watchable cast helps the confusing story chug along, even after you've given up hope of really understanding what exactly is going on or caring about any of the characters in the film. It's not necessarily the fault of the actors. In fact, for the most part, you just crave more scenes with Ejiofor, Mackie, Harrelson and Collins. Casey Affleck, in

particular, proves once again that not only is he the more talented Affleck brother, but could also be one of the greats of his generation if he could just find films and roles worthy of his gift. "Triple 9" imagines itself a sprawling, nihilistic epic, and it floats along for a while on the shoulders of its prestige filmmaking and cast, but ultimately the storytelling just isn't up to the task.

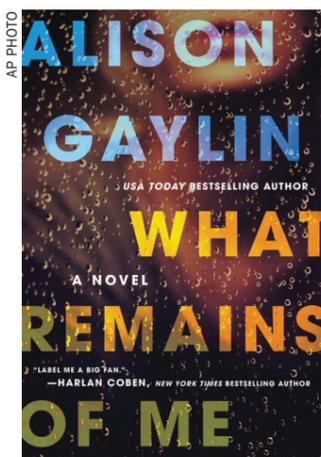
"Triple 9," an Open Road Films release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong violence and language throughout, drug use and some nudity." Running time: 115 minutes. ★★★

BOOK IT

**AUTHOR ALISON GAYLIN
DELIVERS STUNNING STORY**

An era in which privacy is becoming a myth and people's lives often are played out in the media, scrutinized for every telling detail, makes a provocative foundation for Alison Gaylin's absorbing "What Remains of Me." In this stand-alone thriller, Gaylin delves into the dark side of pop culture, Hollywood power and tabloid reporting for a multilayered story about a woman forever associated with a crime. "What Remains of Me" also shows how snap judgments can forever taint a person's reputation. Kelly Lund knows firsthand how image is shaped by public perception. When she was 17 and high on pot and cocaine, Kelly was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for murdering Oscar-nominated director John McFadden in his Hollywood home. The motive for the murder has remained unclear, though the media suggested it was related to the death two years earlier of Kelly's fraternal twin, Catheri-

ne, a wanna-be actress who leaped from an overlook in the San Gabriel Valley. While in prison, Kelly married Shane Marshall, the son of movie star Sterling Marshall whose wife, Mary, helped secure her release after 25 years. Now around 47, Kelly has been out of prison for five years, trying to live quietly, when she becomes the prime suspect in the death of her father-in-law. Sterling Marshall was shot to death in the same way that McFadden was killed. The new murder puts Kelly back in the media glare, fodder for entertainment/gossip programs, vilified by crime commentators and pursued by a tabloid reporter who wrote a true-crime book about her. A now iconic photograph of Kelly with her "killer smile" and "dead eyes" taken outside the Los Angeles courthouse during her trial is analyzed as proof of her callous, unfeeling nature. The photograph was taken by Bellamy Marshall, who was Kelly's best friend in high school and is now her



"What Remains of Me" (William Morrow), by Alison Gaylin

sister-in-law. Augmented by fabricated news accounts, including bogus TMZ posts, and excerpts from a fake true crime book, acute character studies and myriad tangled relationships briskly move the suspenseful "What Remains of Me" to a believable conclusion. In many ways, Gaylin creates six different characters depicting Kelly, Shane and Bellamy as teenagers and as adults, showing how their personalities have evolved through the years. Gaylin, who won several awards for her paperback series about Brenna Spector, delivers a stunning story in "What Remains of Me."

Oline H. Cogdill, AP

TTUNES

**DIO BANDMATES LINE UP TO
CARRY ON SINGER'S LEGACY**

Since the death of singer Ronnie James Dio in 2010, something of a cottage industry has sprung up, dedicated to keeping alive the memory and spirit of the vocalist who starred with Black Sabbath, Rainbow and his self-titled solo band. The newest development is seeing former Dio band members re-form; Last In Line, who took their name from the title of Dio's second solo album, consists of original Dio members Vivian Campbell on guitar, Vinny Appice on drums, and bassist Jimmy Bain (who died just weeks before the album was released). With vocalist Andrew Freeman, the band channel's Dio's spirit and music on tracks that sound like they came straight from early '80s Dio recording sessions. Sometimes they reach too far for familiarity — the album is full of references to dreamers, demons and starlight (all staples of Ronnie Dio's songwriting), and some of the song structures seem lifted directly from past Dio hits, including the bridge from "Holy Diver" in which the band rapidly starts and stops playing while Campbell rips a solo.



Last In Line, "Heavy Crown" (Frontiers SRL)

But Last In Line also makes fine music in their own right. Campbell in particular sounds fresh and vital in ripping up the fretboard after years of cashing a pop paycheck with Def Leppard. Ronnie would sound right at home on the first single "Devil In Me," and "I Am Revolution" is a full-speed-ahead rocker in the finest Dio tradition.

Wayne Parry, AP

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Jake Coyle, AP Film Writer

Academy Awards may be hooked on 'Oscar bait'



Leonardo DiCaprio as Hugh Glass, in a scene from the film, "The Revenant"



Alden Ehrenreich (left) as rising star Hobie Doyle speaks with Ralph Fiennes as director Laurence Laurentz in "Hail, Caesar!"

In the Coen brothers' recent 1950s Hollywood satire, "Hail, Caesar!" Ralph Fiennes' ascot-wearing British director Laurence Laurentz is helming a stuffy drawing room drama full of tuxedoed men and ballroom-gowned women. The movie, "Merrily We Dance," Laurentz declares is a "prestige picture." But it's clear that the Coens think so-called "prestige pictures" can be just as much a joke as any other type of movie. In its day, "Merrily We Dance" would have been destined for Oscars.

Lately, the narrow parameters of movies celebrated by the Academy Awards in the best picture category haven't been quite so funny. Self-serious prestige films have long found a ready seat at the Oscars, while films starring or directed by minorities have struggled to. There are many factors behind what's led to two straight years of all-white acting nominees, but one is the stifling limitation of what gets considered an "Oscar movie."

What frequently guides a movie toward a best picture nomination or a star toward an acting nod is a confluence of factors that frequently have only so much to do with quality. Influential is how a movie is released (a prominent festival rollout can pay big dividends), how much support a movie has from its distributor (the parties and advertisements that go into Oscar campaigns are expensive) and how willing the talent is to promote themselves. "It's a racket," says Viggo Mortensen, who was nominated in

2008 for David Cronenberg's "Eastern Promises."

"The nomination process is essentially run by, dictated by money and public relations maneuvering," Mortensen says. "And so that's why every year, there are only a handful of, in my opinion, deserving and enduring nominees of enduring quality."

This year's best picture nominees boast a handful of films from outside the film academy's traditional comfort zone, most notably George Miller's much-nominated post-apocalyptic chase film "Mad Max: Fury Road." But many of the films that could have put a charge into this year's awards didn't fit the limited confines of Oscar bait. Ryan Coogler's "Creed," while it lan-

ded a nod for Sylvester Stallone's supporting performance, had the odds stacked against it. It's a seventh entry in a franchise and it wasn't much pushed by its studio, Warner Bros. Its humanistic heartbeat is perhaps — like Coogler's previous "Fruitvale Station," also starring Michael B. Jordan — outside the kind of films starring black actors that usually garner academy attention.

Few African American actors have ever won for a film by a black director. (A notable exception is Denzel Washington for Antoine Fuqua's "Training Day.") No black actress has ever won for a film helmed by a black director.

The N.W.A biopic "Straight Outta Compton" — which lacked a

white protagonist or the historical sweep of "12 Years a Slave" — also didn't fit the usual criteria. One academy member, the writer-director Rod Lurie, says he heard numerous academy voters dismiss even screening "Straight Outta Compton."

Taste plays a part, but the playing field is uneven. If it wasn't, Melissa McCarthy would have an armful of Oscars by now.

Like many genres, comedy is all but forgotten come awards season. This year, the trend reached a somewhat absurd endpoint when David O. Russell's somber "Joy" and the nerdy space adventure "The Martian" sneaked into the comedy category at the Golden Globes.

It's one reason why Leonardo DiCaprio was passed over for his brilliantly outlandish performance in Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street," but is likely to win instead for crawling in mud and eating bison liver in "The Revenant." Only one of the 20 acting nominees this year — Jennifer Jason Leigh in "The Hateful Eight"— is straightforwardly comic. And even she takes a beating.

Films from outside English-speaking countries and documentaries have virtually no chance of gaining the same consideration for best picture as a historical epic or a lavish costume drama. If they did, the French-produced Turkish drama "Mustang," the tremendous debut by Deniz Gamze Erguven, might be vying alongside "Spotlight." Or Joshua Oppenheimer's documentary on Indonesian genocide, "The Look of Silence," might be a rival to "Bridge of Spies."

The Oscars are less about rewarding the best films than affirming Hollywood's sense of itself — which is why exclusion so outrages. They are, the New Yorker's Richard Brody has written, "Hollywood's idealized self-portrait." That's one reason why Alejandro Inarritu's "Birdman" — a film about a Hollywood star striving for artistic salvation outside of superhero films — won best picture last year. It was a vote not just for "Birdman," but against Marvel domination.

Any award show is built on the consensus, and thus can drain away daring candidates, like Spike Lee's bristling "Chi-Raq," the iPhone-shot "Tangerine" or the fresh coming-of-age tale "Diary of a Teenage Girl."

Yet despite often rewarding mediocre films that fit a narrow standard, the Oscars matter. Outside of a Nobel or a Pulitzer, no award is more affixed to a person's legacy; "Oscar winner" is a tag that lasts past death.

But it's worth remembering: The lack of one didn't do much to dull the luster of Alfred Hitchcock, Cary Grant, Barbara Stanwyck, Akira Kurosawa, Ingmar Bergman, Fred Astaire, Joseph Cotton or Marilyn Monroe.



Michael B. Jordan (left) and Sylvester Stallone in a scene from "Creed"



Tom Hardy (left) and Charlize Theron in a scene from "Mad Max: Fury Road"

WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I.F. Cheong



URLA ŞARAPÇILIK NEXUS 2011

A blend of Merlot, Nero d'Avola and Cabernet Franc. Rich garnet with cardinal-purple rim, the fragrant nose offers redcurrant, red cherry, fine oak, crushed rock and geranium. Anchored by rich acidity and ripe tannins, the sturdy palate delivers bilberry, blackberry, dark chocolate, game and smoke. Medium-full bodied at 15%, the dense entry carries onto a smoky mid-palate, leading to a long finish.



URLA ŞARAPÇILIK VOURLA 2010

A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and the Turkish indigenous variety Boğazkere. Rich garnet with burgundy-purple rim, the scented nose effuses cranberry, redcurrant, allspice, cigar box and wild flowers. Supported by bright acidity and smooth tannins, the redolent palate emanates red cherry, plum, red tea, cinnamon and sous bois. Medium-full bodied at 14.5%, the fruit-driven entry persists through a sprightly mid-palate, leading to a lengthy finish.



URLA ŞARAPÇILIK NERO D'AVOLA-URLA KARASI 2011

A blend of Nero d'Avola and the Turkish indigenous variety Urla Karası. Rich garnet with carmine-purple rim, the aromatic nose presents blueberry, black cherry, spice box, dark chocolate and rose. Braced by generous acidity and tasty tannins, the expressive palate supplies bilberry, damson, allspice, tobacco leaf and rosewood. Medium-full bodied at 15%, the succulent entry continues through a lovely mid-palate, leading to a fruity finish.

The Eurasian Paradox

Turkey (officially the Republic of Turkey) is one of the few contiguous transcontinental countries in the world. Situated on the European side, its capital Istanbul used to be Constantinople and triumphantly referred to as "Second Rome", as the extremely resilient millennium-old Byzantine Empire was the heir and eastern remnant of the Roman Empire. The bulk of Turkey's land mass, however, is situated on the Asian side, named Anatolia or Asia Minor. Covering ca. 780,000 sq km and with a population of ca. 78 million, Turkey is almost as large as France and Italy combined, and roughly as populous as Germany, indeed the country with the largest Turkish population outside of Turkey. Surrounded by the Black Sea to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the west and the Caucasus to the east, Turkey has a myriad of terroirs and meso-climates for viticulture. Meanwhile, its northeastern and eastern neighbours, respectively Georgia and Armenia, are amongst the oldest wine-producing regions in the world. Although Turkey is the fourth largest grape-producing country in the world, only a small percentage of its produce is actually fermented into wine, whereas the larger part is either consumed as fresh fruits or made into dried fruits. Islamic dietary laws generally prohibit the consumption of alcohol,

and even if Turkey is known for its raki (the unsweetened milky-coloured anise-flavoured alcoholic drink), historically it was the Rûms (Greeks under Ottoman rule; etymology comes from the Romans, referring to the Byzantine Empire) and Albanians (majority Muslim) who were involved in the business. But the further away from the Arabian Peninsula, the less ardently it seems the dietary laws were enforced, e.g. the Moors of Al-Andalus were known to be quite keen on sherry. After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1923, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, first president of the newborn republic and field marshal during WWI, established the country's first winery in 1925, as part of his national programme to modernise, secularise and westernise the country. It was also during his tenure that the Latin-based Turkish alphabet was adopted to replace the old Perso-Arabic alphabet. The coastal regions of Turkey are responsible for most of its wine production. Whereas Istanbul and the surrounding Marmara region on the European side borders Greece and Bulgaria, the province of Izmir on the Asian side is one of the leading wine-producing regions of Turkey. Thanks to the vineyards' high altitude, dry climate and plenty of sunshine, well-made Turkish wines are not unlike South American wines.

Jacky I.F. Cheong is a legal professional by day and columnist by night. Having spent his formative years in Britain, France, and Germany, he regularly writes about wine, fine arts, classical music, and politics in several languages

RESTAURANTS

CANTONESE



GRAND IMPERIAL COURT
10:00 - 23:00
T: 88022539
Level 2, MGM MACAU



IMPERIAL COURT
Mon - Friday
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 23:00
Sat, Sun & Public Holidays
10:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 23:00
T: 8802 2361
VIP Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU

BEIJING KITCHEN

Level 1, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
11:30am - 24:00



KAM LAI HEEN
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3821
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 22:00
(Close on Tuesday)

SHANGHAI MIN

Level 1, The Shops at The Boulevard
Opening Hours
11:00 - 15:00; 18:00 - 22:30

SHANGHAI

CATALPA GARDEN
Mon - Sunday
11:00 - 15:00 / 17:30 - 23:00
Hotel Royal, 2-4
Estrada da Vitoria
T: 28552222



JADE ORCHID
Mon - Sun
11:00am - 3:00pm & 6:00pm - 11:00pm
Mezzanine Floor, Harbourview Hotel, Macau
Fisherman's Wharf
T: (853) 8799 6315 | (853) 8799 6316

FRENCH

寶雅座
AUX BEAUX ARTS

AUX BEAUX ARTS
Tue - Fri: 18:00 - 24:00
Sat & Sun: 11:00 - 24:00
Closed every Monday
T: 8802 2319
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU

GLOBAL

HARD ROCK CAFE
Level 2, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Monday to Sunday : 11:00 - 02:00
Sunday : 10:00 - 02:00

CAFÉ BELA VISTA
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 87933871
Mon - Thurs
06:30 - 15:00 / 6:00 - 22:00
Fri - Sunday
06:30 - 22:00

MEZZA9 MACAU
Level 3, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
Dinner: 5:30 - 11:00



VIDA RICA (RESTAURANT)
2/F, Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8918
Mon - Sunday
6:30 - 14:30 / 18:00 - 23:00



MORTON'S OF CHICAGO
The Venetian(r) Macao-Resort-Hotel
Taipa, Macau
T:853 8117 5000
mortons.com
• Bar
Open daily at 3pm
• Dining Room
Monday - Saturday: 13:00 - 23:00
Sunday: 17:00 - 22:00



PRAHA RESTAURANT
Mon - Sun
6:30am - 00:00am
Mezzanine Floor, Harbourview Hotel, Macau
Fisherman's Wharf
T: (853) 8799 6606

ABA BAR

ABA BAR
Tue-Sun: 17:00 - 24:00
Closed every Monday
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



MGM PASTRY BAR
10:00 - :00
T: 8802 2324
Main Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU



ROSSIO
Mon - Sun: 07:00 - 23:00
T: 8802 2385
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



SQUARE EIGHT
T: 8802 2389
24 hours
Level 1, MGM MACAU

ITALIAN

LA GONDOLA
Mon - Sunday
11:00am - 11:00pm
Praia de Cheoc Van, Coloane,
next to swimming pool
T: 2888 0156



PORTOFINO
Casino Level1, Shop 1039,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9950



AFRIKANA
Monday to Sunday
6:00pm - 3:00am
Location : AfriKana, Macau Fisherman's Wharf
Telephone Number : (853) 8299 3678

JAPANESE

SHINJI BY KANESAKA
Level 1, Crown Towers
Lunch 12:00 - 15:00
Dinner 18:00 - 23:00
Closed on
Tuesday (Lunch and Dinner)
Wednesday (Lunch)

ASIAN PACIFIC

ASIA KITCHEN
Level 2, SOHO at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
11:00 - 23:00

GOLDEN PAVILION
Level 1, Casino at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
24 Hours



GOLDEN PEACOCK
Casino Level1, Shop 1037,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9696
Monday - Sunday:
11:00 - 23:00

PORTUGUESE

CLUBE MILITAR
975 Avenida da Praia Grande
T: 2871 4000
12:30 - 15:00 / 19:00 - 23:00

FERNANDO'S
9 Praia de Hac Sa, Coloane
T: 2888 2264
12:00 - 21:30

WESTERN

FOGO SAMBA
Shop 2412 (ST. Mark's Square)
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 2882 8499

THAI



NAAM
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, The Resort
T: 8793 4818
12:00 - 14:30 / 18:30 - 22:30
(Close on Mondays)

BARS & PUBS



38 LOUNGE
Altrira Macau,
Avenida de Kwong Tung, 38/F Taipa
Sun-Thu: 13:00 - 02:00
Fri, Sat and Eve of public holiday:
15:00 - 03:00

R BAR
Level 1, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Sun to Thu:
11:00 - 23:00
Fri & Sat:
11:00 - 24:00



BELLINI LOUNGE
Casino Level 1, Shop 1041,
The Venetian Macao
CONTACT US:
Tel: +853 8118 9940
Daily: 16:00 - 04:00



D2
Macao Fisherman's Wharf
Edf. New Orleans III
Macao



LION'S BAR
Thursday to Tuesday
19:00 - 17:00
(Close every Wednesday)
Tel: 8802 2375 / 8802 2376

VIDA RICA BAR
2/F, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8928
Monday to Tuesday: 12:00 - 00:00
Friday: 12:00 - 01:00
Saturday: 14:00 - 01:00
Sunday: 14:00 - 00:00

VASCO
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3831
Monday to Thursday: 18:30 - 12:00
Friday to Saturday: 18:00 - 02:00
Sunday: 18:00 - 24:00

TASTE OF EDESIA

Irene Sam

FOOD
FEELING THE LOVE

It is an exciting time for Macau residents, especially for those of you who think that most of the restaurants inside hotel properties are too expensive. For the very first time, Macau's six leading resort operators have come together to offer local residents unprecedented special offers, covering Michelin-starred restaurants, and many other non-gaming elements. This new program is exclusive to both permanent and non-permanent residents of Macau.

Available from February 23 to March 31, 2016, the city wide promotion offers local residents the chance to enjoy exquisite dining experience at all hotels and resorts operated by Galaxy Entertainment Group, Melco Crown Entertainment, MGM China, Sands China, SJM and Wynn Macau (listed in alphabetical order). The campaign is a corporate social responsibility initiative of the six operators, as a way to give back to the Macau community.

Personally, I will be heading to City of Dreams' Jade Dragon and Wynn Macau's Mizumi soon as I enjoy their sophisticated dishes and find them to be a little out of my budget on normal days. With a 20 percent discount, the check will burn a smaller hole in your wallet. Remember to bring your Macau ID!



EVENTS
REBEL IN TOWN

Queen of Pop" Madonna was in town several days ago to perform in Macau as part of her much-anticipated "Rebel Heart Tour" at the Hollywood-inspired, cinematically-themed resort Studio City. The legendary diva attracted a stellar group of celebrity fans. Upon entering the stadium where she performed, I spotted award-winning actress Carina Lau – who spent half a million dollars on one of the most luxurious private VIP suites for her friends – Asia's King of Dance, Aaron Kwok, Asian diva Miriam Yeung and her husband Real Ting, Hong Kong sweetheart Charlene Choi, sexy goddess Christy Chung and her boyfriend Golden Zhang, as well as celebrated couples Simon Yam & Qi Qi and Leo Ku and Lorraine Chan.

The two-day "Rebel Heart Tour" at SCEC allowed fans the privilege of enjoying Madonna's live performance in an intimate setting. Anticipating the historic occasion, celebrities and superstars dressed to the hilt and arrived at the venue early to get ready for the special night. In her luxury private VIP suite, Carina Lau treated her close friends to a night of great music and gourmet dishes, complemented with a bespoke butler service.

Celebrities and regular folks waited for more than two hours as the "diva" started her show late. Still perfectly fit in her late fifties, Madonna performed her songs among talented dancers, who seemed to defy gravity in every way. In addition to creating provocative images with half naked nuns pole dancing on stage and reenacting Last Supper while performing "Vogue," she sang an acoustic version of "True Blue" with a ukulele. At the end, Hong Kong celebrity Eason Chan was invited on stage to flirt with the superstar, who asked him to play with a banana she gave him in an "X-rated" manner. Nothing is off limits to the diva after all.

WHAT'S ON



TODAY (FEB 26)

OPEN BOX 2016: MULTIMEDIA PUPPET THEATRE "XIAO AN"

Xiao An is left alone when his grandfather passes away. Having bought a television set to keep him company, he finds out that for one reason or another, everybody else in the village is on the news. When Xiao An decides that, for once, he too should be on the headlines, strange things begin to happen in the magical village... Rolling Puppet Alternative Theatre brings us "Xiao An", an adaptation from a Chinese short story written by Yan Lianke, winner of Franz Kafka's Prize in 2014. Using puppetry and multimedia, the group creates an imaginary space where it displays a combination of realistic theatre and puppetry where questions are left open. Is theatre a place where illusions are created, or an open window for reality?

TIME: 8pm
 DATE: February 26-27, 2016
 VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
 ADMISSION: MOP120
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699
<http://www.ccm.gov.mo>
 TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555
<http://www.macauticket.com>



TOMORROW (FEB 27)

WEEKEND MUSIC PARTY – COMIC FANS

Weekend Music Party introduces a brand new idea, performing beloved comics and animation theme music. Cultural and creative elements like mini art fair and workshops will simultaneously be added. Join this party with friends and family to enjoy a leisurely afternoon. The programme includes Senbon Zakura (Brass quintet), The Crimson Bow and Arrow from Attack on Titan (Brass quintet), A Cruel Angel's Thesis (Brass quintet), My Neighbor Totoro Medley (Woodwind quintet) and more...

TIME: 4pm
 VENUE: Dom Pedro V Theatre
 ADMISSION: MOP100, 120
 ORGANIZER: Macau Orchestra
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0782
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/om>



CLUB CUBIC PRESENTS ALEX MORPH

German DJ & trance producer Alex M.O.R.P.H. has a lively spirit, that seems to feed on music. His ways with melody are widely known and loved. The M.O.R.P.H. sound is a phenomenon that grabs audiences time and again, and the constant drive to reinvent himself is a mere reflection of his ability to stay ahead of the game. Catch him back in Club Cubic and prepare to fall into a trance.

TIME: 11:30 pm
 VENUE: Club Cubic, City of Dreams, Macau, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai
 ADMISSION: MOP250
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 6638 4999
 ORGANIZER: Club Cubic, City of Dreams, Macau
<http://www.cubic-cod.com>



SUNDAY (FEB 28)

MEMORIES OF CHINA

Professor Jao Tsung-I has over the years donated more than 100 paintings and items of calligraphy to the cultural departments of the Macau S.A.R. Government. An artist of great distinction, his works are renowned for their infusion of the scholarly, with morality, virtue, and nobility the hallmarks of his vivid portrayals. Recognising and saluting his talent and generosity, Where Chinese Melodies Hover – Open Recitals by Macau Chinese Orchestra (February 27, 4pm to 5pm, free) will be performed in Jao Tsung-I Academy once a month from January to June 2016.

TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
 VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523
 ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
<http://www.ajti.gov.mo>

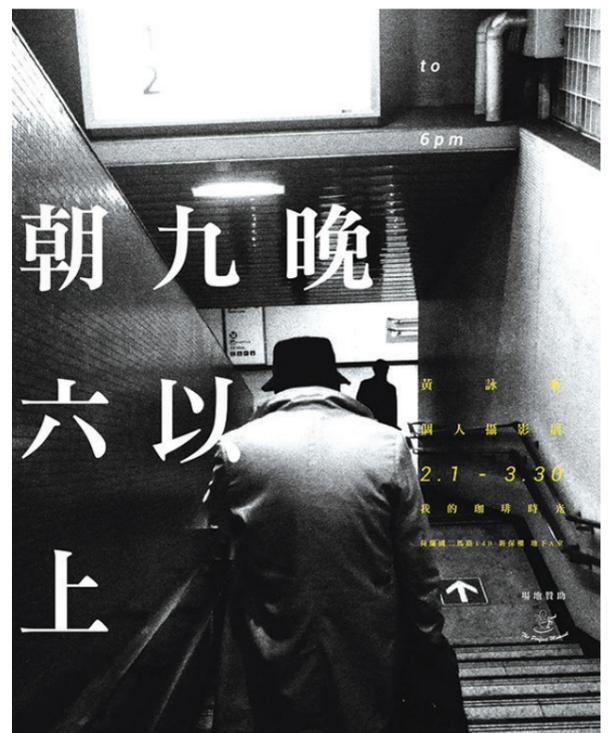
MONDAY (FEB 29)

FEBRUARY 29TH

February 29th narrates the loneliness of an elderly mother too embarrassed to embrace her brood of grown-up children without concocting the excuse of a birthday, while they are too self-absorbed to realise her predicament.



TIME: 8pm
 DATE: February 29, March 1, 4-6, 9-13, 2016
 ADMISSION: MOP150
 LANGUAGE: Cantonese
 VENUE: Old Court Building, Avenida da Praia Grande, Macau
 ORGANIZER: Hiu Kok Drama Association
 ENQUIRIES: <http://www.hiukoktheatre.com>
 TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555
<http://www.macauticket.com>



TUESDAY (MAR 1)

CAFÉ SOCIETY

Need a quiet oasis where you can relax and read a book over a great cup of coffee and snacks? The Perfect Moment could be... perfect. Small exhibitions are occasionally held – right now a selection of Beyond 9am to 6pm Fernando Wong photography exhibition asks what this timeframe means to you – along with charity bazaars to help individuals and families in economic difficulties. Meanwhile, the cafe is all about slowing down, thinking great thoughts and meeting new people!

TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on public holidays)
 UNTIL: March 30, 2016
 VENUE: Rua de Abreu Nunes 14B Edf. San Pou R/C - A
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 6307 3797
 ORGANIZER: The Perfect Moment

WEDNESDAY (MAR 2)

SOU PUI KUN'S WORK "MUSIC BOX" IN EXHIBIT OF CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE

The Macau Museum of Art (MAM), under the Cultural Affairs Bureau, is launching a series of contemporary sculpture exhibitions titled "A Sculpture" this year, aiming to promote the art

development of contemporary sculpture in Macau. The first exhibition of the series "A Sculpture" presents the latest large-scale piece titled "Music Box" by local sculptor Sou Pui Kun.



TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 19, 2016
VENUE: The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814
ORGANIZER: Macau Museum of Art
<http://www.mam.gov.mo>



THURSDAY (MAR 3)
TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

The Collection Exhibition of Tai Fung Tong Art House showcases over 300 items, including precious historical relics dating from the Neolithic Age to the contemporary era. In Calligraphy Classroom Macau calligrapher Choi Chun Heng instructs attendees in the classic skills of traditional Chinese calligraphy. During Chinese New Year holidays, stop by Fai Chun Workshop to write down your best wishes.

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE AND CALLIGRAPHY CLASSROOM
TIME: 2pm-6pm (Closed on Mondays)
ADMISSION: free
VENUE: Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro 7
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626
ORGANIZER: Tai Fung Tong Art House

Sands WEEKEND



I WANT CUBE POP

8pm, 5 March (Saturday)

Cotai Arena

I Want Cube Pop is a testament to the incredible popularity of K-pop around the world, and fans of the upbeat and catchy pop tunes will be treated to an astounding display of vocal talent as well as some truly staggering stage setups.

The now well-known and loved BEAST is one of Korea's most popular groups. 4Minute is a K-pop girl group with five members and each of them is able to dazzle their fans with their own unique talents in as little as four minutes. Seven-member group BTOB is made up of four vocalists and three rappers who come together to create a truly unique experience. A must for all K-pop fans.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD380, call reservations +853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com



JOLIN TSAI <PLAY> WORLD TOUR 2016 - MACAO

8pm, 30 April (Saturday)

Cotai Arena

Pop diva Jolin Tsai has been praised for her use of cutting edge special effects, amazing stage production and spectacular costume designs. The show takes place with an elaborate stage setup that sees Tsai move through a range of costumes and settings, including as Medusa, the Greek mythological character with snakes for hair. The stage also transforms into a Chinese inn, a European-style cabaret and an enchanting underwater world where Tsai dresses as a Mermaid. This is a musical spectacle you won't want to miss.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD280, call reservations +853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com



KUNG FU PANDA 3 MACAO MOVIE PREMIERE

3pm, 5 March (Saturday)

The Venetian Theatre

Lucky Draw Facebook Campaign runs until 28 February.

Win tickets to the biggest and newest comedy adventure of the year KUNG FU PANDA 3 in our great Facebook promotion. In the third part of this hugely popular animated series, Po's long-lost panda father suddenly reappears, the reunited duo travels to a secret panda paradise to meet scores of hilarious new panda characters. But when the supernatural villain Kai begins to sweep across China defeating all the kung fu masters, Po must do the impossible-learn to train a village full of his fun-loving, clumsy brethren to become the ultimate band of Kung Fu Pandas!

Entrants must share the campaign post, tag a friend and comment on why they love the Kung Fu Panda before 28 Feb 2016 23:59.

www.facebook.com/VenetianMacao



MACAU LOVES LOCAL

Daily until 31 March

Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao

Show Your Card And Save!

Simply present your Macao ID at any of our resorts and be instantly rewarded and delighted with extraordinary special offers crafted exclusively for you and your family. From the non-stop thrills of concerts at Cotai Arena, family attractions to relaxing spas and dining at Michelin-starred restaurants. Sands China is giving away over 1,400 free gondola rides and more than 1,000 Shrekfast tickets, and will host a daily lucky draw which includes prizes such as free hotel stays and food and beverage gift vouchers. There are free offers and discounts galore, including deals on Cotai Water Jet.

For details visit www.venetianmacao.com/promotions/macau-loves-locals.html



澳門金沙度假區
Sands
RESORTS
COTAI STRIP MACAO



WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

By Laurie Triefeldt

Matthew Alexander Henson
1866-1955



Arctic tern

Snowshoes

MATTHEW HENSON

Despite several failed attempts, on April 6, 1909, Matthew Henson and Robert Peary, along with four Inuit men, were credited as the first people in history to reach the North Pole.



Henson and Peary's 1909 route to the Pole

Greenland is the world's largest island. It is 81 percent ice-capped. The average temperature of this frozen island is -27°F (-33°C). Greenland is a self-governing province of Denmark; its inhabitants are mostly native Inuits and Danish settlers.

Early days

The son of a farmer, Matthew Henson was born in Charles County, Maryland, in 1866. Both of his parents died by the time Henson was 11 years old. Shortly after that, Henson took to the sea, working as a cabin boy for Captain Childs on a three-masted ship called the Katie Hines. After Captain Childs died, Henson tried his hand at a variety of jobs.

A special friendship

In 1888, while employed as a shop clerk in Washington, D.C., Henson met Robert Peary. They discovered a mutual passion for exploration, and Peary invited Henson to join him on a surveying mission in Nicaragua. From that time on, the two shared expeditions, including seven Arctic voyages.

Vital skills

Hired as Peary's personal assistant, Henson proved himself to be an invaluable member of the polar expedition teams. He was technically savvy and naturally curious. In Greenland, he went out of his way to learn the language of the native people, interacting with them and learning key survival skills, such as dog sledding, hunting and building ice shelters.

Race to the Pole

In the 1870s, the North Pole was as mysterious and unknowable as outer space. Ice fields kept ships from sailing there, and the cold was deadly. Over the years, several explorers from around the world had attempted and failed to reach the pole.

Robert Peary and Matthew Henson were determined to overcome all odds and reach this seemingly unattainable goal.

The expeditions

Henson and Peary shared seven exploratory trips, which took place in the years 1891-92, 1893-95, 1896, 1897, 1898-1902, 1905-06, and 1908-09.

On the first expedition, Peary broke both of his legs. On the second, the team almost starved to death and was forced to eat their sled dogs. During the 1902 attempt, six Inuit team members died due to a lack of supplies.



Robert Edwin Peary
1856-1920



The S.S. Roosevelt was designed to overcome the challenges of sailing through icy waters. Primarily a steam ship, with sails for auxiliary power, it was 184 feet (56 m) long, with a shallow draft of 16 feet (4.8m) and a top speed of 8 knots.

The S.S. Roosevelt

In 1906, captained by Robert Bartlett, the Roosevelt sailed within 174 miles of the North Pole, but ice forced the ship to turn back. In 1908, after repairs, the Roosevelt reached Ellesmere Island, at the edge of what is now the Canadian territory of Nunavut. This is where Henson and Peary launched their final attempt to reach the pole.

The final expedition

In 1909, the expedition team built an igloo base camp, where most of the team would wait while Peary, Henson and four Inuits undertook the final 475-mile trek to the pole. By some accounts, Henson and two Inuits arrived at the pole 45 minutes ahead of Peary, who had frostbitten feet and was traveling at a slower pace. However, as the leader of the expedition and as a white man, Peary received the majority of the credit.

The Inuits

In the spring of 1909, 49 Inuits accompanied Peary and Henson to the shores of the Arctic Ocean — 22 men, 17 women and 10 children.*

Just six men made the last leg of the final journey to the North Pole; Peary, Henson, and four Inuit men: **Oatah, Egingwah, Seegloo and Ookeah.**

* It should be noted that Henson and Peary have been criticized for some of their actions and treatment of the Inuit.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <http://www.matthewhenson.org>; <http://www.biography.com>; <http://www.enchantedlearning.com>; <http://www.u-s-history.com>



King,
a sled dog

In 1909, the polar expedition included 246 sled dogs. 133 of these dogs were used to pull 19 supply sledges for the expedition. Only 40 dogs were taken on the last leg of the journey.



Were they first?

Another adventurous explorer named Frederick Cook claimed to have gotten to the North Pole a year earlier than Henson and Peary. This claim was eventually disproved, and the Peary team was acknowledged to be the first to reach the pole.

Since 1989, several noted explorers and historians have theorized that Henson and Peary did not reach the pole and were probably short by about 60 miles (97 km).

In the end

Whether Henson actually reached the pole is probably not as important as the lessons he has taught us about overcoming obstacles such as racial inequality, poverty and a lack of a formal education. He did this through determination, natural curiosity and perseverance.

Henson received several honors during his lifetime, and others were given after his death in 1955.

Henson became a published author in 1912 with his book, "A Negro Explorer at the North Pole." He was accepted as a member of the Explorers Club and received honorary degrees from Howard University and Morgan College. In 1913, President Taft gave Henson a job in the U.S. Customs House in New York, a position he held until his retirement in 1936. In 1944, Henson was awarded a Congressional medal.

In 1988, Henson's remains were moved from New York City to Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1996, a Navy ship, the USNS Henson, was named for him.

In 2000, the National Geographic Society honored Henson with the Hubbard Medal for distinction in exploration and research.

Chat with the author and like us on Facebook — www.facebook.com/worldofwonder2014