

MOVIES

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INSIDE OSCAR

Community theater, dog shows and old folkies have been satirized by writer-director Christopher Guest and his merry pranksters in "Waiting for Guffman" (1996), "Best in Show" (2000) and "A Mighty Wind" (2003). Now with "For Your Consideration," the Guest stars take aim at the world of Hollywood awards. Co-writer Eugene Levy plays a hapless agent and Harry Shearer, Parker Posey and Catherine O'Hara are the actors in a film called "Home for Purim" who have dreams of gold statues — and egos of glass. The "Consideration" team recently sat with the Daily News to riff away.

'For Your Consideration'
pushes the improv envelope

BY MICHAEL GILTZ

So, if you're ever up for an award, everyone always tells you they voted for you, don't they?

Christopher Guest: Absolutely, they do that.

Eugene Levy: I don't run into a lot of people who get nominated for Oscars...

Harry Shearer: Well, you live at Brad Pitt's pool house.

Levy: He's never home.

Shearer: Good point.

Guest: The irony is that I actually do give medals to people who have worked on [my films]. The first was for "Guffman," I had these medals designed and it just said "For Service." Someone had said, "What do you want, a medal?" And I thought, "Yeah!" It's different for every movie.

Catherine O'Hara: I don't think I ever got one for...

Guest: Of course you did.

Shearer: Uh-oh, it's a medal scandal brewing here.

Being part of an ensemble like this is unusual, isn't it?

Levy: It is, and also fun. And creatively it's very liberating. And the shooting schedule is not long at all.

Shearer: Not long enough.

Guest: This was 27 days, which is less than a conventional movie by ... 90 days.

Parker Posey: On other movies, you wonder, "Am I going to work with a director who's going to have a sense of humor? Are they going to be cruel and unpleasant? Or violent?"

O'Hara: Have you ever worked on something and gotten the sense that you're in the wrong hands?

Shearer: Yes!

O'Hara: It's disillusioning. It's so nice to trust everyone you're acting with, and Chris really does take care of us.

So, no spoofing, the director really does set the tone?

Guest: I take this really seriously, as far as serving the talent of these actors. There's nothing more serious I can do.

Shearer: I always dread in films that the director is going to say, "Okay, one more take. And bigger!" And I know that's the one he's going to use and that's the one that's going to make me look stupid.

Guest: But when I say that, you don't seem to mind ...

Shearer: Well, I know you don't mean it. ♦