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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE  
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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## Oh, Oscar

No, no, no. Pilobolus was not the low point of the evening. It was the HIGH point of the evening. (Perhaps literally.) No other event of similar proportions manages to come up with bizarre, unexpected, laughably awful touches as consistently as the Academy Awards. Nothing in our lifetimes will ever match the surreal spectacle of Rob Lowe dueting with Snow White on "Proud Mary" amidst dancing, twirling tables, of course. But what was producer Laura Ziskin smoking when she decided to invite Pilobolus to the show? How did such a thought even begin to occur to her? Hmm, how can we recreate the logos from those movie posters? Where can we work in some interpretive dance? Don't you just love shadow puppetry?

In any case, Pilobolus had my Oscar party laughing and shaking their heads, guessing the shapes Pilobolus would attempt, delivering mock applause and shaking their heads in delighted confusion over the entire ridiculous spectacle. Nothing makes Oscar as compulsively watchable as absurd moments like that.

THE PRE-SHOW -- It's an all-day affair and I didn't even watch Barbara Walters on DVR. But the highlight of the coverage I did see was the sad spectacle of Jennifer Holliday belting out "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" for E! They gave her a nice buildup, with a story about Holliday being bankrupt and attempting suicide just a few years after "Dreamgirls" ended its run on Broadway. And her actual singing was good, though Holliday has performed the song so many times that she's added in grunts and groans and other tics that at times almost make it unrecognizable. But the staging of it was strange and sad. There was Holliday standing on top of a local hotel in LA, alone except for a cameraman or two and the backing tracks. Down on the street below her were some people, most of whom seemed unaware she was singing. For lengthy stretches of the song, the camera would pull far away from Holliday, showing her tiny and alone. At another point,

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