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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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The IRA Awards: Final Results

Are advancing years mellowing the IRAs? No fistfights, no bitter arguments, just a desperate plea to keep things moving along because some people have to get up in the morning. (For the record, voting lasted from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.) Cruel things were said, of course. Dakota Fanning's talent was battered about like a pinata. A prayer was offered up that Ingmar Bergman would keep his word when he said *Saraband* was his final film. Sarah Silverman was praised and damned (even though Jews don't believe in damnation). And actors Alessandro Nivola of *Junebug*, Kevin Zegers of *Transamerica* and Ashton Holmes of *A History of Violence* were manhandled like sides of beef; lovingly, mind you, but sides of beef nonetheless. Actresses who garnered support of the most basic sort included Maria Bello of *History of Violence*, Alexis Dziena of *Broken Flowers* and Sibel Kekilli of *Head-On*. Perhaps the overall lack of venom was due to strong appreciation for a handful of films: in no special order *My Summer of Love*, *Good Night and Good Luck*, *A History of Violence*, *2046*, *Capote*, and *Tony Takitani* had widespread support. But one film dominated them all. Here are the winners:

BEST PICTURE: *Mysterious Skin*

BEST DIRECTOR: Gregg Araki for *Mysterious Skin*

BEST ACTOR: Joseph Gordon-Levit for *Mysterious Skin*

BEST ACTRESS: Maria Bello for *A History of Violence*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Paddy Considine for *My Summer Of Love*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Catherine Keener for *Capote*, *The 40 Year Old Virgin* and *The Ballad of Jack and Rose* but not *The Interpreter*

BEST SCREENPLAY: Gregg Araki for *Mysterious Skin*

BEST CINEMATOGRPAHY: Robert Elswit for *Good Night and Good Luck* and *Syriana*

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN: William Chang Suk Ping for *2046*

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