

# INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the return of my birthday game!

The game consists of nine individual puzzles, plus a meta puzzle at the end. Each of the nine puzzles will produce the name of someone notable—producer, director, performer—who has won at least one Academy Award. Generally, figuring out how the information produced by solving the puzzle then translates into a name is, itself, a part of the puzzle.

You will need the TV installation on the first floor for the first puzzle. Beyond that, everything is limited to the second and third floors of the museum, excluding the “bonus” exhibit on the second floor that requires a special ticket. Why? Well, there really isn't much of anything in the basement, on floor 1.5 or on floor 5. And the exhibit on floor 4 only opened a few days ago, so there wasn't time for me to work with it.

On a related note, there are a lot of “multimedia” displays in the museum. The only time you need to watch a TV is to complete the first puzzle. Otherwise, all clues are non-video.

Everything in the entire game can be answered solely using information in the museum. That said, that might not always be the most efficient option. In particular, it is entirely acceptable to use cell phones. Or, of course, your own knowledge of film.

On that note, the third, sixth, and ninth puzzles are the ones that are most “museum independent.” That is to say, if you want to sit for a few minutes, all three of those are very doable without any walking around.

For the second and fourth quarter of every hour (i.e., from :15 to :30 and from :45 to :00), I will be sitting in the alcove at the end of the second floor (where we are starting the game). For the other two quarters of the hour, I will wander around the first, second, and third floors. I'm happy to give a hint, if you happen to bump into me during the “wandering” quarter-hours, or if you want to take the time to come speak to me during the “sitting” quarter-hours. You can have one hint every 15 minutes, if you choose to take advantage. I'm also happy to answer questions, of course.

Also, on that note, please let me know ASAP if you think an error has been made. I've triple- and quadruple-checked everything, but there are literally hundreds of different bits of information here, and one mistake always seems to slip through. If I discover an error, I will immediately send out an advisory via text message.

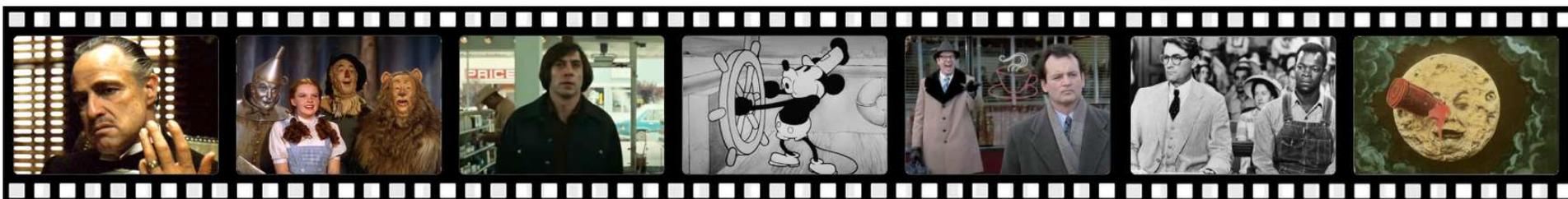
You have three hours from the start time. That means a finish time of \_\_\_\_\_.

Have fun!

# SCRATCH PAPER

1

The televisions on the first floor play 15-minute reels of movie history highlights. All of the movies below are part of the presentations, but in seven cases I have swapped out the museum's chosen scene with a very different scene from the same movie. Use the titles of the seven switches in order to solve the puzzle. Note that there are two sets of three double-sided screens, one set on each side of the smoke-gray plexiglas. You can use either set; each set shows the same six reels (actually five, because one just shows the title of the installation). Note also that each movie only shows up once across the six screens, so if you see a scene from one of these 21 movies, and it's not the one you see here, well...



THE GODFATHER

THE WIZARD OF OZ

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

STEAMBOAT WILLIE

GROUNDHOG DAY

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

A TRIP TO THE MOON



HOME ALONE

PULP FICTION

STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN

ROYAL WEDDING

ERASERHEAD

STAR WARS, EPISODE IV: A NEW HOPE

DR. STRANGELOVE



DIE HARD

LA-LA LAND

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

THE BLUES BROTHERS

GHOSTBUSTERS

THE SHINING

WAYNE'S WORLD

GOAT  
DECKS  
DING  
THIEF  
UM  
SACK  
CAD  
RESENTED  
CUSSED  
FEE  
TRYST

TOOTHY  
CAR  
MOVE  
HEARST  
NUMB  
TOURS  
DUMMY  
TOO  
DUMB,  
US  
TWIN

DISS  
DISUSED  
EASE.  
WON  
BIRTH  
OWN  
UH  
HYMN,  
BITE  
HEARS  
HER.

PLAYA'  
FORK  
LOO  
INK  
RE..  
LEA  
WARRED  
ASP  
THEE  
BAH  
WAT

FIN  
GAS  
CAT  
CALL  
THE  
ACK  
WASP  
HER  
PRIX  
STACK  
SURNAME?




3

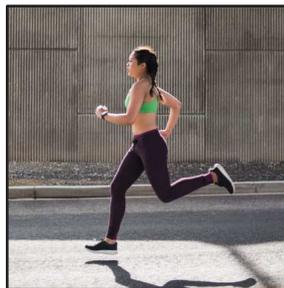
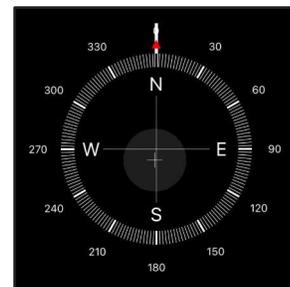
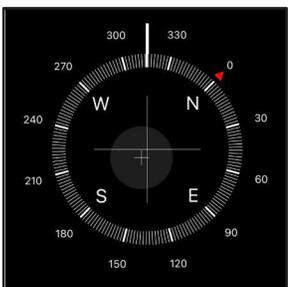
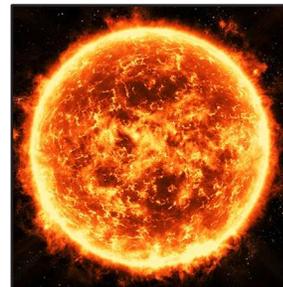
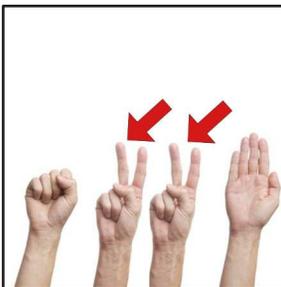
These 24 images resolve into the names of 12 well-known films (two images per film). Half of the titles are exactly two words; for the remainder, the additional words are provided on the answer sheet on back. It is possible to complete this without the museum, but if you need help, each film is represented in the museum by at least one physical object used in its production.



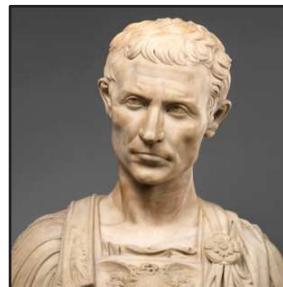
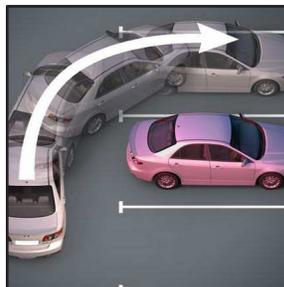
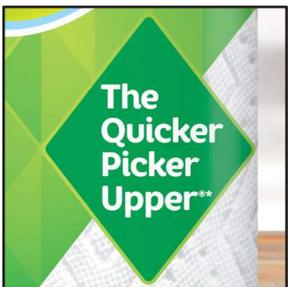
Palaeogene

Cretaceous

????????



Revolutionary  
Civil  
Iraq



**1** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_!

**7** \_\_\_\_\_

**2** The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**8** \_\_\_\_\_

**3** \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

**9** \_\_\_\_\_

**4** The \_\_\_\_\_

**10** \_\_\_\_\_

**5** \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_

**11** \_\_\_\_\_

**6** \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

**12** \_\_\_\_\_

After you know the titles of all the films, put them in alphabetical order. The answer to this puzzle is the name of the actor who was nominated for an Academy Award for playing a Christian in the eighth film on the alphabetized list. (Disregard the other two actors who were nominated for the same film.)

**4** Each statement on the left describes exactly three of the films listed on the right. The job here is to figure out which film among the 31 listed is not included in any of the 10 categories. The answer to the puzzle is the name of the person who directed that film. Note that this puzzle relies exclusively on one (relatively small) area of the museum.

1. Film's Academy Award-winning screenplay was written by a blacklisted screenwriter

2. Film had an acting nominee under the age of 12

3. First film to win in a newly established category

4. Not in English, but nominated for Best Picture

5. Notable firsts for minority winners

6. One of the winners for the film refused their Academy Award

7. There was a tie for one of the Academy Awards won by the film

8. Vietnam War film

9. Won Best Picture in a year where the ceremony had to be altered in some way due to world events

10. Won exactly nine Academy Awards

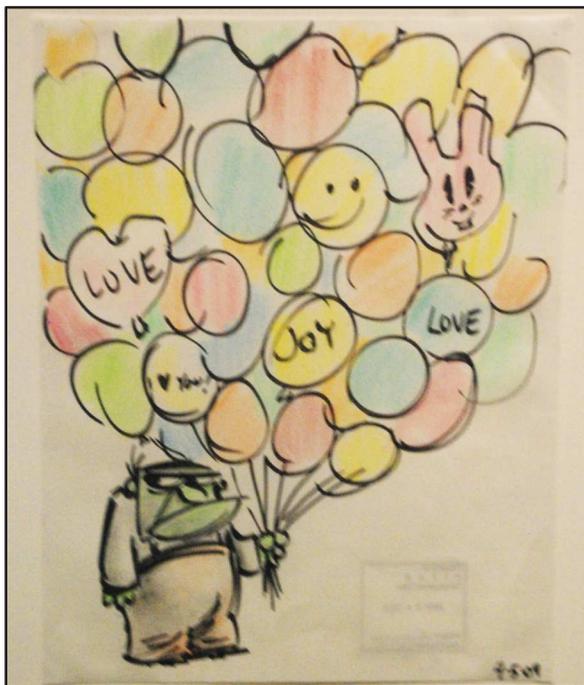
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beasts of the Southern Wild
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Bridge on the River Kwai
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Champ
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chicago
- \_\_\_\_\_ Coming Home
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Deer Hunter
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Defiant Ones
- \_\_\_\_\_ The English Patient
- \_\_\_\_\_ Funny Girl
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gigi
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Godfather
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gone With the Wind
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Illusion
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hearts and Minds
- \_\_\_\_\_ In the Heat of the Night
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Informer
- \_\_\_\_\_ It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World
- \_\_\_\_\_ It's a Wonderful Life
- \_\_\_\_\_ Kramer vs. Kramer
- \_\_\_\_\_ La Strada
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Last Emperor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinary People
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paper Moon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parasite
- \_\_\_\_\_ Patton
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roman Holiday
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Rose Tattoo
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shrek
- \_\_\_\_\_ Skyfall
- \_\_\_\_\_ West Side Story
- \_\_\_\_\_ Z

**5**

Each of these photos was taken somewhere in the museum, and, to keep things reasonable, each pair appears in close proximity to each other. To solve this puzzle, you need **ONLY** the words underneath the image in each pair that I have altered in some way.



She won



He won



an Academy Award for directing



an Academy Award for Best Actor/Best Actress

THE FUTURE OF  
CINEMA IS  
BLACK,  
FEMALE,  
AND QUEER

— Whoopi Goldberg

Actor

In the 1930s, the year before

THE FUTURE OF  
CINEMA IS  
IN LIVING COLOR

— DeVon Franklin

Film Executive

In the 1950s, the year after



a film based on a Shakespeare play



a Western

## CINEMATOGRAPHY

A cinematographer, also known as a director of photography, is an artist whose canvas is the screen. They are responsible for visualizing and making artistic and technical decisions that bring the director's cinematic vision to life. The cinematographer oversees the camera, grip, and electric departments to execute a movie's visual elements. These include lighting, framing, composition, camera motion, camera angles, film stock and camera selection, lens choices, depth of field, color, exposure, and filtration. The cinematographer closely collaborates with the director, production designer, costume designer, visual effects supervisor, and makeup artists to conceptualize and realize the movie's visual style and the meaning of its imagery.

earned a Best Actor and a Best Director nomination for its star

## EDITING

A movie's editor plays an important creative role in the moviemaking process. The editor works with raw footage to combine shots into sequences that, when linked together, create a motion picture. Traditionally, editors used razors and tape when manipulating thousands of feet of film stock. Today, they tend to work digitally, utilizing computers and editing software. Editors creatively weave image, story, dialogue, music, and performance into a layered composition to produce an engaging whole.

won an Academy Award thanks to a write-in campaign

**6**

Below are lines taken from extremely negative reviews of Best Picture–winning films, courtesy of rottentomatoes.com. Match the negative review with the correct film. What you need, in particular, is the very last letter of the given quote.

"The heartwarming story of how a bitter old Jewess learns to not be such a bitch to a patient Negro."

"The movie's vision blurs the man and, incidentally, the just war around him."

"It's daring in that it sympathizes with a protagonist who's a pederast."

"America's loss of innocence as filtered through the eyes of an innocent—that's the theme of this plodding, heavy-handed parable."

"Unlike the domestic spy thriller of the 1970s, today's CIA apologist thriller does not reveal how official truth is an illusion."

"My main issue with [TITLE] is not with the film itself, but rather with its legacy. The romantic dynamic between [ACTRESS] and [ACTOR] is cliché and the horrors of the Nazis are not displayed at the level they should be. It is held as an all-time great film, but in reality, the movie is no better than your average drama."

"[DIRECTOR] set out to make this particular film rather than a gritty social panorama along the lines of Brazilian favela drama 'City of God.' But keeping us cheerful takes the edge off the tougher insights into India."

"The important issues raised by the film—centered on the cultural, racial and moral struggle that took place on the American frontier—are glossed over in favor of a juvenile fantasy of male bonding around the campfire."

"I spent three dreary hours with this film. I would have gained for more insight from, say, a documentary about the hajj."

"Like all the other installments in the saga, [TITLE] is part of a good movie, but only mediocre on its own."

"Interpreting the tragedy as a tale of two people who find love a bit late in the day sounds fine in theory. But what about the many hundreds who simply found death?"

"Despite its big battle scenes and epic craftsmanship, [DIRECTOR]'s [TITLE] lacks the spirit and the true heart of a legendary epic; revisit 'Spartacus' and 'Ben-Hur' instead."

"There's no trust here from the director that the audience might be able to fathom the horrors of the Holocaust if the lines between good and bad aren't drawn very, very clearly for them."

\_\_\_\_\_ Dances With Wolves

\_\_\_\_\_ Schindler's List

\_\_\_\_\_ Patton

\_\_\_\_\_ Forrest Gump

\_\_\_\_\_ Gladiator

\_\_\_\_\_ Argo

\_\_\_\_\_ Slumdog Millionaire

\_\_\_\_\_ Titanic

\_\_\_\_\_ American Beauty

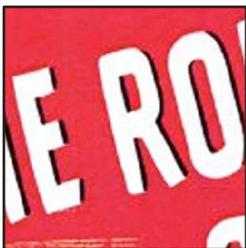
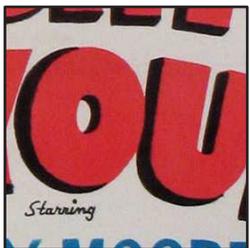
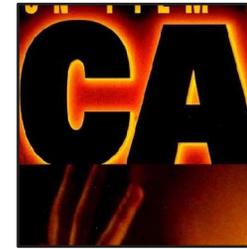
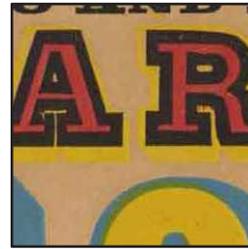
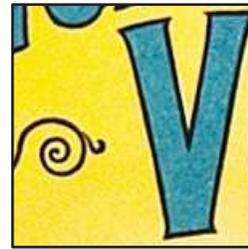
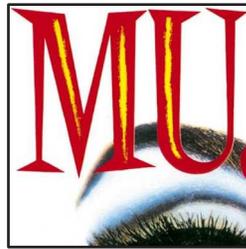
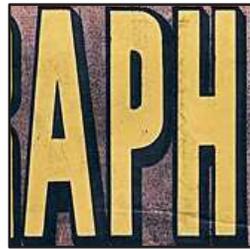
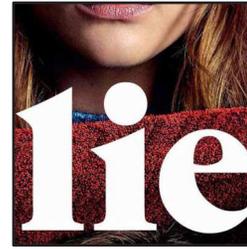
\_\_\_\_\_ Casablanca

\_\_\_\_\_ Lord of the Rings:  
The Return of the King

\_\_\_\_\_ Driving Miss Daisy

\_\_\_\_\_ Lawrence of Arabia

**7** These are (zoomed-in) pictures of posters located around the museum. Your task is to find each poster and take note of the NEXT letter after the one shown in the picture. For example, if one of these images was of the poster for *Gone with the Wind*, and the G-O was visible, then the letter you would write down is 'N.'



Below are 12 statements about film directors. 11 of them are true, and one of them is false. First, you need to figure out which of the statements is the false one. The answer to the puzzle is the name of the director that, if substituted in, will make the false statement true.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. "The Wizard of Oz" had, at one point or another, six different directors: **Norman Taurog**, **Richard Thorpe**, **George Cukor**, **Victor Fleming**, **King Vidor** and **Mervyn LeRoy**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **Spike Lee** was the jury president for the 74th annual Cannes International Film Festival.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. In 1977, **Line Wertmuller** became the first woman to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Director.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. One of this museum's most prized objects is still in existence because **Orson Welles** was happy with the second take of the scene in which the object was destroyed. Consequently, the third of three identical props made for that scene survived intact.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **Oscar Micheaux** was so offended by the 1915 film "The Birth of a Nation" that he directed a 1920 response that promised "a truthful look at U.S. race relations."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. When doing the costuming for his most successful film, **Peter Jackson** insisted that the costume department create 10,000 different masks, each one unique.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. For the only film where **Oliver Stone** directed Woody Harrelson, the screenwriters couldn't decide on the order of scenes in the third act of the film. They kept track of the plot with index cards that said things like "funeral" and "media reaction," so they could easily move things around.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When directing his most successful film, **Robert Zemeckis** fired his lead actor after 5 weeks, forcing the production to effectively start over from scratch.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. **Sidney Lumet** once directed a musical starring, of all people, Michael Jackson and Richard Pryor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. When doing the costuming for his most successful film, **George Lucas** was influenced significantly by a 1927 film from **Fritz Lang**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. **Alfred Hitchcock** was awarded the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award, in 1968—the only Academy Award he ever received.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. **Pedro Almodóvar** says that the directors who have influenced him include **Ingmar Bergman**, **Luis Buñuel**, and **Georges Franju**.

**9** Imagine if Wordle, instead of using five-letter words, used five-letter titles of Academy Award-winning films. Actually, you don't have to imagine it, because here it is. A yellow box means "right letter, wrong location" and a green box means "right letter, right location." I've also noted the most significant Academy Award won by the mystery films (all of them very well known).

S E L M A

K L U T E

□ □ □ □ □

Best Animated Feature

P I P E R

F R I D A

□ □ □ □ □

Best Actress

T E N E T

S H A N E

□ □ □ □ □

Best Sound

K O L Y A

T H O T H

□ □ □ □ □

Best Supporting Actress

Y E N T L

S H I N E

□ □ □ □ □

Best Visual Effects

B A B E L

G L O R Y

□ □ □ □ □

Best Picture

F E A S T

M U N R O

□ □ □ □ □

Best Score

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

# ANSWER SHEET

First up, list the names you got by solving the nine puzzles. Next, the nine names can be organized into three groups; each group won Oscars for the same film. Give those three films. And finally, those three films have something uniquely n common, very much apropos to this museum. What is it?

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## NINE PUZZLE ANSWERS (30 points each):

1 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

8 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

9 \_\_\_\_\_

## THREE FILMS (40 points each):

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMONALITY BETWEEN THE THREE FILMS (50 points):

TEAM MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_