

'Slumdog' far from underdog

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Slumdog Millionaire" continued

Weather Corner

National Weather Service

**Tonight:** Snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 4. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

**Tuesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 20. North wind around 5 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 9. West wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. Breezy, with a west wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16.

**Thursday:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 32.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 15.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 51.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 18.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 49.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 19.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 48.

Friday: High, 31; Low 07  
Saturday: High, 25; Low 07  
Sunday: High, 20; Low 07  
Precip: Friday .Trace  
Saturday 0.00 inches  
Sunday .Trace  
Month: 0.09 inches  
Year: 0.09 inches  
Normal: 0.48 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)

its unlikely rise from low-budget underdog to the highest Hollywood heights, winning the Screen Actors Guild Award for best cast of a motion picture.

The prize, which is tantamount to best picture from the guild, follows top honors at the Golden Globes and the Producers Guild Awards.

On the television side, "30 Rock" swept with wins for comedy series cast, Alec Baldwin and Tina Fey. TV drama honors went to the cast of "Mad Men." Hugh Laurie ("House") and Sally Field ("Brothers & Sisters").

"Slumdog," the story of a teenage orphan from the slums of Mumbai who becomes the biggest winner ever on India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," has been both a critical and commercial hit. Its victory drew enthusiastic applause from the star-studded crowd at the Shrine Auditorium Sunday night, and it's looking like more of a front-runner than ever as it heads into the Academy Awards on Feb. 22 with 10 nominations, including best picture.

Anil Kapoor, who played the movie's smarmy game show host, spoke on behalf of the "Slumdog" cast and dedicated the honor to the film's many young actors.

"They deserve this award. They set our performances," he said. "It's the children who've done it, not us."

Sean Penn won the lead-actor award for his mesmerizing portrayal of slain gay-rights leader Harvey Milk in "Milk." The notoriously outspoken star opened his acceptance speech by saying: "Thank you and good evening, comrades," sparking laughter. "That was for (Bill) O'Reilly..."

"As actors, we don't play gay, straight. We don't play any of these kinds of people. We play human beings, and this movie is something that we're, all of us involved, are so proud of," he said. "This is a story about equal rights for all human beings."

The lead-female actor award — SAG's version of best actress — went to Meryl Streep for her scenery-chewing turn as a judgmental nun in "Doubt." Streep joked as she took the stage that she didn't even buy a dress for the occasion, stepping away from the podium to reveal a plunging black blouse

and pants.

"Can I just say there is no such thing as the best actress, you know? There is no such thing as the 'greatest living actress.' I am in a position where I have secret information, that I know this to be true," said the Academy Awards record-holder with 15 acting nominations, including one for "Doubt." "I am so in awe of the work of the women this year — nominated, not nominated — so proud of us girls. And everybody wins when we get parts like this."

As expected, Heath Ledger posthumously won the supporting-actor award for his unpredictable turn as the Joker in "The Dark Knight." Ledger, who died a year ago of an accidental drug overdose, drew a standing ovation from his fellow actors. He's already won a Golden Globe for his performance and continues to look unbeatable at the Oscars.

"I'm quite emotional," Ledger's "Dark Knight" co-star Gary Oldman began, speaking in his place. "It is a great honor to be asked to accept this on behalf of Heath. He was an extraordinary young man with an extraordinary talent, and it's wonderful that you have acknowledged that and honored that talent tonight."

Kate Winslet continues to rack up the honors for her supporting performance as a former Nazi concentration camp guard in "The Reader." She has a Golden Globe for the part and is up for lead-actress at the Academy Awards.

Backstage, Winslet said playing Hanna Schmitz was the most challenging role of her career, one that still makes her "breathless and jangly" to discuss.

"When I was asked to play Hanna, I couldn't find anything in my own life that I could compare to. I couldn't relate to her at all. I was so frightened — I've never had that before, where I literally had nothing," she said. "I didn't like her all the time and it was hard coming to a place where I understood her at least. Did I sympathize with her? No. But I had to have an understanding of her."

Meanwhile, among television winners, "30 Rock" continues its awards-show dominance. Fey, creator and star of the series set behind the scenes at a sketch-comedy show, lobbied a wisecrack at Hollywood producers.

Good food for a good cause



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press  
Lana Johnson (left) and Bev Biel served sloppy joes at the Reid Atkins fundraiser Sunday. About 300 people were served at the event. Atkins, a long time resident of Thomas County, is a patient at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, where he is awaiting a bone marrow transplant for non-hodgkins lymphoma.

Emission standards scrutinized

From "EMISSIONS," Page 1

permission to set tougher tailpipe emission standards.

More broadly, Obama sought to show he was not waiting to put his stamp on energy policy, which has both near-term implications on the sagging economy and long-range effects on pollution, climate change and national security.

"Year after year, decade after decade, we've chosen delay over decisive action," Obama said. "Rigid ideology has overruled sound science. Special interests have overshadowed common sense. Rhetoric has not led to the hard work needed to achieve results — and our leaders raise their voices each time there's a spike on gas prices, only to grow quiet when the price falls at the pump."

The Clean Air Act gives California special authority to regulate vehicle pollution because the state began regulating such pollution before the federal government got into the act. But a federal waiver is still required; if the waiver is granted, other states can choose to adopt California's standards or the federal ones.

In 2007 the Bush administration's Environmental Protection Agency denied California's waiver request, gaining praise from the auto industry but touching off a storm of investigations and lawsuits from Democrats and environmental groups who contended the denial was based on political instead of scientific reasons.

Obama on Monday directed the EPA to re-examine the decision. That does not yet overturn anything. But still, the states' wanting their own power considered it a victory.

"The federal government must work with, not against, states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Obama said. He added: "The days of Washington dragging its heels are over. My administration will not deny facts; we will be guided by them."

California's proposed restrictions would force automakers to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent in new cars and light trucks by 2016.

At least 13 other states — Arizona, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon,

Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington — have already adopted California's standards, and they have been under consideration elsewhere, too.

Under California's approach, car makers would need to boost fuel efficiency in new vehicles to about 36.8 miles per gallon in the states that chose to adopt the California standards.

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