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news

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'Whale' of a day at Spirits

'Squid,' 'Capote,' 'Brokeback' up for top honors

By [PAMELA MCCLINTOCK](#)

Samuel Goldwyn Films' offbeat family drama "The Squid and the Whale" picked up six noms to lead all contenders for the 2006 Independent Spirit Awards.



Noms for top films went to 'The Squid and the Whale,' 'Brokeback Mountain,' 'Good Night,' 'Capote' and 'Three Burials.'

Pic joins Focus Features' "Brokeback Mountain," [Sony Pictures Classics](#)' "Capote," [Warner Independent Pictures](#)' "Good Night," and "Good Luck" and SPC's "The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada" in the feature race.

As always, nomination announcements are sure to reignite the debate over what defines an indie film in the age of studio specialty arms, especially given the wide budget range between the films vying for an award. "Squid" cost \$1.5 million to make, while "Brokeback" cost between \$13 million and \$15 million.



Felicity Huffman has been nommed for actress for her turn as a man about to undergo surgery to become a woman in 'Transamerica.'

In an attempt to clarify the process, Film Independent, which administers the awards, set an official budget ceiling this year of \$20 million. Film Independent was formerly IFP/Los Angeles.

Four noms each went to "Brokeback," "Capote," "Good Night" and "Three Burials."

They were followed by "Transamerica," which is being released in the U.S. by the Weinstein Co., and "Nine Lives," distributed by [Magnolia Pictures](#), with three noms apiece.



Among distribs, SPC far outpaced the competition with a combined 12 nominations for "Capote," "The Beautiful Country," "Junebug," "Three Burials" and "Thumbsucker."

"For us, it's a real honor. We haven't tried to become the whole new mini-major package, so it's great to see these movies recognized," said SPC co-president Tom Bernard. "It's a voice that always needs to be encouraged in such a commercial world, and especially in the studio world."

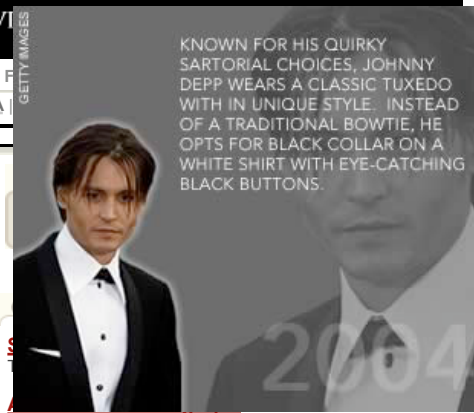
S. Epatha Merkerson anchors HBO's 'Lackawanna Blues.'

Magnolia came in second with seven noms while Focus and WIP tied at six with Goldwyn. [Lions Gate](#) Films picked up four, including a docu nom for Werner Herzog's "Grizzly Man," which didn't make the Oscar short list.

Winners of the Spirit Awards will be named March 4 -- one day before the Oscars -- during a live ceremony that will air on the Independent Film Channel. Nominees were selected from more than 200 submissions.

Writer-director [Noah Baumbach](#), who picked up a screenplay nod for "Squid," shares the directing category with [Ang Lee](#) for "Brokeback," [George Clooney](#) for "Good Night," Gregg Araki for "Mysterious Skin" and [Rodrigo Garcia](#) for "Nine Lives."

"Squid" star [Jeff Daniels](#) shares the male lead category with [Philip Seymour](#)



Robert Koehler | 11/29/2005

KNOWN FOR HIS QUIRKY SARTORIAL CHOICES, JOHNNY DEPP WEARS A CLASSIC TUXEDO WITH IN UNIQUE STYLE. INSTEAD OF A TRADITIONAL BOWTIE, HE OPTS FOR BLACK COLLAR ON A WHITE SHIRT WITH EYE-CATCHING BLACK BUTTONS.

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'Whale' of a day at Spirits

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'Grave,' 'Clouds' triumph in Turin

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JAGUAR

THE GORGEOUS 100

THE BEST OF AWARDS' FASHION

For Variety's Centennial, Variety.com presents its list of the top 100 gorgeous awards fashions. Come back each week as we count down our picks for the most impressive celebrity awards appearances.

30. GWYNETH PALTROW
29. JOHNNY DEPP
28. HUMPHREY BOGART & LAUREN BACALL
27. TONY CURTIS & JANET LEIGH
26. ANJELICA HUSTON
25. WARREN BEATTY & SHIRLEY MACLAINE
24. ROCK HUDSON
23. ALI MCGRAW
22. AVA GARDNER
21. BURT LANCASTER

> VIEW 31-100
 > SEE ICONIC MOMENTS IN CINEMA
 > WONDERFUL MOMENTS IN FILM MUSIC



This isn't a best dressed list that would change as fashions come and go. The choices here reflect the person, the moment, their history, and their style at the Academy Awards.

Don't agree with our choices? Tell us what you think we got right or what we got wrong at [Variety Discussions](#).

LISTEN TO:

- > Preview cinematographer Fred Elmes' perspective on gorgeous.
- > Preview restaurateur/chef Alan Yau's definition of gorgeous.

JAGUAR

[Hoffman](#) ("Capote"), Terrence Howard ("Hustle & Flow"), Heath Ledger ("Brokeback") and David Strathairn ("Good Night").

The female lead category comprises [Laura Linney](#) ("Squid"), Felicity Huffman ("Transamerica"), Dina Korzun ("Forty Shades of Blue," First Look Pictures), S. Epatha Merkerson ("Lackawanna Blues," HBO Films) and Cyndi Williams ("Room," no distrib).

"I got a great message from Laura Linney saying, 'Call me, call me,' " Baumbach said. Linney and [Mark Ruffalo](#) announced the noms for Film Independent at a breakfast in Beverly Hills.

Films picking up double noms included "Lackawanna Blues," "Crash," "Junebug," "Me and You and Everyone We Know," "Room" and HDNet Films' "The War Within."

Continuing its tradition of recognizing emerging filmmakers and producers, Film Independent also announced noms for the IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award, the Truer Than Fiction Award and the AMC/American Express Producers Award.

Herzog's "Grizzly Man" shared the docu category with Alex Gibney's "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room," Scott Dalton and Margarita Martinez's "La Sierra," David Zeiger's "Sir! No Sir!" and Mark Becker's "Romantic," which also picked up a Truer Than Fiction nom.

Missing from the docu category was a nom for WIP's box office hit "March of the Penguins." WIP did make the foreign film category with "Paradise Now."

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