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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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The IRA's 2008: An Historic Sweep

The 2008 IRA Awards have just been announced and it's an historic, perhaps record-setting sweep for one of the year's most acclaimed but overlooked movies.

The IRAs is an annual get-together of movie buffs that was launched by college friends 32 years ago as a counter to the more mundane Oscars. These are film fanatics who go to Film Forum and Anthology Archives and film festivals throughout America and around the world. Members have won major Oscars and worked on Oscar-winning Best Picture winners, they've written acclaimed and best-selling Hollywood biographies like Ed Sikov's Dark Victory: The Life Of Bette Davis, the definitive Oscar book (indeed the definitive awards book) Inside Oscar, worked at major magazines and newspapers covering the industry, worked at major studios and in the independent film industry or in my case just schlepped around as a freelancer and watched a lot of movies year in and year out. In other words, IRA members range from major players to avid fans.

So here are this year's winners followed by the balloting as it happened with all the top vote-getters listed and the Bronx cheers at the end of Sominex and Dramamine movies (those that put us to sleep or made us sick) and Mechanical Actor and Actress.

BEST PICTURE: The Assassination of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford

BEST DIRECTOR: Andrew Dominik - *The Assassination of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford*

BEST ACTOR: Casey Affleck - The Assassination of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford

BEST ACTRESS: Marina Hands - Lady Chatterley

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Paul Schneider - *The Assassination of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford, Lars and the Real Girl.*

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