

GIRLHACKER'S RANDOM LOG

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Oscar Goody/Goodie/Gift Bags 2004

Here at last are the results of a week of research. Contents of the coveted official Oscar gift bags are not publicized by the powers that be who run the Oscars. Companies that contribute gifts often put out press releases, though this year the Oscar folks ordered them to stay mum until February 23rd. One good source of discovering the more unique items are local news stories about shops in town who have been asked to contribute items. Case in point, I'm still trying to find the actual gift behind a cryptic Wisconsin TV news teaser advertising an interview with "a Wisconsin man who made a product that will be in all Oscar star's goody bags." Complicating the list compilation are the "unofficial" bags and gifts that are given out to the celebrities by other companies. These items are often mixed in with the official gift bag reports. Here first is a selection of these "other" bags.

Buzz Bags is a company that puts together gift bags, and thus they are creating their own buzz by hand-delivering loot valued at \$12,000 to this year's Best Actor/Actress and Best Supporting Actor/Actress nominees. They're certainly not shy about the vast list of contributors to their bag; you can read the lengthy list on their home page. Included are a consultation with a hair restoration surgeon, African safari, hands on dim sum instruction, and a 50th Anniversary Collector's Edition PEZ dispenser.

Revlon is handing out a "Red Carpet Bag" full of their products, valued at \$2,500. It will be given to this year's nominees "on the red carpet" as well as to presenters and other celebrity style setters. So keep an eye out when you're walking down that red carpet!

Distinctive Assets, another company that puts together gift bags, and Caesars Palace teamed up to create a gift bag for losers. That's right, only the nominees in the six major categories who don't win a statue get to go home with this bag of goodies valued at \$32,000. The main feature is, of course, a trip to Caesars Palace with plenty of perks and gift certificates to smooth away the sorrow of losing the Oscar. A unique addition are one-of-a-kind mosaics made of painted eggshells placed on small wooden boxes, created by Kansas artist Sherril Lindsay.

And now here's what I've culled from a week of searching the wires for those press releases and news reports. It's likely that some of these items are not in the official bag but got mixed up in news articles. Also, I'm certain this is not a complete list. If you saw the aforementioned TV show in Wisconsin, drop me a line. Heck, if you got an official gift basket, drop me a line!

a Victoria's Secret jewelled pink bra-and-panty set with a detachable diamond brooch, fragrances, and other items worth \$7,000 for Best Actress nominees

a coupon for laser eye surgery

gold accented Havaianas flip flops

Manolo Blahnik leather "My Shoes for the Weekend" bag, with pouches sized perfectly for three pairs of Manolos. It comes with matching suede sandals

Hermes cashmere shawl/blanket

La Grande Dame Veuve Cliquot champagne

pair of Baccarat crystal earrings or crystal lighter

Baccarat champagne flutes

Estee Lauder products, including a "crystal glow" sugar rub and a "calming body spray", plus spa treatments for recipient and a guest

round-trip tickets to anywhere Song Airways flies

Crest Whitening Expressions toothpaste

Kiehl's gift set, value \$500

"the ultimate HDTV package": VOOH high-definition satellite and 12 months of programming service as well as a 43-inch

Samsung DLP HDTV. Value: \$6,000

Peacock Black Pearl Collection gift set including an 18-inch necklace, seven-inch bracelet, and stud earrings, from

PearlParadise.com.

"Canadian Adventure" package:

-a one-night stay at Whistler Platinum

-a day of skiing on Whistler Blackcomb

-helicopter transfer between Vancouver and Whistler

-private tour of Canada's premier family-owned winery, Mission Hill Family Estate

-three nights at Opus Hotel in Yaletown, Vancouver

-dinner at Elixir restaurant

http://www.girlhacker.com/2004_02_01_archive.html

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Sherril Lindsay's "Oscar® Boxes" are mentioned on girlhacker.com, February 27, 2004