Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama

Winner: Leonardo DiCaprio – The Revenant

Acceptance Speech:

LEONARDO DICAPRIO: Wow. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. What an incredible honor. Wow, that meant a lot. Thank you so much. Thank you to the HFPA and to the other fantastic performances in this category. You guys were unbelievable. What a terrific year in film. Two years ago we found ourselves submerged deep in nature with all of its complications and all the beauty that it gave us cinematically. This film was about survival. It was about adaptation. It was about the triumph of the human spirit. But more than anything, it was about trust. And there’s no one more deserving of that trust than our director Alejandro Iñárritu. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this journey with you. Your leadership, your vision, your acute attention to making every day so visceral and real for us, I’ve never had an experience like this in my entire life. The depths to which he and Chivo and the entire crew went through was unfathomable. I really want to thank the actors that I got to stand shoulder to shoulder with in this film, in particular my good friend Tom Hardy, who was a beast and unbelievable talent who was there every single day, who I know in real life would never bury me alive and leave me out in the cold to die like that. My make–up artist, Sean Grigg, you’re an unbelievable talent. Thank you for all the genius you brought to this movie. I have to thank all the people involved in making this film: Mary Parent, Steve Golin, Brad Weston, Jim Gianopulos. But Arnon Milchan, there is no one in this industry that would stick with a film like this to its bitter end. You are the champion of this film. My entire team: Jen, Sean, Rick, Steve, Gretchen. Rick, thank you for pushing me constantly to make choices like this. My parents, I love you dearly. My friends, you know who you are. And lastly, I want to share this award with all the First Nations people represented in this film and all the indigenous communities around the world. It is time that we recognize your history and that we protect your indigenous lands from corporate interests and people that are out there to exploit them. It is time that we heard your voice and protected this planet for future generations. Thank you very much.

Backstage Interview:

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