

2008 Academy Awards

A red carpet report

By Samantha Stransky

This year's 80th annual Academy Awards sent out waves of disappointment to its mere 32 million viewers, a 20% drop from the previous year. ABC and producers were unsure of whether there was even going to be a full production until the writers strike was resolved on February 12, leaving producers in a frenzy to fill up space with last minute planning and marketing. Critics say there was a lack of humorous sketches and it was crammed with movie clips from not only this year's nominees but even dating back to 1929.

However, despite the failure to launch a successfully entertaining awards ceremony, the red carpet dazzled in red - celebrities put the 'red' back into the red carpet along with the one-shoulder dress. Ranging from all different age groups, red seemed to be the color of choice this year.

The 15-year old Miley Cyrus donned a Valentino gown from his latest collection, a stunner, although it looked a little too ladylike on Cyrus. Anne Hathaway's Marchesa gown gave the one shoulder look a front seat on the fashion train, the sculpted rosettes on the shoulder exuded elegance. A pregnant Jessica Alba wowed her audience in a plum Marchesa gown and added some spark with gold bangles. Another girl who always seems to pull off perfection, Katherine Heigl, radiated in her fiery red custom-made Escada one-shoulder gown. Heidi Klum, mother of two, looked glamorous as ever in her silk taffeta piece by Galliano. Helen Mirren glimmered in her deep red Georges Chakra gown with flower-detailed Swarovski sleeves and studded clutch. Ruby Dee, at 83, could have given a 25 year old a run for her money in her vibrant red gown that was accentuated with a belt and tailored jacket.



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continued

Asymmetrical necklines are back and in full red carpet spotlight. Hilary Swank was ultra feminine in her Atelier Versace dress. Amy Ryan gave sleek a new meaning in her Calvin Klein gown. Newcomer Olivia Thirlby, from Juno, dazzled in her molded taffeta gown. Pride and Prejudice star Rosamund Pike beamed in her peplum-skirted yellow dress with a '40s vibe that was designed by Roland Mouret. And last but not least, Diane Lane gave us another reason to love chocolate. She looked marvelous in her chocolate brown number.

Fashion hits and misses aside; the Academy Awards mostly have what it takes to make a memorable evening.

Sources

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