

RED CARPET RECAP

Sunday night's Academy Awards Show was different, to say the least. I liked the setting at Union Station in LA. The producers did a good job of making the best of an awkward situation. But every time they cut to the few people scattered around the nearly empty Dolby Theater (where the show is traditionally held) it just seemed pointless.

I'm not announcing the winners of the Immie (Image Matters) awards because that too seems pointless. There were very few stars in attendance and even fewer "looks" worth mentioning. Instead, I'll share some general comments from an image consultant's point of view.

The show opened with Regina King strutting the red carpet outside Union Station and working her way through the audience to the podium. I loved her gown, I loved her attitude. She looked good and she knew it. She owned the walkway and the stage. Her attitude said "I am a star and I know it." Her baby blue gown was by Louis Vuitton and featured a structured "butterfly wing" shoulder and crystal and pearl embellishments. The extreme shoulder detail stopped just short of "too much" and was the perfect combination of drama and style. Her blunt cut hair was also perfect for the dress. A gown with a very architectural design, as hers was, requires a dramatic hair style. If her hair had been soft and curly it would not have worked.

Her opening remarks became political and although I might sympathize with her emotion, I don't want to hear it at the Oscars. I prefer our entertainers stick to entertaining rather than preaching.



Speaking of remarks, the best speech of the evening came at the end when Frances McDormand took home the Oscar for Best Actress. Her comments were brief and to the point but she got her message across No point in commenting on her gown or hair and makeup. Frances is not a style icon and has no desire to be. Her "look" was no look at all.

Several stars wore red. I wasn't a fan of any of them. Angela Bassett's red gown by Alberta Ferretti also featured a dramatic structured shoulder but unlike Regina's gown, Angela's gown went over the top. She appeared to be ready to take off at any moment.



Gold was another color seen multiple times. One was a Valentino midriff-baring gown worn by Carey Mulligan. The gown itself was gorgeous; it just didn't belong on Carey. She is much too thin for such a heavy gown and especially one that exposed her jutting collar bones and painfully thin upper arms. This dress would have looked fabulous on someone with a curvier figure.



Two stars wore royal blue. One did so in a stunning manner; the other didn't show as well. Fashion is about knowing when and how to take a risk. H.E.R. (winner for Best Song) took a risk, wrapped in a sheer ensemble by Dundas. Her hooded cape was bordered in embellished lyric motifs over a matching halter neck, flared leg jumpsuit with cutout waist panels and lyric motif on the cuffs and collar. It was unique and it worked for her.

Glenn Close, also in royal blue, also took a risk by adding black pants and gloves to her tunic dress - and it bombed. It was just odd. If the dress were full-length and if she had left the gloves and leggings at home it would have been much more flattering.





So that's my recap. I'm sure many of my readers have differing opinions and that's great. What makes fashion fun is personal choice. The 2021 Oscars was an odd presentation and at times difficult to watch. I tried to make the best of what I saw in this newsletter. Hope you enjoyed the comments.

i **IMAGE**
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