

'Up in the Air' wins NBR best picture

George Clooney, Morgan Freeman share acting honors

By Gregg Kilday

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Jason Reitman's comic drama "Up in the Air" cruised to new altitudes Thursday as the New York-based National Board of Review named it best film of the year. It also picked up three other trophies: Best actor for George Clooney, who shared the award with Morgan Freeman of "Invictus"; best supporting actress for Anna Kendrick; and best adapted screenplay for Reitman and Sheldon Turner.

The South African-set drama "Invictus" also figured prominently. In addition to the nod to Freeman, it earned Clint Eastwood best director honors.



Carey Mulligan was named best actress for her turn as a spirited British schoolgirl just beginning to taste London's swingin' sixties in "An Education."

Woody Harrelson was named best supporting actor for his performance as a soldier charged with notifying families of their loved ones' deaths in "The Messenger."

The group also doled out breakthrough performance awards to Jeremy Renner for "The Hurt Locker" and Gabourey Sidibe for "Precious," and bestowed an ensemble cast award on the upcoming marital comedy "It's Complicated," starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin.

Pixar's "Up" was hailed as best animated film, while "The Cove," which exposes the abuse of dolphins, was selected as best documentary.

Joel and Ethan Coen took home the best original screenplay award for "A Serious Man." The NBR announced three Spotlight Awards for best director debut, going to Duncan Jones for "Moon," Oren Moverman for "The Messenger" and Marc Webb for "(500) Days of Summer."

A Special Filmmaking Achievement Award was set aside for Wes Anderson for his stop-motion animated "The Fantastic Mr. Fox."

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