Winners Conference: Leading Actress

16 February 2014

Blue Jasmine

Q. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the winner of the BAFTA for leading actress for Blue Jasmine, Cate Blanchett. Cate Blanchett! Congratulations.

CATE BLANCHETT: Thank you. Thank you.

Q. So Cate, this is your third BAFTA and there’s a countless number of awards you have won for Blue Jasmine. Where are they all going to go? Do you have a place in your house?

A. In the attic.

Q. It is heaving. It will collapse?

A. Yes, we can only hope.

Q. I just wanted to talk about your speech, because it was a beautiful heartfelt tribute to Philip Seymour Hoffman, and can you talk about that, where it came from for you?

A. I don’t think I am alone in the room, having been profoundly influenced by Phil and his body of his work, but also who he was as a person. He was the most extraordinary friend to so many people and his influence, I think, has -- I mean, time will tell just how deep it was.

If I could be half the actor he was in his unfortunately short life, I will be very happy.

NEW SPEAKER: You have been in some of the biggest films of all time, and I think --

A. For about seven seconds. It is not ...

NEW SPEAKER: Well, you have done lots of films.

A. Yes, anyway.

NEW SPEAKER: Unlike a lot of actresses in Hollywood, I don’t feel like I know that much about you as a person --

A. Isn’t that lovely? Isn’t it refreshing?

NEW SPEAKER: I was going to say, is it a conscious decision to sort of stay out, keep your private life completely separate and just be known as an actress, rather than as a celebrity?

A. Well, I think the room is full of -- tonight is not -- it is not a celebration of celebrity, it is a celebration of people who actually do things. I would like to think that I am a person
who actually does something. But no, it is not a conscious decision. I think it is a good rule of thumb to not really say anything unless you have got something to say.

NEW SPEAKER: When you get the call from Woody Allen saying: hey, come and be in my movie, as an actress how does that make you feel when you get that call?

A. It was incredibly unexpected. I have been working in the theatre, running the Sydney Theatre Company with my partner Andrew Upton for the last six years I kept saying to my agent, Hylde Queally that I did not necessarily think that I had a film career to return to.

That time had been incredibly creatively fulfilling, but actress years are frightfully short and so I was very taken aback and very surprised -- very pleasantly surprised -- to get the call. And then to be handed such an extraordinary script, because it is a really remarkable screenplay, it was a gift, really.