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NEWSROOM

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## Getting into the Oscar and indie spirit

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**AWARDS ALERT.** With the Oscars on the Horizon, it's time for the too-cool "Independent Spirit Awards" (live today at 5 p.m., repeats tonight at midnight and tomorrow at 12:15 and 4 p.m., IFC; also tonight at 10 p.m., AMC). Indie fave Steve Coogan of "Tropic Thunder" and "Hamlet 2" hosts from Santa Monica, Calif. Contenders include "The Wrestler," "Ballast," "Rachel Getting Married," "Frozen River" and "Milk." Get a jump with the "Spirit Awards Nomination Special" (today at 4:30 p.m., IFC). Awards info at [spiritawards.com](http://spiritawards.com).

**OSCARS EVERYWHERE.** Yes, even the vintage swingfest "The Lawrence Welk Show" (tonight at 6, WLIW/21) offers a musical tribute to the Academy Awards. The 2009 soiree inspires lots of current-day chatter, too, including "Movie Mob" (today at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Reelz), "Academy Awards Preview" (today at 4 and 9 p.m., TV Guide Network), "Reel Talk" (tonight at 7, WNBC/4), and "The Road to Gold" (tonight at 7 and tomorrow at 5 a.m., WABC/7). Oscar afternoon revs up with "Countdown to the Red Carpet" (tomorrow 2-6 p.m., E!) and "Countdown to the Academy Awards" (tomorrow 3-6 p.m., TV Guide). Welcoming the stars to tomorrow's 8:30 p.m. live telecast are Ryan Seacrest's "Live From the Red Carpet" (tomorrow 6-8 p.m., E!) and Lisa Rinna and Joey Fatone's "Live at the Academy Awards" (tomorrow 6-8 p.m., TV Guide). There are also the official pre and post shows: "The Arrivals" (tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.), "Oscars Red Carpet 2009" (tomorrow at 8 p.m.), and "An Evening at the Academy Awards: The Winners" (Sunday night at 1:05 a.m., all on ABC/7). The actual Oscarcast starts at 8:30 p.m. on Ch. 7.

**NOT 'MACGRUBER.'** Is there anything more fun to watch for 24 hours than Richard Dean Anderson saving the world with string and paper clips on "MacGyver" (tomorrow 6 a.m.-Monday 6 a.m., Sleuth)? If nothing else, this '80s action fave helps explain those Pepsi parody commercials. Full schedule at [sleuthchannel.com/Series](http://sleuthchannel.com/Series).

**IS A LATE-NIGHT GIG REALLY WORTH THIS?** Pity the poor new host of NBC's "Late Night." Jimmy Fallon actually helps "make Choucroute in Martha's big copper pot" on "The Martha Stewart Show" (Monday at 11 a.m., WNBC/4), all to promote his March 2 takeover of Conan O'Brien's old seat. Or watch Jimmy's rehearsal Webcasts at [latenightwithjimmyfallon.com](http://latenightwithjimmyfallon.com).

**LOTS OF 'LEVERAGE.'** The previous 12 episodes of "Leverage" (Tuesday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., TNT) lead into 10 p.m.'s first-season finale of the crooks-scamming-bigger-crooks drama starring Timothy Hutton and a cast of hotties. Get leveraged at [tnt.tv/series/leverage](http://tnt.tv/series/leverage).

**MARDI GRAS IN BLACK & WHITE.** Turns out segregation lives on annually at the big party in Mardi Gras' birthplace of Mobile. The "Independent Lens" documentary "The Order of Myths" (Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., WLIW World) probes how, 300 years later, the Alabama city's separate-but-equal festivities keep reopening old racial wounds. Fascinating background at [pbs.org/independentlens/orderofmyths](http://pbs.org/independentlens/orderofmyths).

**NEWBOS.** Don't know what that means? Find out in "NEWBOS: The Rise of America's New Black Overclass" (Thursday at 9 p.m., CNBC), profiling self-made multimillionaires like LeBron James, Terrell Owens, Kirk Franklin and other moneyed celebs. More at [blackoverclass.cnbc.com](http://blackoverclass.cnbc.com).

**RAIDERS OF THE LOST LANGUAGES.** Forget arks, temples and skulls. Some dying tongues are even harder to find. That's a job for "The Linguists" (Friday at 10 a.m., WLIW World), a pair of scientist-adventurers who waded through cultural chaos to document languages on the verge of extinction. Video preview at [thelinguists.com](http://thelinguists.com).

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