

'The Revenant' gains critical acclaim, 12 Oscar nominations

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

"The Revenant" is a great story adaptation that has a lot to offer as a film, but is it deserving of its 12 nominations for the 88th Oscars?

In this movie, we follow a group of fur trappers in 1823. After a disastrous raid by Native Americans, the survivors of the camp are forced to flee in to wilderness. Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio) is a guide who means to lead what remains of the group back to a frontier fort. While scouting ahead alone, Hugh Glass is mauled by a bear in one of the most gripping and overwhelming scenes in the movie. His compatriots do their best mend his numerous gaping wounds, but ultimately are forced to abandon him. Glass faces only sorrow and hardship from then on. What follows is the harrowing tale of the man who died and came back, The Revenant.

The story is truly gripping and overwhelming at times, but what has this 135 million dollar picture done to deserve nominations for Leading Role, Director, Cinematography, and ultimately Best Picture?

DiCaprio shows his excellence in his craft once again with this movie. What are otherwise rather flat and one dimensional characters are made endearing through superb performances by both DiCaprio and Hardy.

I think their performance was helped by director Inarritu's decision to shoot entirely on-location. The entire movie is shot using only the natural light available, making for a challenging and limited conditions on set. As far as cinematography is concerned, someone certainly carefully crafted the experience for the viewer. Imagine a shot of a mountain overlaid with the belabored breath of the protagonist; with each breath, the clouds grow around the peak. This is followed by a

match cut of wisp of smoke trailing off a pipe of a separate group. It's difficult to call Best Picture in any year, but The Revenant has a lot going for it.

If Revenant wins all 12 nominations, it will set a new record. The current top Oscar movies of all time are "Ben-Hur," "The Titanic," and "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King," which all tie with 11 Oscars each.

By all counts, "The Revenant" is a good movie that makes great use of the medium of film to create a work of art. This is one of the few movies, in our spectacle driven world, that I left without complaint.

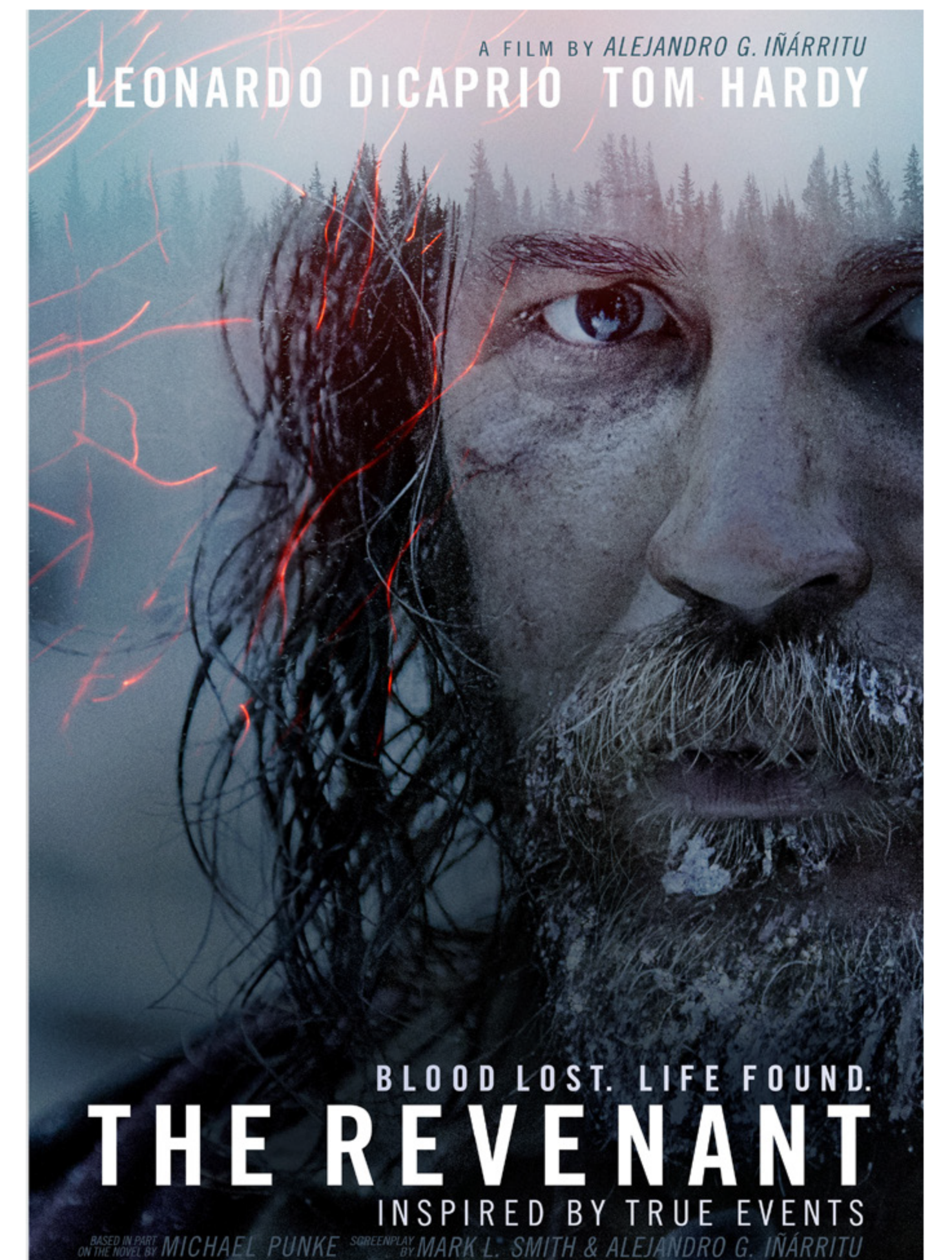
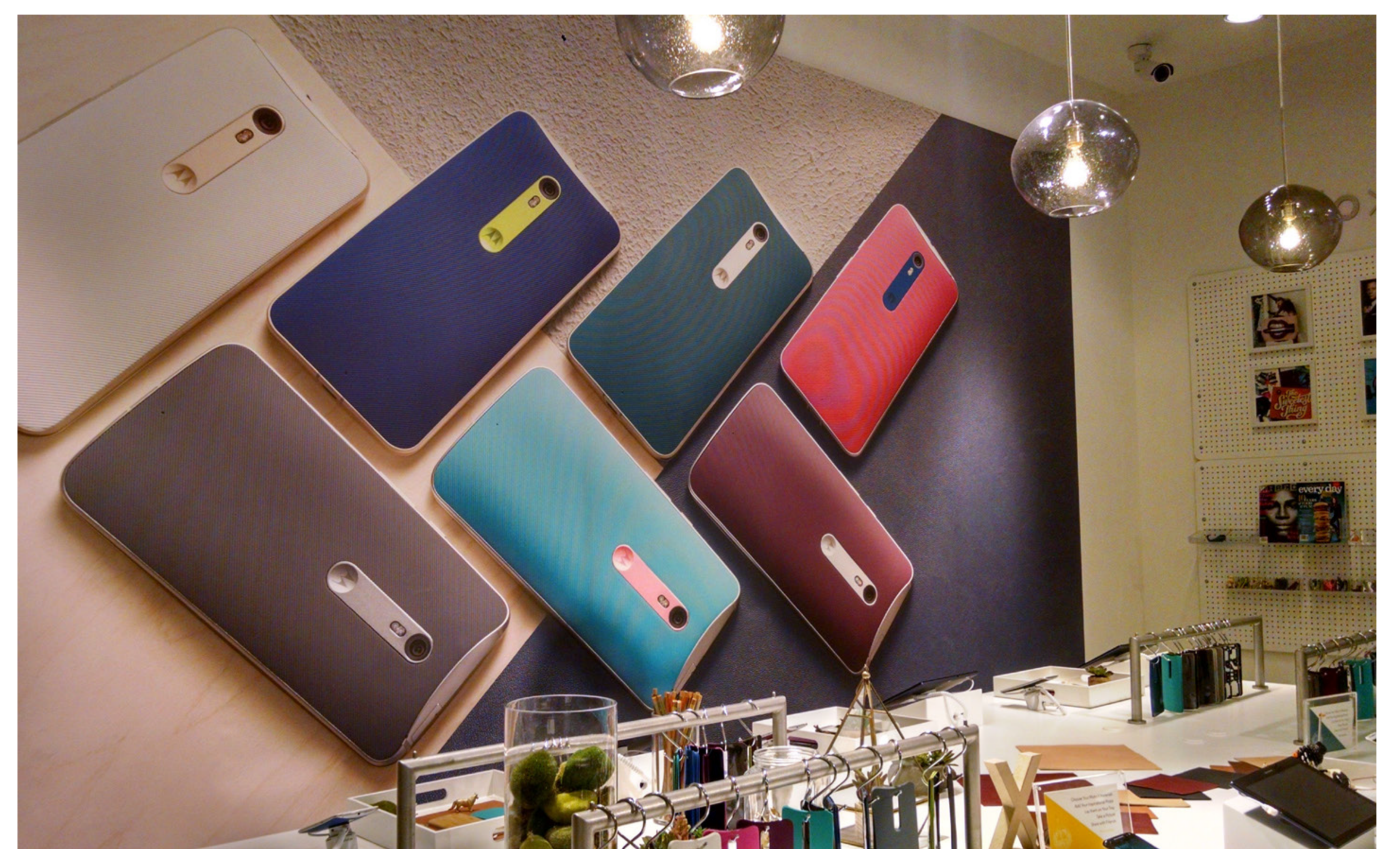


Image courtesy of collider.com

Motorola opens new store in Block 37



Photos by Kori Bowns