

About Town

RAMBLING REPORTER *By Merle Ginsberg & Gary Baum*



Russell in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 7.

Lawrence

Why Ms. Lawrence Didn't Go to Washington

David O. Russell and **Bradley Cooper** visited veep **Joe Biden** at the White House to discuss mental health Feb. 7. (Their best-picture-nominated *Silver Linings Playbook* features a bipolar protagonist.) Some have sneered it was a Weinstein Co. move to garner gravitas for a film whose competitors are more easily tied to serious issues. Co-star **Jennifer Lawrence** notably declined to participate. "They were like, 'Do you want to come?' I was like, 'What am I gonna say to the vice president?! I can't even talk to you guys!'" she said at a Feb. 13 Q&A moderated by *THR*'s **Scott Feinberg** that followed the film's last official Academy screening.

Mighty Morphin' Eva

Eva Longoria, who originally moved to L.A. to be a stuntwoman (and auditioned for *Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers*), is one of five stars directing shorts for Project Imagination, a partnership

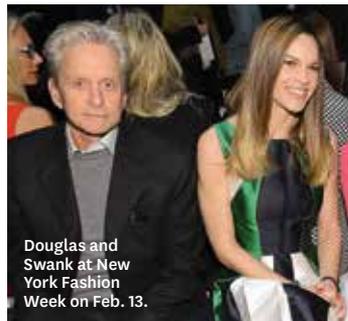
between **Ron Howard** and Canon. Her self-starring *Out of the Blue* centers on a woman hunting a madman. During the five-day shoot, Longoria, 37, did wire work, filmed in a water tank for a drowning scene and was nearly crushed by a metal locker. "My body is paying for it," says Longoria. "Every night I need to soak in a salt bath. I'm too old for this shit now."

Babs' Slim-Fit for Oscar

Sources say **Barbra Streisand**, who'll sing on the Oscar telecast for the first time since 1977, has gone on a 21-day cleanse. *THR* also hears she's having several gowns made and has more than one stylist on retainer.



Streisand, pre-cleanse.



Douglas and Swank at New York Fashion Week on Feb. 13.

Fashion Week Folderol

While **Michael Douglas** was telling friends in the front row of the Michael Kors show that he'll be an Oscar presenter, **Hilary Swank** looked like she couldn't wait to tell him something. *THR* could swear she mouthed into his ear, "I'm pregnant!" Now tabloids are reporting Swank sported a baby bump at dinner the next night and was toasting with only water. A rep for Swank claims the rumors aren't true. The 38-year-old has been spending time in Paris with her new boyfriend, French real estate agent **Laurent Fleury**.

Here Composes the Son

Beatles scion **Dhani Harrison**, whose band **thenewno2** recorded its score for the just-released *Beautiful Creatures* at Abbey Road Studios, studied music at Brown. "My final project was to write a film cue for an imaginary scene," says the son of the late **George**. "My dad was like, 'I'm not helping you. Ask Michael.'" Dhani, 34, spent the weekend working with his godfather, **Michael Kamen**, the noted composer (*Mr. Holland's Opus*). "I handed in the piece

— and got an F. Fantastic. I never told the professor my co-producer was Michael Kamen!"

Courting the Elderly Vote

Connie Sawyer, the oldest working actress in the Academy, almost missed out on Oscar voting after letting her SAG membership lapse. "I said to myself, 'I'm 99, I don't know if I'm going to live to 100,'" says the character actor, a resident of the MPTF home in Woodland Hills, whose centenary was Nov. 27 and whose career spans *The Andy Griffith Show* to *2 Broke Girls*. "Then I had three parties and realized, 'Gosh, I would love to participate.' There were so many good films this year." MPTF officials put her in touch with Academy president **Hawk Koch**'s office, and she was reinstated. (She did once work with his late father, director-producer **Howard Koch**, at Paramount.) Sawyer wouldn't reveal her best picture vote but says her favorite movie was *Lincoln*. "After they helped, I thought, 'Gee, wouldn't it be great if they let me go to the Governors Ball?'" she says. "They said, 'Don't be greedy, Connie!'" *THR*



Russell Brand with Sawyer at an MPTF event.

Power Lunch



Son of a Gun

On the same day at Mr Chow: **Bob Daly**, WME's **Dave Wirtschafter** and manager **Peter Principato**. **Dylan Sellers** of The Weinstein Co. was in with CAA's **Dave Bugliari** at another time. ... **Sherry Lansing** ate with **David Geffen** at the Tower Bar as ICM's **Lorrie Bartlett**, A-list divorce attorney **Laura Wasser**, producer **Jules Daly** and investor **Alec Gores** sat elsewhere in the room. The previous day, CAA's **Bryan Lourd**, director **Antoine Fuqua**, **Stockard Channing** and **Lena Dunham** were

in. ... **Scarpetta** saw director **Joe Carnahan** at the same table with **Dermot Mulroney**, **Common**, **Kate Walsh** and **Lucy Lawless**. On another day, **Alex Pettyfer** joined producer **Hilary Shor** and director **Lee Daniels**. ... Oscar-winning screenwriting team **Nat Faxon** and **Jim Rash** hit *Son of a Gun*. ... **Rich Ross** stopped in to Tavern. ... **Christoph Waltz** and producer **Erica Steinberg** broke bread at *Sunset*

Tower. ... TV producer **Craig Wright** checked out *Beachwood Cafe*. ... All at e. baldi at once: **Steve Tisch**, **Peter Morton**, **Jeffrey Katzenberg** with UTA's **Jim Berkus**, publicist **Flo Grace** with Glo.com head **Anne**



Daniels

Weintraub, plus **Irena Medavoy** with a newly brunette **Cheryl Saban** and **Jennifer Stallone**. ... **Julia Stiles** and **Drea de Matteo** took a seat at *Koi*. **Faith Hill** and **Tim McGraw** also have been in.