

“THE OVAL” RECAP: ‘LOSING IT’

By LaDale Anderson



The drama rages on Tyler Perry's "The Oval." Photo courtesy of Tinseltown/Shutterstock.

HOLLYWOOD—Just when we thought the good guys were in the midst of having a major victory, a bomb was dropped on “The Oval.” This week’s episode, “Losing It” was proof that Sam cannot trust anyone, as Nina was working for Hunter and spilled the tea about Jason and her exclusive story. Not just that, Hunter is sleeping with her. I should’ve expected that! Hunter saw that interview and was out for Sam’s blood. Just when I thought Nina was smart it is apparent she is an idiot.

Max and Bobby busted each other’s chops, as Eli continued to ask questions about the whereabouts of Victoria. Worry arose as Eli realized that Hunter is preventing others from getting close to his orbit. Which means a battle of egos are about to explode. Kyle and Dale did some drinking as Kyle indulged in drugs which were simply annoying Dale.

However, a knock on the door from Donald called a ruckus. Jealous Donny is back and wants to know what his secret lover is up to. I like this friction in the relationship. It is proof that Kyle is NOT actually Donald’s lapdog and has his own brain. Yeah, the writing in the past few episodes of the series is giving me the inclination that the endgame of “The Oval”

is totally upon us. Donald going after Victoria Franklin, I’m not sure that is a great idea, but Dale hid underneath the bed as Kyle and Donald got hot and heavy on the bed.

Eli and Hunter had a chat where subtle barbs were traded. Eli asked about the whereabouts of Victoria, and Hunter dropped the bomb that Victoria was under arrest. Oh, this is going to be something wicked, as Eli delivered a call to Victoria’s father, asking for the whereabouts of his daughter. We’ve seen Victoria’s father only once, and we haven’t seen him since.

Why is everyone so frightened of this guy? Hunter read Victoria’s father the third degree and was ecstatic. If a character is going to be a mystery at last give us a glimpse of them.

Max and Bobby were forced to begin searching for Victoria, as Eli was forcing all staff to report to The White House, yeah, an explosive is about to go off. Dale was almost caught when that phone went off, in the midst of Kyle and Donald’s romp in the bed. Priscilla was able to ease Nancy in the midst of all her grief, but just when she thought she was going

home, Priscilla, Sam and Richard realized they were all being summoned to The White House ASAP.

Donald and Kyle also received summons to report to The White House as well. Dale alerted Allan that Donald and Kyle are discussing some wicked things that are sure to unfold in the coming days. Max arrived at the bunker and came face-to-face with Kareem and Antonio where questions were posed about why they were being held by the President of the United States.

Antonio was singing like a canary and explained that Victoria was trying to kill Hunter and it sent all sorts of alarm bells in Max’s brain. He connected the dots, just as Agent Aaron explained to Hunter that he located Jason. Hunter discovered it was Victoria who was drugging his food. Bobby was informed to check the Infirmary where he came face-to-face with Victoria who he released from those handcuffs. Victoria contacted her father predicting World War III. Victoria gave Bobby and Max a warning, but it seemed they were nervous, just as Jason found himself captured by Hunter’s men. Man I am so looking forward to next week’s episode of “The Oval.”

JASON MORGAN RETURNS ON “GENERAL HOSPITAL!”

By Donald Thompson



Steve Burton is back as Jason Morgan on "General Hospital." Photo by DFree/Shutterstock.

HOLLYWOOD—This is interesting and whenever you have a character return from the dead or who was presumed dead make an unexpected return it changes things, just ask “General Hospital” that is about to see the return of Jason Morgan for the second, possibly third time (I can’t remember) at this point. I knew the moment that Sonny was ambushed while on his private island that it had the fingerprints of Jason Morgan written all over it.

It was tactical and the culprit was well aware of Sonny’s inner organization. Who else would know that beyond Jason Morgan? The thing I have not been able to connect the dots to is WHY? It has connections to the Jerome family, the WSB and crime organizations, which means whenever the big reveal does unfold, it better damn deliver. Jason returned to the Port Charles canvas on March 4, dressed in his iconic black as Dante came face-to-face with his presumed dead hitman. Stunned was an understatement, as Dante gasped before being shot by one of Jason cohorts. Oh, he doesn’t go by Jason, his pals call him Jacobs. The key detail is Jason is NOT suffering from amnesia and he hasn’t been programed.

Yes, that is a welcome twist because if there was another programming tactic happening, it was just going to be tired and old. With that said, Dante found himself shot, and his condition is not well. He was wearing a bullet proof vest, but blood is coming from his mouth and Jason is doing his best to get Son-

ny’s son aside before it is too late and he gets exposed, cue Josslyn and Dex.

Sonny, Selina and Ava set a trap hoping to capture the ‘traitor’ in Sonny’s organization, but that was a bust. As Jagger and Anna pointed out, Sonny is not helping the situation he is actually hurting it more and more, and lashing out as a result. The welcome twist is Jason is working with the big bad who are attempting to take out Sonny. So Jason is saving Sonny yet again, just as Dex and Josslyn are making their way back to PC.

Dex your time in Sonny’s organization is officially over, especially with Jason back. Jason is and has ALWAYS been Sonny’s #1. You were exposed as a traitor and even if you save Sonny’s life (which I expect will unfold), you hold nothing when compared to Jason. I really

cannot believe the writers might be going down a path of Sonny and Ava hooking up again after all that she has done. Between murdering Connie and playing a vital role in Morgan’s murder, Sonny should have taken this woman out, but surprise, she got pregnant and it spared her life.

You betray Sonny and there is no coming back. Just as Michael, who is trying to forge reconciliation, but per Sonny it will not transpire any time soon. Kristina and Blaze’s relationship is burgeoning just as her mother unexpectedly arrived in town. Her mom doesn’t know about Blaze’s sexuality so that will be interesting when the truth finally comes out.

Cyrus and Laura are bonding and this is an interesting twist. Never expected it, but considering they are blood it makes

sense as Laura continues to mourn Spencer’s ‘demise.’ Heather Webber is being Heather lashing out at any and everyone who will listen about Esme’s ‘death.’ Heather your daughter was her own worst enemy and she got what she deserved. She lashed out at Cyrus and she attempted an escape from GH this week. Is The Hook about to return and who will become Heather’s targets?

Nina is now the publisher of The Spectator thanks to Valentin and Alexis is not happy. It looks like the gossip of Port Charles is about to become a major catalyst for the war between Nina and Carly. At least Carly is backing off on vengeance, and warning Drew to do the same thing. Carly like Michael is not Sonny’s favorite person as of late, and that can also be echoed for her daughter, Joss.

The big focus is WHEN Jason’s introduction into Port Charles unfolds how many lives will be upended. Sam is definitely about to become a player who has been MIA for quite some time. I mean Danny is acting up, and was recently caught vaping by his brother Jake, so all of Jason’s kids are going to be impacted by his return from the grave, which means, Dante and Drew are going to have to deal with that.

Not to mention Drew dealing with his dead brother encroaching on his world once again after he has acclimated. Who will be Jason’s love interest that is the question I think we are all asking, guess we will find out soon “General Hospital” fans.

OSCAR PREDICTIONS: BEST PICTURE

By LaDale Anderson



Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" is looking like it will dominate the Oscars. Photo courtesy of Denis Makarenko/Shutterstock.

HOLLYWOOD—The end is near, the Academy Awards are being handed out on Sunday, March 10. This awards season has been long, but I am glad it’s over. It can be a bit chaotic which a lot of people don’t always see. I mean it’s something different every single week leading all the way up to the big spectacle of the Oscars. We have done our predictions for the major categories: Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress. There is just one big one left: Best Picture.

I have been annoyed with the Oscars ever since 2010 when they decided to expand the Best Picture race to anywhere from 5 to 10 nominees. Look we already know only about 2-3 flicks that have a strong chance at the top prize so nominating flicks that will never win is just pointless to me. Nominate the best of the best and the others, sorry, they are just out of luck. With that said this year’s nominees are: “Anatomy of a Fall,” “American Fiction,” “Barbie,” “Killers of the Flower Moon,” “Maestro,” “Oppenheimer,” “Past Lives,” “Poor Things,” “The Holdovers” and “The Zone of Interest.”

This really is a two-picture race, with a possibility of a third dark horse with “The Zone of Interest.” It has earned a serious amount of buzz for a film that tackles issues pertaining to the Holocaust and has been revered by critics, filmmakers and the public, but it hasn’t amounted enough awards this season to catapult it above the frontrunners: “Barbie” and “Op-

penheimer.” There is another film that has lots of buzz, but not enough to take the big prize in my eyes which is “Anatomy of a Fall.” The film is so well written and the acting is top tier. I have not been so satisfied watching a nuanced thriller in years. If “Oppenheimer” wasn’t in the mix, the battle would be a three-flick race between “Anatomy...” “Barbie” and “The Zone of Interest,” but that isn’t the case.

With that said, let’s talk about the likely winner “Oppenheimer.” It was not only a box-office hit, but it was a sprawling spectacle with accomplishments from director Christopher Nolan not captured on the big screen ever before. It was a 3-hour plus flick and it is not just dramatically sensational, but visually it will blow the socks off your feet. It is something you have to see on the big screen and what has been earned by Nolan deserves that Best Picture Oscar.

However, it is not a slam

dunk as people think. “Barbie” was the biggest movie at the box-office in 2023 and captured numbers unlike anything seen before. It was an event and the film was universally praised by so many as well. The movie suffered a similar fate like Ben Affleck did with his movie “Argo.” It was nominated for Best Picture, but Affleck missed out on the Best Director nomination. As a result, members of the Academy were stunned, shocked, appalled dare I say and it catapulted that movie to a Best Picture victory.

Could the same thing transpire again with “Barbie?” It is very possible because NOT only did the movie’s star Margot Robbie miss out on a Best Actress nomination, but so did the film’s director, Greta Gerwig who many thought should have been a lock for a nomination and I tend to agree. She made a movie about a doll into a spectacle and something that everyone was talking about. I thought when I first heard about this

movie it would be a mess, but its theme was so spot on it was scary.

The Oscars have a preferential ballot when it comes to Best Picture, so if you have more members voting for “Barbie” over “Oppenheimer” it could place that movie in the front seat. The critical members are never going to vote for “Barbie” it just won’t happen because they view the flick as silly, and you have those snobs who like to prune up their nose at such flicks.

While, there are those who just are not sitting through a 3 plus hour spectacle, so I hate to say this, but whichever film campaigns better is likely to take the prize. I hate the notion of campaigning for an award, the film and work should speak for itself to the members, but if you smile and kiss ass you can claim an Oscar even if you don’t deserve it, which is the problem with awards to begin with.

It’s all subjective, not objective so people like what they like and there is not much you can do about it. I expect “Oppenheimer” to take the win, which means we’ll see for the first time in a while Best Director and Best Picture claim the Oscars and not see a split. However, if “Barbie” does win, oh, what a moment that will be like “Crash” winning over “Brokeback Mountain.” Just because the pundits think something is a sure thing, is not always the case. Remember “La La Land” losing to “Moonlight” in that envelope fiasco?

“ANYONE BUT YOU” IS PREDICTABLE, BUT FUN

By David Miller



Glen Powell stars in the romantic comedy "Anyone But You." Photo courtesy of Joe Seer/Shutterstock.

HOLLYWOOD—People may find this odd, but I love a good romantic comedy. Are they my cup of tea when it comes to cinema? No, but if it is decently written and delivers romance and laughs I can get behind the flick. I recently watched the film “Anyone But You” starring Glen Powell and Sydney Sweeney and I was entertained. There was plenty of buzz behind the flick especially after all the media attention involving Powell and Sweeney’s chemistry on the red carpet as they promoted and shot the movie.

Are they or aren’t they in a relationship? Long story short, they are not, but the chemistry they had on the red carpet was a bit hotter than the chemistry in the actual movie. It wasn’t bad, but it wasn’t bursting through the screen either. Powell and Sweeney portray twentysomethings who meet by chance at a coffee shop when Bea (Sweeney) is hoping to use the facility’s restroom, but has to make a purchase to do so. Ben steps in to save the day and an instant spark is achieved.

This is where the movie gets a bit hokey for me. The two

spend the day laughing and chatting and even spend the night together. FYI, they don’t sleep together, they just fall asleep on Ben’s couch. Being concerned about making a potential mistake, Bea sneaks out delivering a dagger to Ben’s heart and ego. Ben bad-mouths Bea unbeknownst to him (she was eavesdropping) while talking to his pal and it leads to a rivalry that was hard to buy. These strangers suddenly hate and despise one another and they aren’t in an actual relationship?

The two become intermixed in each other’s orbit because Ben’s bestie Claudia (Alexandra

Shipp) is getting married to Bea’s sister Halle (Hadley Robinson). Yes, this is how the two are brought back into each other’s orbit and the barbs are traded. There are some nifty one liners and a few scenes of slapstick comedy that work, but I was not falling out of the theater seat with laughter, but I chuckled I will admit.

There are indeed strong supporting characters here, but they are second nature to Ben and Bea who really drive the narrative of the romantic comedy. I mean you have Dermot Mulroney as Bea’s father and Rachel Griffiths as her moth-

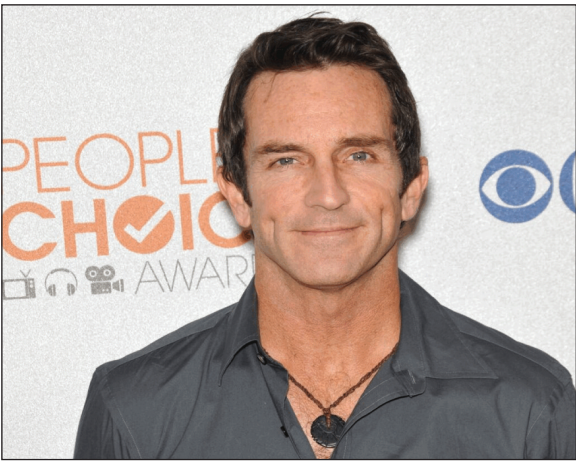
er. The parents are a bit intrusive in their daughter’s personal and professional life bringing her former fiancé Jonathan (Darren Barnett) to their daughter’s wedding! Like what parent does that, if anything the parents should have meddled even more if the filmmakers wanted to take the movie in a completely different direction.

I just wasn’t buying the Bea and Ben trying to make their exes jealous because the exes didn’t really care. If anything having the exes of Bea and Ben hookup would have been a stronger premise for the lovebirds to fake a relationship that ultimately turns into the real thing. Powell and Sweeney sell the romance on the screen, but the movie is predictable. You know how it ends it is just a question of how we get there. I will admit there is a scene with that Natasha Bedingfield single “Unwritten” that is absolutely hilarious and totally had me in tears laughing.

“Anyone But You” is what you expect with romantic comedies so as long as you go into the movie knowing what you’re going to get you will be satisfied with the result.

“SURVIVOR 46” RECAP: ‘SCORPIO ENERGY’

By David Miller



Jeff Probst is the host of "Survivor." Photo courtesy of Shutterstock.

HOLLYWOOD—Last week’s premiere for season 46 of “Survivor” was not must-see TV, but it did entertain me. This week’s episode, ‘Scorpio Energy’ witnessed members of Yanu picking up the pieces after their first Tribal Council, Bhanu at the core realized that he had to be critical of the people in the tribe as he didn’t trust everyone, and went to Kenzie who noted Bhanu is not a good liar and it concerned her. I agree, Jelinsky was the obvious vote, but you don’t want to allow people to know that. Kenzie is strong, but it was apparent for Tiffany and Q that Kenzie is a strong one and they have to watch out for her.

Back at Nami, the tribemates were cracking jokes, where it became obvious Venus was considered a threat, but Soda what the hell are you doing? You don’t toss away a potential number simply because everyone does not vibe with her. I felt Venus’ story that struck me at the core. Over at Siga, Ben was in tears because he created a fire for his tribe. Tim was stewing about Maria having that second vote, and the goal is to pull her in because that takes the guys numbers from 4 to 5. Charlie realizes he has to carefully dance and find his ride-or-die. I like that duo, but something tells me there will be fractures sooner than later.

Venus was worried about her safety, so she started to search for the hidden immunity idol, and guess who else was looking for the idol Randen, as well as Hunter. Oh, great, the person I want to find it is Venus, but we have Hunter likely going to be the one who finds it, but no it was Randen who discovered the Beware Advantage, which was a major risk, that required him to dig and he found a box, similar to last week. So the tribe has to lose the immunity challenge in order to get details on the key to actual safety.

Jess’ quirks were chatted about with her team, but we got to understand more about her as she chatted with Bhanu as she tried to build relationships with her tribe. Oh, oh, Kenzie realized that Q and Tiffany are a pair and it could be a move she has to make, but I think that is a big mistake. Jess was not open on that and I think Kenzie made an awful mistake with that conversation.

Charlie realized his social game was weak and he needed to build bonds with his tribe mates to improve his gameplay. It was fun for a minute with Charlie and Ben and their knowledge of Metallica and Taylor Swift. Liz is an enigma because I almost didn’t feel her presence last episode. Liz telling people you don’t need the money is not going to bode well with those who do and want the money. Looks like the target might be shifting to Liz. Randen doesn’t trust anyone on his tribe, which forced him to bond with guess who: Venus, the person he threw under the bus last week. It was good that Venus was willing to work with Randen and try to muscle back into the game. I do like this pairing.

Time for the Tribal Council, as the other teams joked about

voting out a member of the other tribes. Some of the jokes were a bit tough, but it was only fueling the tribes even more. I will admit the puzzles on “Survivor” are a bit much. Can we get some challenges that doesn’t involve a puzzle at the end to determine the victor? “Survivor” has totally made this challenge almost impossible and too heavy to hold up. Nami was first to finish the challenge and Soda, you were doing a bit too much, but Yanu was really close to a victory, but it just didn’t happen and they are heading back to Tribal Council.

I do feel for Jess, but I cannot say Jess was the reason the team lost. They lost because as Bhanu stated the planning was not strong and that needs to improve if they want to win. These two hour episodes are way too long and a drag for me. Oh, I forgot there could be a journey this episode like last week which could shift the game a bit? Back at Nami, Venus was injured by the wagon that damaged her toe and the friction between Tevin and Venus is escalating. Soda is totally getting on my nerves.

Back at Yanu you could feel the dread people, as Tiffany broke down in tears and Tiff’s emotions were getting the best

of her. I totally understand her grappling with the ‘Angry Black Woman’ trope. Wow, Kenzie you are really coming up with an elaborate plan to try to fool Jess, but I don’t think this is going to work. This plan is not believable at all. Jess should be able to see through this from a million miles away. Wait a second Q is actually playing the game. Could we see Kenzie actually get blindsided?

Yeah, Tiff and Kenzie are coming across as villains that you cannot root for. Jess is picking up that the idol given to her might not be a real one. Jess tossed to Tiffany that Kenzie could be a major threat. Jess is playing hard and Bhanu was triggered by that emotional comment he heard, which he responded by acting emotional. Q reassured Bhanu that he’s not going anywhere.

Oh, Tiffany you’re playing right into Q’s hands. This friction is building, and Tiff I don’t know if you made the smart move chatting. This was a tense Tribal Council. I like that Jess was not scared to point out that Kenzie is a social butterfly. Bhanu vented out how he felt about words being expressed about his emotional state, and it’s very tense and it is raising a red flag because he’s too honest. Even Bhanu has no clue who to vote for. Jess or Kenzie could have been going home, but jeez it now looks like Bhanu could be in trouble. Jess played the fake idol that was given to her and it was a shock when she discovered it was a fake and Jess got the boot, but after that emotional outburst it should have been Bhanu.

Yanu is a mess, I totally hope we’re getting a tribe swap because it will change the dynamics of all the tribes which would be exciting to witness. Next week could be a ton of fun “Survivor” fanatics!

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