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# James franco anne hathaway

By Brent Furdyk. 14 Apr 2021 11:46 PM The 2011 edition of the Academy Awards remains a low point for the venerable award show, thanks to the awkward hosting combination of James Franco and Anne Hathaway. While it certainly looked cringe-inducing to viewers, according to writers who worked on the show, it was even worse behind the scenes. "It was like the world's most uncomfortable blind date between the cool rocker stoner kid and the adorable theater camp cheerleader," Oscars writer David Wild recalled in an interview with The Ringer. RELATED: James Franco Calls Out Lohan & Hathaway "She showed up ready to play and committed 110 per cent and he was a great guy but often looked like he had just woken up from a nap," added Wild's fellow writer Jordan Rubin. "It's almost like you're showing up to a tennis court and one person decided that they were going to play in the U.S. Open and the other wanted to play in jeans and just kind of hit a few balls." Remembered as an epic misfire, Wild also recalled some tension between the two. "Again, this is a memory, but [she] was like 'Maybe you should try that,' and he was like, 'Don't tell me how to be funny.'" Added Rubin: "I think he wanted to play it as buddy-cop movie with two opposite characters." RELATED: James Corden Mocks Anne Hathaway's Movies and Oscar Hosting Gig in No-Holds-Barred Rap Battle on 'Late Late Show' Rubin also recalled a moment when he thought things were going to work, when Franco was looking over at Hathaway with a big smile on his face — or so Rubin thought. "I thought, 'Oh boy, they've finally broken through and he's looking at her!'" he said, but then realized that "Anne had gone to her dressing room for a minute... James was smiling at her stand-in." "It was like the world's most uncomfortable blind date," one Oscar writer told The Ringer of James Franco and Anne Hathaway's 2011 hosting gig in a recent story published by The Ringer, several writers who worked on the 2011 telecast reflected on Franco and Hathaway's hosting gig which was widely criticized by fans and critics alike. Get push notifications with news, features and more. + Follow "It was like the world's most uncomfortable blind date between the cool rocker stoner kid and the adorable theater camp cheerleader," said David Wild of the pair's opening monologue. According to Entertainment Weekly, Franco, 42, and Hathaway, 38, were selected to emcee the show as the producers' way of appealing to younger viewers. Justin Timberlake was initially chosen for the job but turned it down, per the outlet. Jordan Rubin, another writer for the show, said that Hathaway had a very different method in prepping for the ceremony than Franco did. "Anne made herself readily available. I went to her house and worked on the script and she was on a bunch of conference calls and responding to emails and was a great collaborator," said Rubin of the Devil Wears Prada actress. James Franco and Anne Hathaway during the 83rd Annual Academy Awards James Franco and Anne Hathaway during the 83rd Annual Academy Awards Franco, meanwhile, seemed distracted with his other commitments, Rubin said. (At the time, Franco was balancing his acting career while taking doctoral classes, earning a master's degree and teaching a course on film editing.) "He always seemed to be on a flight and it was very hard for me to get a hold of him," Rubin told The Ringer of The Deuce star. Want to get the biggest stories from PEOPLE every weekday? Subscribe to our new podcast, PEOPLE Every Day, to get the essential celebrity, entertainment and human interest news stories Monday through Friday. Once Hathaway and Franco began filming together, the differences in their personalities were abundantly clear. "She showed up ready to play and committed 110 percent," Rubin said of Hathaway, adding of Franco, "And he was a great guy but often looked like he had just woken up from a nap. It's almost like you're showing up to a tennis court and one person decided that they were going to play in the U.S. Open and the other wanted to play in jeans and just kind of hit a few balls." Wild also remembered friction occurring between the two stars during rehearsals when Hathaway offered Franco some advice. "Again, this is a memory, but [she] was like, 'Maybe you should try that,' and he was like 'Don't tell me how to be funny.'" Wild recalled. Meanwhile, Rubin said that he believes Franco purposely tried to differentiate himself from Hathaway's hosting style. "I think he wanted to play it as buddy-cop movie with two opposite characters," he said. James Franco and Anne Hathaway enter the stage during the 83rd Annual Academy Awards Both Franco and Hathaway have since reflected on the ceremony. In 2016, Franco told New York Magazine, "We got a lot of s--- for it. I probably got more than she did, but she got a lot." Hathaway, meanwhile, told PEOPLE in January 2019 that she felt her take on the night was off, hours before she hit the stage. "He didn't give me anything," Hathaway said about Franco at the time. "God, I just remember the night before we're about to go up there, and me turning to everyone and going, 'Am I too much? This feels really big to me.' And the producer just went, 'No! Don't do less. Do more if you need to.' And I was like, 'Oh okay, I guess it's going great.' And I didn't realize what was happening about that whole thing." The Ocean's 8 actress said it was Franco who really wanted her to take the gig, even though she had some reservations about it. "Hey, can I dish some tea? I turned that gig down and James is the one that convinced me to do it," Hathaway said. As if the 2011 Oscars couldn't get any worse, James Franco was reportedly rude to Anne Hathaway during their much-maligned co-hosting gig ten years ago.On Wednesday (April 14), The Ringer published an interview with Oscars writer David Wild, who dished on Hathaway and Franco's infamous co-hosting performance. Wild compared the pair's interactions to the "world's most uncomfortable blind date between the cool rocker stoner kid and the adorable theater camp cheerleader." Wild recalled one moment during rehearsals when their friction began. "Again, this is a memory, but [she] was like, 'Maybe you should try that,' and he was like, 'Don't tell me how to be funny,'" Wild said.Fellow writer Jordan Rubin added, "I think he wanted to play it as buddy-cop movie with two opposite characters." He shared that Hathaway made herself "readily available" during the months-long preparation period. "I went to her house and worked on the script and she was on a bunch of conference calls and responding to emails and was a great collaborator." Meanwhile, Franco was extremely busy shooting films, taking doctoral classes and even teaching a class at Columbia College Hollywood. "He always seemed to be on a flight and it was very hard for me to get a hold of him. That was a red flag," Rubin said.According to Rubin, Hathaway showed up "ready to play and committed 110 percent." On the other hand, Franco "was a great guy but often looked like he had just woken up from a nap." "It's almost like you're showing up to a tennis court and one person decided that they were going to play in the U.S. Open and the other wanted to play in jeans and just kind of hit a few balls."There was one instance in which Wild thought that Hathaway and Franco were finally getting alone, but he was sadly mistaken: "I thought, 'Oh boy, they've finally broken through and he's looking at her!'" It turned out that Hathaway was in her dressing room and Franco was actually smiling at her stand-in. With a COVID-19 era Academy Awards show before us this weekend, it's ample time to look back on an Oscars telecast fans of the show love to hate. I'm referring to the 2011 Oscars hosted by Anne Hathaway and James Franco. It's now been ten years since the young actors took the stage and ushered in a long night full of awkward jokes and uneven chemistry. It fares even worse now that we've learned who could have been front and center. One writer behind the 83rd Annual Academy Awards, David Wild, recently reflected on Anne Hathaway and James Franco's infamous telecast with regret. Because as he remembers it, Justin Timberlake was the "first unofficial choice." In Wild's words to The Ringer: I had been writing with Justin and I remember the producers said to me, "Do you want to do a soft ask if he'd host the Oscars?" He said that he'd love to do it, but he thought it was a year too early for him. He wanted to wait until after The Social Network had gone through an awards season. The former N-Sync member, actor and solo singer had been one of the most buzzed about stars of 2010's award season. Justin Timberlake played The Social Network's Sean Parker, which was up for eight Oscars that night, including Best Picture (it would go on to win the Best Adapted Screenplay, Film Editing and Score categories). This positioned Timberlake as a solid pick for host, and he was even interested in taking on the responsibility. However, at the time, it felt as if he hadn't quite earned his place as the face of the night, according to the show's producers. Thus, we got Anne Hathaway and James Franco, who tried their damndest, but clearly were not operating with the same energy while on stage. If we'd had JT, I'd imagine there would have been more song-and-dance numbers, more comedic bits and less awkwardness on Hollywood's Biggest Night. It's honestly such a great pick, but you live and you learn. In recent years, the Academy has decided against having a host at all and stuck with it. The last time there was a host was for 2018's ceremony, to which Jimmy Kimmel hosted for his second year in a row. Prior to that, Chris Rock, Ellen DeGeneres and Neil Patrick Harris took center stage to help move the show along. The 93rd Academy Awards are just a few days away. Unlike other recent awards ceremonies, this year's Oscars will happen live in Los Angeles, completely in person and socially distanced. It's an unlikely year for the Oscars considering a big sum of movies were pushed to this year and predominantly viewed at home. Nonetheless, there are a number of great films to be recognized throughout the night. Check out the full list of 2021 nominations and check back here on CinemaBlend Sunday night for coverage of the award show. A decade ago, James Franco and Anne Hathaway co-hosted the 83rd Academy Awards and the experiment proved to be pretty awkward, according to several writers who worked the gig back in 2011. At the time, the telecast was criticized for being cringe and lacking chemistry between the two performers who were doing just that while playing off of one another. "It was like the world's most uncomfortable blind date between the cool rocker stoner kid and the adorable theater camp cheerleader," writer David Wild told The Ringer on Wednesday of the pair's opening monologue in which the "Love & Other Drugs" star was subject to boasting from Franco for his best actor nomination for "127 Hours" while Hathaway was overlooked.Wild went on to recall a moment way back when that spurred friction between the co-hosts after Hathaway - just 28 and the youngest host ever at the time - tried to offer up advice to Franco.FAMOUS OSCARS MISTAKES, FROM JOHN TRAVOLTA'S 'ADELE DAZEM' TO BEST PICTURE ENVELOPE MIX-UP Actors James Franco, left, and Anne Hathaway present the 83rd Annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre on February 27, 2011, in Hollywood, Calif. (Gabriel Bouys/AFP via Getty Images) "Again, this is a memory, but [she] was like, 'Maybe you should try that,' and he was like 'Don't tell me how to be funny.'" Wild claimed."Oh my gosh, you're all real!" Hathaway, 38, exclaimed to the audience at the time while a seemingly disinterested Franco, 42, barely gazed at the crowd.JAMES FRANCO AND ANNE HATHAWAY TRADE PRE-OSCAR JABS, START DATING RUMORAnother writer on the telecast said the moment rang parallel to each of the actors' approach to the coveted hosting job."Anne made herself readily available," Jordan Rubin said of the "Princess Diaries" star. "I went to her house and worked on the script and she was on a bunch of conference calls and responding to emails and was a great collaborator." Oscar writers reflected on James Franco and Anne Hathaway's 2011 Oscars hosting gig, calling the ordeal an 'uncomfortable blind date.' (Reuters/Mike Blake) On the flipside, Franco supposedly "always seemed to be on a flight and it was very hard for me to get a hold of him," Rubin continued of the funnyman, who at the time was incredibly busy maintaining his acting career all while earning his graduate degree and working as an acting coach.Viewers at the time speculated whether the "Pineapple Express" star was actually high during the telecast.ANNE HATHAWAY NO LONGER WANTS TO BE CALLED BY HER FIRST NAME: 'CALL ME ANYTHING BUT ANNE'Hathaway was eager to get down to business, Rubin pressed, adding that the "Devil Wears Prada" star "showed up ready to play and committed 110%," and although Rubin described Franco to be "a great guy," he said Franco "often looked like he had just woken up from a nap." "It's almost like you're showing up to a tennis court and one person decided that they were going to play in the U.S. Open and the other wanted to play in jeans and just kind of hit a few balls," Rubin explained.Commenting on the supposed verbal spat that allegedly occurred between Franco and Hathaway during rehearsals, Rubin said he saw the situation as a moment where Franco purposely tried to provide a different element to Hathaway's approach and hosting style. "I think he wanted to play it as buddy-cop movie with two opposite characters," said Rubin.ANNE HATHAWAY APOLOGIZES TO LIMB DIFFERENCE COMMUNITY FOR 'WITCHES' CONTROVERSYIn 2019, the "Oceans 8" actress opened up about the now-infamous attempt at awards show-hosting as reports swirled that the show would go host-less for first time in decades."No matter what happens with today's show, just remember, it's already been worse. Happy Oscars!" she joked in an Instagram post at the time. Anne Hathaway, best supporting actress winner for her role in 'Les Misérables,' poses with her Oscar at the 85th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California February 24, 2013. (Reuters)CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR ENTERTAINMENT NEWSLETTERShe also opened up on the difficulties of hosting Hollywood's biggest night. "[Franco] didn't give me anything," Hathaway told People in January 2019. "God, I just remember the night before we're about to go up there, and me turning to everyone and going, 'Am I too much? This feels really big to me.' And the producer just went, 'No! Don't do less. Do more if you need to.' And I was like, 'Oh okay, I guess it's going great.' And I didn't realize what was happening about that whole thing."CLICK HERE TO GET THE FOX NEWS APPHathaway would pick up an Oscar win two years later in 2013 for best supporting actress for her role in "Les Misérables."

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