



Leonardo DiCaprio arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP

DiCaprio foundation grants \$15 million to environmental groups

When it comes to saving the planet, Leonardo DiCaprio is putting his money where his mouth is. The actor's foundation announced yesterday it has awarded \$15 million in grants to a host of environmental organizations, including Amazon Watch, Save the Elephants, Tree People and the World Wildlife Fund. "The destruction of our planet continues at a pace we can no longer afford to ignore," DiCaprio said in a statement. "We

have a responsibility to innovate a future where the habitability of our planet does not come at the expense of those who inhabit it."

The groups receiving the grants are "working to solve humankind's greatest challenge," he said. The 40-year-old actor has been an active environmentalist throughout his career. He created the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation in 1998, a year after "Titanic" came out, to fund efforts that

protect the planet and its endangered species. It now supports such projects in more than 40 countries. Last year, the United Nations named DiCaprio a UN Messenger of Peace with a special focus on climate change. — AP

'Tomb Raider' star Camilla Luddington navigates Comic-Con

That brunette woman sporting big black sunglasses on the Comic-Con show floor just might be Lara Croft. "Tomb Raider" actress Camilla Luddington checked out the pop-culture action in the San Diego Convention Center on Saturday afternoon from behind a pair of shades. "This is about as disguise-y as I get," she said holding up a pair of specs during an interview. "Comic-Con is actually the best place to not get recognized because there are so many people in amazing costumes. I think that catches the eye more than someone wearing regular clothing, Converse and sunglasses."

The British actress said she's more recognized in public for her role as Dr. Jo Wilson in ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" than as Lara Croft in the new "Tomb Raider" video games, primarily because the developers tweak the virtual character to look more like Croft than Luddington. However, it has happened. "That always blows my mind, because I assume that people playing the game don't know what I actually look like," said Luddington. "I'm more surprised by that than anything." Luddington is attending Comic-Con for the second

time to promote "Rise of the Tomb Raider," the follow-up to the 2013 reboot of the long-running game series starring the iconic treasure hunter.

"I was at Comic-Con when the first game came out, but you forget how crazy it is until you're here," Luddington said. "It's different this year because a lot of fans were wary of us because we were rebooting the game. I think they're more supportive this time because they loved the first one so much. After escaping a lethal Asian island in the first game, Croft is headed to Siberia for a mountainous adventure in "Rise of the Tomb Raider." "I feel like this Lara is more haunted after what happened in the last game," said Luddington. "There's a darker side to her, especially at the start of the game." Luddington has completed most of her work on the title, which is set for release Nov. 10 on Xbox 360 and Xbox One, but she's headed back to the studio immediately following Comic-Con for some final rounds of voice, face and motion capture. — AP



This photo provided by Crystal Dynamics shows a screenshot of Camilla Luddington's character Lara Croft in the video game, "Rise of the Tomb Raider." — AP



Actress Camille Luddington, who provides the voice and motion capture of Lara Croft in the "Tomb Raider" video games, poses for a portrait at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel during the 2015 Comic-Con International. — AP



A man dress as Ant-Man, left, and actor Michael Douglas, third from left, Marvel Entertainment CFO Robert Stessens, right, and other executives and guests of Marvel Entertainment, wave from the podium before ringing the opening bell celebrating Marvel and Disney's new film, "Ant-Man." — AP

Michael Douglas reflects on death of mother, a 'class act'

Michael Douglas took a moment to reflect on the memory of his mother, Diana, who died earlier this month at 92 after a bout with cancer. "My mother had an incredible sense of dignity and was a class act," Douglas told The Associated Press Monday night at a special screening for his latest film, "Ant-Man." Douglas went on to call her a "lady" and alluded to his shortcomings.

"I've let her down a couple of times in my life, but she certainly was a strong influence," he said. The actress was married to Kirk Douglas, but they divorced in 1951. Kirk Douglas will turn 99 in December. "Ant-Man" is based on the Marvel comic of the same name and stars comic actor Paul Rudd in the title role. — AP

Review

Schumer, Hader shine in bawdy 'Trainwreck'

Women can be jerks, too. Everyone knows that. And yet in the movies, the female schmuck is generally relegated to side characters. She's a friend. She's a villain. She's never the heroine. In the outdated rulebook of who we get to see on the big screen, leading ladies need to be likable - that tiresome, comedy-killing characteristic. Thank goodness, then for Amy Schumer, the paradigm-busting, enfant terrible who's there to snap us out of our malaise with one rowdy gal: Amy. Her vehicle, "Trainwreck," written by and starring Schumer, luxuriates in the idea of selfishness while shifting our antiquated ideas of what we want from a female lead, because, most importantly, it's very funny.

Bawdy, brash and beaming with confidence in every mistake, Amy does not suffer fools gladly or suitors at all. As a young girl, her good time Charlie father (Colin Quinn) instills in her the idea that monogamy is impossible. Or, "monogamy isn't realistic" as he makes Amy and her even younger sister recite over and over after a conversation comparing partners to dolls. It becomes her mantra. We meet up with her 23 years later, boozing and sleeping her way through Manhattan. Well, not sleeping. She never sleeps over at a man's place or lets them stay at hers.

Great performances

Amy is pro-pleasure, anti-romance, and just a "modern chick who does what she wants" in gold lamé miniskirts. She's a self-satisfied mess. Her sister Kim (Brie Larson) has chosen a different route, marrying a sweet, dorky guy (Mike Birbiglia) with a sweet dorky son (Evan Brinkman). Amy pokes fun at them with caustic abandon. Were it not for the great performances from Larson and Birbiglia, the ongoing finger-pointing at Kim's boring life might just come across as mean. Instead, they just accept Amy (with an eye roll). Amy is a true jerk. She's selfish. She's rude. And she knows it. It's an interesting line that the movie skirts for the duration and a testament to Schumer that this mostly unlikable character remains enjoyable to watch.

She's fun, but she's not nice or thoughtful. Nor does she want to be. All this makes it particularly odd that for about 75 percent of the movie this freewheeling character is not only in a relationship, but she's in a relationship with a really, truly nice guy. Amy's editor (an excellent, unrecognizable Tilda Swinton) assigns her to profile a successful sport's doctor Aaron Connors (Bill Hader) for "S'uff," a men's magazine with "Vice" bite. They meet, click, and get down to business after a drunken night out. Pretty soon, and without much of a fight, they're subway kissing, Brooklyn Bridge-gazing, Central Park carriage-riding, and engaging in other cheesy rom-com tropes that are overlaid with a snarky, self-conscious voiceover from Amy. — AP

Comic-Con and video piracy: Enter at your own risk

Fans and Hollywood converged on the San Diego waterfront for another weekend of pop culture revelry as the event's 46th edition came to a satisfying, if slightly controversial, end on Sunday. Mega film and TV franchises like "Star Wars," "Game of Thrones" and "Batman v Superman" electrified fanboys and fangirls with new footage, star-studded Q&A; and even a few memorable selfies. But some of Hall H's never-before-seen, exclusive clips quickly leaked online to the frustration of studios, despite the event's strict "no filming" policy.

On the surface, millions of fan impressions might seem like a good thing, but the materials in question often feature temporary VFX, while some of the featured panelists haven't even wrapped filming. Warner Bros chief of marketing Sue Kroll rebuked the cellphone violators over the weekend, calling the "Suicide Squad" leaks "damaging" in a statement and said the content was solely intended for the 6,500 people in Hall H.

"Our presentation yesterday was designed to be experienced in that room, on those big screens," she explained. The "Suicide Squad" teaser was ultimately posted to YouTube on Monday "with regret." Kroll justified the reversal by saying, "We cannot continue to allow the film to be represented by the poor quality of the pirated footage stolen from our presentation." It's easier for certain projects that are farther along-Warner Bros. released the new "Batman v Superman" trailer shortly after Saturday's Hall H panel. The clip has already reached 17 million views. Last year, WB faced a similar piracy conflict when bootleggers recorded the "Batman v Superman" footage at Comic-Con while the film was still in post-production.

The question is whether studios will dial back the exclusive footage next year. "No, it doesn't hurt," one exec said of the Comic-Con leaks. "The downside would be if it wasn't good." Ryan Reynolds, whose new film "Deadpool" received some of the biggest buzz this year, in addition to WB's "Suicide Squad,"

told Variety backstage that it was actually a pirated "Deadpool" test video that helped get the movie made. "It was never meant for anyone's eyes except studio executives," he said of the footage, which fans overwhelmingly endorsed online. "Somehow (it) made its way on to the Internet and that's the gift from God for us."

Work completed

A few weeks later, 20th Century Fox announced the X-Man spinoff movie and set a Feb. 12, 2016, release date. A Fox insider told Variety that "Deadpool's" Comic-Con footage, along with that of "X-Men: Apocalypse" would not be made available online, while conceding that the views for the pirated clips were "extraordinary." Reynolds wrote on Twitter that an official "Deadpool" trailer would be coming in three weeks, when additional VFX work has been completed. While other studios acknowledged the problem of the leaks ("It will have an effect, absolutely," noted one exec), the consensus was that modern technology poses a risk for everyone. "I would suspect that a studio would not bring anything down that they wouldn't be prepared to have leaked," one observer said of Periscope and other mobile threats facing the industry.

Started in 1970, Comic-Con has become crucial promotion event for Hollywood in recent years, with stars and talent traveling from around the world to promote their films and TV shows. According to organizers, this year's convention drew an estimated 136,000 attendees and generated an estimated \$136 million in revenue. Last week, Comic-Con renewed its deal to stay at the San Diego Convention Center through 2018. — Reuters



Jared Padalecki attends the "Supernatural" press line on day 4.



From left, Tom Cavanagh, Carlos Valdes, John Wesley Shipp, Candice Patton, Danielle Panabaker, Grant Gustin, and Andrew Kreisberg attend the "Flash" press line on day 3.



Will Smith attends the "Suicide Squad" panel on Day 3 of Comic-Con International. — AP photos