

Getting To Know Gunner, Aarvid, And Kanute

Well, Tuesday and Thursday nights were auditions for the next [WCCT](#) production. [Don't Hug Me](#) tells the story of a travelling karaoke machine ("LIFESTYLE SYSTEM") salesman who travels to the local tavern of a northern Minnesotan village on the coldest night of the year. I have not had the opportunity to read the entire script but what I read cold at the auditions was hilarious. We did not get the chance to sing any of the songs from the show but (judging by the titles) they will be great fun. "Don't Let The Door Hit You In The Butt" caught my attention as it was a song we skipped over during our readings.

Before the readings, we were encouraged to try a Minnesotan accent. I vaguely knew something, enough to make an attempt. Ya, you know. Watch [Fargo](#) and you will see (or [Drop Dead Gorgeous](#) which I have never seen) and you will know. I really like the part of Gunner. He is the owner of the tavern and is an outspoken, northwoods version of Archie Bunker. The fast-talking salesman Aarvid ([Head of the Class?](#)) could be fun as well as he is slightly reminiscent of a Harold Hill. We really did not get to learn much of the role of Kanute who seems to be a rather clueless character who is engaged to one of the two female characters.

Now... for the singing part of the audition. There was a keyboard on stage with a book of Broadway tunes open to "Getting to Know You" from [The King and I](#). Ok... it is a female piece but it was there so why not. Following my short off the cuff a capella excerpt, the director told me that "That was too good." AWriiighty then, I will do worse on Thursday... HAHAAHAHAHAHA. Unfortunately, the only person who got to sing was the one person who did not show up Tuesday night. In total there were 6 people who tried out. 4 men and two

women. The cast calls for 5 (3 men and two women). I feel sorry for the one guy who does not get a part. If that turns out to be me... OH, WELL. However, I have all the confidence in the world that it will not be me.

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Burn After Reading

I'm not a huge Coen brothers fan, but I do find their movies interesting. Like many of the Coen's movies, [Burn After Reading](#) is about normal people who come across an illegal way to make lots of money, become obsessed with it, and consequently watch their lives unravel. [Frances McDormand](#), a Coen brothers movie regular (and I found out why – she's married to one of them), was great in this movie. She plays a woman named Linda Litzke, a gym employee who is obsessed with reinventing herself via plastic surgery. She, along with a gym co-worker played by [Brad Pitt](#), come across a CIA agent's (played by [John Malkovich](#)) disk at their gym and bumble through a scheme to use it as blackmail. They are truly a couple of idiots, and Brad Pitt's performance as the big doofus Chad is hilarious – might have been my favorite part of the movie, and this is not coming from a Brad Pitt fan or anything like that. Not that this movie is a comedy, don't get me wrong. I suppose it could be classified as a dark comedy, but I would say it's more of a suspense film with some comedic moments. As with any Coen brothers movie, there are numerous twists and turns, so I'm going to cut my synopsis short for fear of revealing any spoilers. Go see it, watch how the events unfold, and you'll be entertained. Besides Brad Pitt's character, my favorite part of the movie was how they told the story – as a case file being discussed by a

couple of FBI agents. If you're a Coen brothers fan already, then I'm sure you'll love it – it is everything Coen: money, foiled scheme, setting – the Coens are famous for making the setting of their movies very integral in the plots, and this one is no exception. Washington, DC and the surrounding area of Virginia is the locale of choice for this one, and it's all very important to the relation of the events and how they unfold. This movie features a few Coen movie regulars like Frances McDormand, [George Clooney](#), and Richard Jenkins (who also gives a great performance as the forlorn gym manager, by the way – they really make you feel sorry for his character). Better than [No Country for Old Men](#), [The Ladykillers](#), and [O Brother, Where Art Thou?](#), *Burn After Reading* is second only to [Fargo](#) when comparing it to other Coen brothers movies in my opinion. An entertaining 96 minutes at the movies – this one goes by fast. And make sure you pay attention; if you miss something, I could see where it would be difficult to catch up – a lot happens in those 96 minutes!

No Country For Old Men... When There's Yet ANOTHER Fog Day!!!

We stayed up late watching the Oscar winning movie, [“No Country for Old Men”](#) last night, so when the phone rang at 6 am this morning, my husband was overjoyed about the fog delay. I did not hear the phone at 6, nor did I hear the follow-up call at 8 saying school was cancelled for the day. I was up by 8:30, since that is the time we have our alarm set and my biological clock won't let me sleep past then for fear the alarm won't work and we'll be late for school. My husband

was shutting off the alarm when I said, "We can't sleep too long cuz Disney has a doctor appointment at 9:30. Look at all those delays on the tv for Toledo. Wonder how we got spared?" Turns out, we did not, I just didn't hear the phone ringing and Hubby was wondering why I was taking it so well that we couldn't sleep in after all. I don't understand why it is that every time we have a doctor appointment scheduled for the morning, we have either a school delay or cancellation, meaning we can't sleep in even if we wanted to. And of course on these days, the kids always sleep in, whereas on the weekends, they're up at their usual 7am wake-up-for-school time. So now, they have yet ANOTHER day they have to make up in the summer, which brings them to July by now? Dunno, I've lost track.

And today's fog cancellation means we had to drag the entire family into the doctor's office for our 18 month-old's checkup – which did not go well. Remember how I said the kids were going to sleep in today? That means our 3-year-old, who is a stinker anyway, was not ready to get up, so she screamed from the time she was dragged out of bed until we got called into the doctor's office. So of course, the chain reaction was set into motion. Seeing big sis so upset made Disney upset, and now she was screaming about everything the poor nurse and doctor were doing to her. All painless stuff too that normally would not have been a problem – SCREAM, measure her head (46.7 cm), SCREAM, measure her length (32.5 in. – tall for her age), SCREAM, weigh her (22 lbs. 14 oz. – normal for her age, but a little on the skinny side because she is long), SCREAM, look into her ears, SCREAM, have her walk across the room to Mom and Dad... well, actually, walk to big sis Taylor since she was upset with Mom and Dad for being accomplices to all the other horrors in the doctor's office. When it was finally over, she was better, and in the end, she didn't want to leave because she was really happy with a toy they had in the waiting room she was playing with while I was making her next torture date, err appointment. The good news is that

Disney is exhausted from being so upset all morning, so I should get my nap today while she takes one... hopefully.

Also, staying up late last night to watch the Oscar winning movie was regrettable. I just didn't get it. I think I understood the movie, but not why it won 4 academy awards and got nominated for a bunch more. I liked other Coen Brothers movies too – [Fargo](#) is really good, but this one was not very good in my opinion, and my husband agreed. Just a story about a man who stumbles upon a crime scene and finds a ton of money, then he spends the rest of the movie trying to outrun the psychopath who is chasing him down for the money. I was pleasantly surprised to see [Tommy Lee Jones](#) in this movie, because I didn't know he was going to be in it and I always enjoy his work – from Two-Face in the 3rd Batman movie, [Batman Forever](#) to [Men in Black](#), to [Volcano](#) and [The Fugitive](#), he's a pretty good actor and always fun to watch – even in this movie, which I would officially classify as a waste of time. Sure, it wasn't nearly as bad as the other stinkers I've seen lately, like [the Night Listener](#) or [Doomsday](#), the standard bad movies that I judge all bad movies by, but that's only because it wasn't as boring as the former and not as gory as the latter. Academy award winning movies are always a hit-or-miss as far as I'm concerned. I used to write them off, but when I started giving them a chance, I've actually enjoyed some, such as the aforementioned Fargo and [As Good as it Gets](#), to name a few. Now that I think of it, Coen brothers' movies are kind of hit and miss also. [Ladykillers](#) was just ok, Fargo was very good, [Big Lebowski](#) was average, I didn't care much for [O Brother Where Art Thou](#), and I'll have to see [Raising Arizona](#) again since it's been awhile, and I didn't realize it was a Coen brothers movie.

I think I will skip the other Oscar winners from 2007 – seemed like a slow year. I might be more open to nominees from other years past though... a friend borrowed us [Walk the Line](#), the Johnny Cash biopic. I'm not a huge [Reese Witherspoon](#) fan, but

I do like Johnny Cash. Been trying to get Hubby to watch it with me, though I'm as yet unsuccessful even though he admitted we should have watched it last night instead of No Country for Old Men. Oh, well, now we have some Oscar-winning-film watching experience under our belt for future reference. YES – the baby is down for a nap, think I'll join her... and a side effect of the fog day, actually a GOOD one – no need to wake from my nap by 3:30 to pick up kids! Now if only the older 2 can settle down for an hour or more to give me peace and quiet...