

**The Pop Ups.** Stay seated. Three, two, one, ignition. Get ready for an adventure of magnificent proportion.

**The Pop Ups.** (Singing.) I don't know what you've been told, but we're in a golden age - so many discoveries that are jumping off the page. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world.

**The Pop Ups.** With Guy and Mindy. We're on our way, Houston.

**Production Assistant.** Rolling on two. Can we get a level check on Mr. Raz, please?

**Guy Raz.** This is so exciting, Mindy.

**Mindy Thomas.** I know! The last time I saw this many cameras in one room was when I held that press conference for my latest invention last week.

**Guy.** Mindy, I still can't believe that one of those reporters actually worked for the All You Can Eat network. And they asked you to host the television broadcast of this year's Nom Nom Awards.

**Mindy.** And I can't believe you agreed to host it with me.

**Guy.** Are you kidding me, Mindy? I love the Nom Nom awards. I watch it every year. The glitz, the glamor...

**Mindy.** ...the mountains and mountains of free food. Don't mind if I do.

**Guy.** Mindy, don't...

**Producer.** Hey there. You must be Mindy.

**Mindy.** That's what they call me.

**Producer.** And you must be Pie Raz.

**Guy.** Actually, it's Guy Raz.

**Producer.** What? Oh, no. Did we get the wrong person? Karen, was it supposed to be Pie Raz or Guy Raz? Great. OK. Mindy, Guy, good luck.

**Guy.** Remember, Mindy, big smiles.

**Mindy.** My teeth are literally covered in cheese.

**Guy.** What?

**Mindy.** Cheese!

**Production Assistant.** OK. We're live in three, two, one...

**Announcer.** Coming to you live from the all-you-can-eat buffet across the street from the Dolby Theater here in Hollywood, California, it's the annual Nom Nom Awards with your hosts, Pie Raz and Mindy.

**Mindy.** Hello and welcome. It's great to be here with you on such a magical and delicious night. I'm Mindy.

**Guy.** And I'm Guy Raz. And tonight, we'll be celebrating, paying tribute to and drooling over some of the biggest names in the culinary arts.

**Mindy.** Oh, and look, Guy Raz. I think I see some of the Nom Nom nominees coming down the Marinara Red Carpet right now.

**Guy.** That's right, Mindy. I think I see some of the kernels from "A Star Is Corn."

**Mindy.** Oh, and look - here come the wieners from the "Isle Of Hot Dogs."

**Guy.** Now, Mindy, we shouldn't forget there are a lot of important awards up for grabs tonight.

**Mindy.** That's right, Guy Raz. How about the Nom Nom Award for best snack?

**Guy.** Outstanding performance in a salad or rice dish.

**Mindy.** Best supporting actor in a casse-role.

**Guy.** But, folks, none draw quite as much attention as the coveted adapted screenplay from a breakfast food award.

**Mindy.** Oh, yes. "Spoonlight" took it home a few years ago. And I got to say ever since, I must think about that cereal bowl every week.

**Guy.** Well, Mindy, that's the first award up for grabs tonight. And I think we could be in for a few surprises.

**Mindy.** Oh, it wouldn't be the Nom Nom Awards without a few surprises.

**Guy.** You've got that right.

**Mindy.** And we'll be right back with more from the Marinara Red Carpet right after this commercial break.

**Production Assistant.** And we're clear.

**Thomas Fingerling.** This week at the Knuckle Hut, get fifty percent off your food when you crack all ten of your fingers at the front counter.

**Guy.** Whew, what a rush, Mindy. I forgot how fun being on TV was. I've actually been doing a lot of research into this year's nominees. And I think I've got a few predictions.

**Mindy.** A few predictions?

**Guy.** That's right. You know that category that we were talking about just before the commercial break?

**Mindy.** Yeah. Best screenplay adapted from a breakfast food?

**Guy.** Yeah. Well, one of the nominees from that category is based on an actual scientific study by researchers Itai Einav and Francois Guillard from the University of Sydney in Australia.

**Mindy.** Whoa. Which nominee is it?

**Guy.** "Ricequake."

**Mindy.** (Gasping.) The one featuring Snap, Crackle and Pop?

**Guy.** The very same.

**Mindy.** Whoa. So what was the study about?

**Guy.** Well, Mindy...

**Production Assistant.** Coming back in five, four...

**Guy.** Oh, I'll tell you during the next break.

**Mindy.** But...

**Production Assistant.** ...One.

**Guy.** Hello, and welcome back to this year's Nom Nom Awards.

**Mindy.** I'm Mindy.

**Guy.** I'm Guy Razzie. I mean Guy Raz. We're out here in sunny Southern California, right across the road from the Dolby Theater, reporting live from the Marinara Carpet as the last of the Nom Nom nominees make their way into the buffet hall. Oh, I think I see Christian Kale over there.

**Mindy.** Christian Kale is Nom nominated for three Nommies tonight.

**Guy.** It looks like we may be ready to start the award ceremony.

**Mindy.** Coming up after the break, all the awards you've been waiting for, live from the buffet hall.

**Guy.** Don't go anywhere. We'll be right back.

**Production Assistant.** And we are clear.

**Mindy.** So, Guy Raz, what was the scientific study that the nominee "Ricequake" was based on about?

**Guy.** Oh, yeah, right. So these two researchers from the University of Sydney wanted to see how porous material acted when exposed to liquid and put under pressure.

**Mindy.** And a porous material is a material that has tiny cracks or holes in it, right?

**Guy.** Exactly. It's a type of material that isn't completely solid.

**Mindy.** So like a sponge.

**Guy.** Right. So these researchers wanted to see how these sort of materials held up when soaked in a liquid and put under pressure.

**Mindy.** OK. Got it. So then how did this scientific study inspire the nonstop action-adventure disaster thriller "Ricequake"?

**Guy.** Well, Mindy...

**Production Assistant.** And we're back in four...

**Mindy.** Every time.

**Production Assistant...**Three, two, one.

**Mindy.** Welcome back to this year's Nom Nom Awards.

**Guy.** The Marinara Carpet is done and dusted. And we are ready to give out some awards.

**Mindy.** Up first, the coveted adapted screenplay from a breakfast cereal award.

**Guy.** Let's go live now to the buffet floor.

**Announcer.** And here to announce the nominees for best adapted screenplay from a breakfast food is self-proclaimed foodie Oscar Chow.

**Oscar Chow.** Hey there, folks. And welcome to the buffet floor, a place where all of your food dreams come true and also a place where the stuffed chicken wings run out.

(Laughter.)

**Oscar Chow.** OK. The nominees for best adapted screenplay from a breakfast are "Toastbusters." "Pirates Of The Cari-baked-bean." "Peter Pancakes." And "Ricequake." And the winner is...

(Soundbite of drumroll.)

**Oscar Chow...**Coming up right after these messages.

**Production Assistant.** And we're clear.

**Mindy.** Urgh! Why do they always do that?

**Guy.** Well, it's all about suspense, Mindy.

**Mindy.** OK. Well, while I hold my breath, why don't you tell me about that rice crunchies study from Australia? (Inhaling).

**Guy.** Oh, right. Well, as I was saying, these researchers wanted to see how these porous materials reacted when they interacted with fluids.

**Mindy.** (Exhaling). Like when I pour milk on my breakfast cereal, and it all goes soggy?

**Guy.** Yeah, kind of.

**Mindy.** OK. But why? I mean, don't get me wrong. I've done countless experiments on my breakfast burritos. But why are these researchers care about the soggiess of their rice crunchies?

**Guy.** Because as it turns out, Mindy, many naturally occurring dams and even some ice shelves like the ones around Antarctica are made out of porous materials.

**Mindy.** Porous materials like rice crunchies. Huh. And just to be clear, a dam is a structure made out of rocks or stones that helps to stop the flow of water in a river, right?

**Guy.** Correctamundo. Some of them form naturally. And others are man-made in order to collect drinking water or even to produce electricity.

**Mindy.** And so where do the rice crunchies come in in all this?

**Guy.** Mindy, Mindy, where did you get that bowl of rice crunchies from?

**Mindy.** There's a bunch of free food over there with my name on it.

**Guy.** Well, Mindy, as it turns out, rice crunches are also a porous material. And unlike dams or Antarctic ice shelves, they're small enough and cheap enough to bring into the lab.

**Mindy.** So these researchers were using these rice crunchies to simulate a model of how these ice sheets and dams might react in the wild?

**Guy.** Correctamundo.

**Mindy.** And so what did they find?

**Guy.** Well...

**Production Assistant.** Back in four, three, two...

**Mindy.** Oh, not again.

**Production.** ...One.

(Applause.)

**Guy.** Welcome back to the annual Nom Nom Awards.

**Mindy.** If you're just joining us, up for grabs is the coveted Adapted Screenplay From A Breakfast Food award.

**Guy.** The winner is just about to be announced, so let's head back down to the buffet hall.

**Oscar Chow.** OK. Here we go. And the winner of this year's Nom Nom Award for best adapted screenplay from a breakfast food is...

(Soundbite of drumroll.)

**Oscar Chow.** "Ricequake."

**Announcer.** This is the breakfast cereal's third Nom Nom nomination and its first win. Here to accept the award is Snap, Crackle and Pop.

**Snap.** Oh, wow. Wow. What an honor. What an honor to be Nom Nom nominated alongside some of these other breakfast foods.

**Crackle.** I love you, Pancakes, woo.

(Laughter.)

**Snap.** First and foremost, we'd like to thank the academy for their great taste in food. Thanks to our parents for always making sure we ate a healthy breakfast. And, of course, thank you to the scientists and researchers who did the study that inspired our project.

**Pop.** Well, looks like that's our time. This is such an honor. Thank you all so much.

**Announcer.** Coming up next, a live performance from "A Star Is Corn." And we find out which veggie dish will be taking home this year's Golden Carrot. All that and more live from all-you-can-eat buffet across the street from the Dolby Theatre here in Hollywood, California.

**Production Assistant.** And we're out.

**Mindy.** Oh, man. I really thought Peter Pancakes had this one in the bag this year.

**Guy.** Well, Mindy, like I said before, Ricequakes is based on a real life scientific experiment. And the academy always loves a true story.

**Mindy.** That's true. So how does this study end?

**Guy.** Well, as I was saying, Mindy, these scientists were trying to see how porous materials like natural dams and ice shelves reacted to liquids and pressure.

**Mindy.** Right. And in the lab, these scientists were using rice crunchies to simulate or model those porous materials.

**Guy.** Correctamundo - because, Mindy, even though your bowl of rice crunchies might not be as dramatic as a dam breaking or an ice shelf cracking, a bowl of cereal can actually fit in a lab and can actually be measured.

**Mindy.** And then these researchers can take those measurements and use them to predict how dams or ice shelves might break under water pressure.



**Guy.** Exactly.

**Mindy.** So how did they measure this bowl of simulation cereal?

**Guy.** Well, unlike the bowl of cereal you have here, these scientists put the rice crunchies in a scientific tube.

**Mindy.** So like a pipe or a hose?

**Guy.** Yeah. From the top of the tube, the scientists applied pressure onto the rice puffs. And then they injected liquid into the bottom.

**Mindy.** And then?

**Guy.** Then pumped up the pressure until...

**Mindy.** Ricequake!

**Guy.** That's right. The researchers found that whole layers of the rice puffs would collapse into themselves all at the same time, and they would make this very loud cracking sound.

(Soundbite of crackling sound.)

**Mindy.** Wow.

**Guy.** And then, after repeating the same experiment a few more times, these researchers were able to predict exactly when these ricequakes were going to occur.

**Mindy.** And so by knowing how and when these ricequakes are going to happen in the cereal tube, these researchers can then predict when and how the same thing will happen with these natural dams and ice shelves out in the real world.

**Guy.** That's right. By adjusting their timescale from a few seconds to a few years, these researchers are hoping that this model or scientific estimate as to what is going to happen can be used to understand and predict bigger collapses like the ones you were talking about.

**Mindy.** That's bonkerballs, Guy Raz. No wonder "Ricequake" won.

**Guy.** It sounds like the real award here should go to science.

**Mindy.** That's so cheesy, Guy Raz. It should have had a Nom Nom nomination in tonight's dairy category.

**Guy.** Speaking of which, Mindy, I think the next award might be coming up.

**Mindy.** Oh, what's up next?

**Guy.** Let me see here - oh, best action thriller based on a legume.

**Mindy.** Oh, my money's on "Chili Con Carnage." Have you seen it?

**Guy.** I don't think I have yet, but I really love "The Swiss Chard Family Robinson."

**Mindy.** I don't think I'd consider that one an action thriller.

**Production Assistant.** We are back in three...two...one!