

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 1029

in which we asked you to summarize or otherwise describe a movie, using a well-known tune: Lots of excellent longer songs — especially those with not quite as famous melodies — appear in this week's online Invitational, along with a link you can click on to hear the tune as you read the word: See bit.ly/invite1034. And I'll be featuring even more throughout the month on the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

"Porky's" to "Be Our Guest"

from "Beauty and the Beast":
See a chest! See a chest!
Tops are coming off with zest!
We're awaiting an R-rating
When we show another breast!
Lots of girls! Lots of pranks!
We'll accept your humble
thanks,
We are loading up the sleaze
Because we only aim to please!

There's not much plot to enjoy
But for every teenage boy
We deliver what you need to be
impressed,
So bring your fake ID,
You'll holler out with glee
And see a chest! See a chest!
See a chest! (Mark Raffman,
Reston)

Nyetflix: honorable mentions

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," to "Come Together"

Gather 'round, children, and I'll
Tell you a story 'bout a
Long time ago: Good people
Went to the Senate; they would
Fight special interests, stick up for
what's right,
If it meant they had to stand up
speaking all night.
Filibuster - out loud - Mr. Smith.
(Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

"Jaws," to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Shark! The townies start to blee-eed,
But the mayor's full of greed!
Despite that girl's severed hand,
He won't pay Old Quint 10 grand.

2 Winner of the mini-bottle of Laotian potion with a scorpion inside:

"1984" to "Getting to Know You"
from "The King and I":
Getting to know you, getting to know
all about you,
'Cause we have cameras watching
whatever you do;
Getting to know you, we can control
you quite nicely;
That is precisely our plan, it's true!

Getting to know you; you'll never feel
free and easy;
We are recording e-ver-y word that
you say;
Haven't you noticed? Suddenly you're
feeling queasy,
Because we're pros at wiretapping
your flat;
Guess who taught us to do that?
NSA! (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery,
Ala.)

3 "World War Z" to "Zip-a-Dee- Doo-Dah" :

Zombies in Utah, Zaire and Bombay,
My oh my, they're just chomping
away!
But they'll avoid you if you're real
sick, so hey!
Terminal illness? Your lucky day!

Mr. Brad Pitt had a notion:
Give us all diseases —
That'll bring them to their kneeses!
Now I've got typhus, feel less than
okay,
Think that I'd rather be an undead
gourmet. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

4 "Lincoln" to "Mame":

You freed the slaves and ended
the war, Abe.
You wear a hat that we all adore, Abe.
Who ever thought you'd marry
A wife that looks like Gidget (what a
babe!)
The critics hold no malice towards
Your film that's won a few awards.
Too bad you had to go to Ford's, Abe.
(Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

Scheider calls forth righteous rage!
Dreyfuss ends up in a cage!
Their prey causes Roy to note:
"You're gonna need a bigger boat."
Shark! This is the one to see:
Stay a-away from "Jaws 3-D." (Rob
Pivarnik, Stratford, Conn.)

"Casablanca," to "The Addams Family"

There's drinking and there's
gambling,
And moralistic rambling.
The cats and mice are scrambling
At Rick's Américain.
There's politics, collusion,
Triangular confusion;
We wait for the conclusion
At Rick's Américain.

... Blocked. [Laszlo]
... Crooked. [Rick gets drunk]

... Shocked! [Renault]

So come to Casablanca.
The Nazis will say "Danke."
But that's not the lingua franca
At Rick's Américain. (David Franks,
Greenland, Ark.)

"Gone With the Wind" to "Happy Days Are Here Again"

Yankee soldiers came today;
They took our pigs and cows away.
All the slaves are shouting, "Hip
Hooray!"
Bad idea, this CSA.

We hid the good stuff in a shed;
They put a pistol to my head;
"Take the silverware and hold the
lead."

Bad idea, the Old Confed.
(Lee Ballard, Mars Hill, N.C.)

"Sophie's Choice" to "Did You Ever Have to Make Up Your Mind"

Did you ever have to make up your
mind?
And say yes to one and leave the
other behind
It's such a nasty crime, you don't
want to voice:
Did you ever have to make Sophie's
choice? (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

"Saw" to "Every Breath You Take"

Every breath you take, every bone
you break,
Every toe you bake, every limb you
stake,
Jigsaw's watching you.
Now your skin turns red as your
muscles shred.
And you crush your head while you —
oops, you're dead;
Jigsaw's watching you.

It's so obscene to dissect your
spleen.
Now to change your fate, just self-
decapitate!

So much blood and gore — organs on
the floor.
I can't take much more . . . What'd I
pick this for? I'll stop watching you.
(Matt Monitto, Silver Spring)

"Groundhog Day" to "As Time Goes By"

She won't remember this:
That yesterday the kiss
Phil tried was not okay.
He gets the chance to press "replay"
On Groundhog Day.

Each morn he wakes anew
To find he can redo
The things that went astray.
A different man's pursuing Rita
Each Groundhog Day.

Blunders in wooing he makes on
every date,
Daily debuting a slightly better mate.
At billing and cooing he's doing really
great. (Il parle bien français.)

This Punxsutawney story,
A time loop allegory,
Gives Phil a brilliant way
To reinvent himself for Rita
On Groundhog Day. (Chris Doyle,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 1033: LimeriXicon

**Father John's an unfortunate bearer
Of some news that, by rites, should be rarer.
Seems a test will reveal
He's a father for real —
The result of a clerical error.**

It's our 10th (!!) annual Limerixicon, in which we aid the never-ending quest of Mr. Chris Strolin (actually he expects to finish in 2043) to complete his Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form, one sliver of the alphabet at a time. When we last checked in with Chris last August, he and his crew of contributors and editors (some of them denizens of the Loser Community as well) were working on "eq-" through "ez-" words; now, with more than 80,000 five-liners in the canon: **Supply a humorous limerick significantly featuring any English word, name or term beginning with "fa-,"** as in Chris's example above from Limerixicon IV, when he submitted it for "clerical." See wapo.st/limrules for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: "perfect" rhyme, and a strong "hickory-dickory-dock" rhythm in Lines 1, 2 and 5; a "dickory-dock" in Lines 3 and 4; plus "weak" syllables on either side). See www.oedilf.com about submitting limericks there after this contest is over.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, in commemoration of this week's "fa-" theme, the fine volume "Farts: A Spotter's Guide," a colorful board book that features nine electronic sound effects depicting (not too believably) "the Seismic Blast," "the Sleeping Dog," etc. At least it doesn't also have smell effects. Donated by Pie Snelson. Video of the Empress trying out the various buttons — in the middle of a nice restaurant during a monthly Loser brunch — is at bit.ly/fartbook.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive a smelly, tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Aug. 19; results published Sept. 8 (online Sept. 5). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 1033" in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviterules. The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Danielle Nowlin. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.



STYLE CONVERSATIONAL Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washingtonpost.com/stylconversational.

Ponder, Tex.)

"Groundhog Day" to "The Song That Never Ends"

This is the day that never ends
As Phil the weatherman expends
His time discovering that when
you've got a stunted soul
And women wish that, rodentlike,

you'd crawl back in your hole.
This is the day that never ends . . .
(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, Minn.)

**Still running — deadline Monday
night: our contest to discover
secret meanings and symbolism
in public structures, artwork, etc.
See bit.ly/invite1032.**