



Community » Mesa » Article

0 Comments

# Hands-on Oscar role joy for Dobson grad

SHARE URL EMAIL

FONT: A A A

Recommend 11

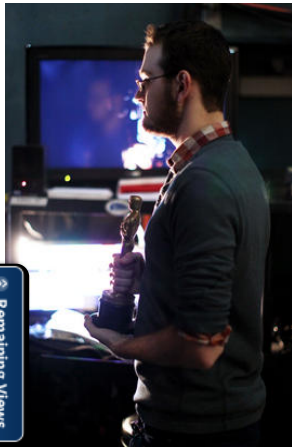
Tweet 2

By John D'Anna

The Republic | azcentral.com

Mon Mar 4, 2013 11:48 AM

## RELATED INFO



AJ Young

One of the college students onstage handing out the Oscars on Sunday was AJ Young, 23, of Mesa. A graduate of Dobson High and Mesa Community College, AJ now attends Columbia College in Chicago, where he's studying to become a cinematographer. His parents and twin brother, DJ, live in Mesa.

We asked AJ this week about his experience.

**Question:** How'd you land the Oscar gig?

**Answer:** My mom found an article online about a Facebook contest in early December. It asked for a 30-second [video](#) to prove why the Academy should take me to the Oscars and what I bring to the table for the future of movies. I basically showed my best work and my concept for a new digital cinema camera.

**Q:** Have you always been interested in film? Tell us about some of your film exploits, acting, directing, writing, etc.

**A:** I've been interested in the entertainment industry since I was little. I've acted in school plays, done improv for three years at MCC including directing their troupe for one year, and have been doing cinematography for three years. (Scottsdale Community College) taught me a lot of the skills I use today as a cinematographer and Columbia is furthering my education from there.

**Q:** Who was the coolest person you met? Did any of the celebs take an interest in you, or were you treated kind of like wallpaper?

**A:** All of the celebrities were ridiculously nice! No one was stuck up at all. Meeting (famed cinematographer) Roger Deakins was pretty cool. He's one of my idols for cinematography. Ben Affleck was incredibly interested in us. After he won best picture, he gave us incredible hugs and gave us an amazing pep talk about kicking ass in the industry.

**Q:** Did you get any good leads on film jobs? Any producers give you their business cards and say, "Call me?"

**A:** A few did! Mostly ad agencies, which is great because I would love to direct and do cinematography for commercials. A few short-film offers and possibly an independent feature film offer!

**Q:** How heavy are those statues? Were you afraid you'd drop one? Whose statues did you actually handle?

**A:** They are heavier than they look! I was afraid they would slip from my hand, but luckily I was able to keep a strong grasp. I handled the Oscars for Costume Design, Production Design, Foreign Language Film, and Best Actress.

**Q:** What's your next movie project? Where can we see your work?

Most Popular | Top Videos

- Ross Farnsworth, pioneering developer of Mesa, dies at 81
- Jodi Arias trial takes another raunchy turn
- Jodi Arias murder case: Timeline of events
- Jodi Arias murder trial: Key players
- Jodi Arias secret jail message revealed
- Jodi Arias murder trial: LIVE video
- Woman arrested in Mesa Target shoplifting case
- Woman killed in crash at Loop 202 exit identified
- 5 downtown Mesa colleges aim for a small-campus feel
- Mesa woman injured in domestic-violence incident

**A:** You can see my work at my website [www.LuckyCockroach.com](http://www.LuckyCockroach.com). The next project in the pipeline is a romantic comedy called The "Z" Word. The producer found me through Columbia's talent program and hired me. I'm so excited to shoot this project.

**Q:** Tell us a little bit about your background and what you learned growing up in Mesa.

**A:** Growing up in Mesa taught me to be patient and value simplicity. Dobson High School gave me the confidence to reach for what I want, MCC gave me the education I needed, and SCC trained me to be a professional cinematographer. I would say Mesa, and SCC, are one of the few reasons why my career is starting to take off.



ADS BY PULSE 360

AdChoices

**Rich Dad Poor Dad Phoenix**

Rich Dad Education. Free financial workshops Mar. 12th - 14th  
[Get details...](#)

**Top Technology Stock**

New 3-D Printing Technology. Invest in Massive Dynamics. Act Now!  
[Get details...](#)

**SOLX Stocks Available Now**

Solar America Corp Just launched First Of its Kind Solar Power Station  
[Invest now!](#)

**GET AZCENTRAL ANYWHERE**

**azcentral.com  
mobile editions**

Get azcentral.com on your phones and tablets for the latest news, sports, video, photos and much more from azcentral, The Arizona Republic and 12 News.

- » [Get azcentral.com mobile!](#)
- » [Android](#) | [iPad](#) | [iPhone](#)
- » [iPhone Sports](#) | [AZ](#)

From our sponsor

**Banner Children's Total Kid for iPad**

Download your free copy of Total Kid, an interactive digital parenting magazine filled with trending health topics, videos, tips and activities. Sponsored by Banner Health.

**► Join the Discussion**

azcentral.com has switched to the Facebook comment system on its blogs. Existing blog comments will display, but new comments will only be accepted via the Facebook comment system. To begin commenting, you must be logged into an active personal account on Facebook. Once you're logged in, you will be able to comment. While we welcome you to join conversations, readers are responsible for their comments and abuse of this privilege will not be tolerated. We reserve the right, without warning or notification, to remove comments and block users judged to violate our [Terms of Service](#) and [Rules of Engagement](#). [Facebook comments FAQ](#)

Comments posted via facebook: 0



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Sally McCann Mesarosh ([Change](#))

Warning: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/20130304hands-oscar-role-joy-dobson-grad.html> is unreachable.

Facebook social plugin

**MORE FROM AZCENTRAL**

- [Father, son dead in apparent murder-suicide](#)
- [Forbes: Five Arizonans make list of wealthiest people](#)
- [Green Day ignored warning signs about Armstrong](#)
- [Jodi Arias secret jail message revealed](#)
- [Jodi Arias trial takes another raunchy turn](#)

**FROM AROUND THE WEB**

- [The Most Beautiful Celebrity Women over the age of 50](#) (*She Budgets*)
- [20 Cancer Symptoms Women Are Likely to Ignore](#) (*Reader's Digest*)
- [Things We Should Probably Never Do Again After 50](#) (*AARP.org*)
- [Queen Elizabeth II Leaves Hospital After Battling Stomach Infection](#) (*E! Online*)
- [Jennifer Love Hewitt wears a revealing dress as she grabs lunch on the set of "The Client List" in Los Angeles](#) (*Zimbio*)

**Better Service. Better Techs. Better Response Time. Better Get Convenient.**

"Serving Arizona since 1988"

**CONVENIENT** VALLEY WIDE SERVICE

HOME SERVICES INC.

**(480) 988-0098**

[www.myphoenixair.com](http://www.myphoenixair.com)

A/C Tune Up with 1 lb. Freon (if needed) **Only \$39.95**

Digital Thermostat Installed for **Only \$99.95**

\*Call for details. Includes one year warranty.

[?]