Looking Tutu Strange

en and women women and men. I will never work, wrote Erica Jong.

GLOBE MUSINGS: The Hollywood Foreign Press Awards given out Sunday night continue to be the most fun for the stars (they get to drink immediately after they win or lose!). It's also the most interesting to watch — all those candid moments during breaks, stars schmoozing, introducing themselves to each other. I particularly liked a moment at the end of Salma Hayek and her man, Edward Norton, caught in deep conversation, lost in each other — he in consoling mode. The Globes' searching cameras humanize stars more than at any other event.

At the red carpet arrivals mayhem, Michael Caine charmingly admitted he was excited to see Eric McCormack of "Will & Grace," whom he had never met. Another terrific moment during that grueling press run was Nicole Kidman and her sister, Antonia, an equally statuesque and even shyer beauty, handling themselves with aplomb during their moments with Joan Rivers. When Antonia, who is four months pregnant, was finally coaxed by Nicole to join her on Rivers' podium, she crouched a little, so as not to seem as tall as her star sibling. Nicole laughed and said, "Stand up! You know you're taller than that!"

The red carpet press march is excruciating. Almost everyone looks idiotic, especially the reporters, asking inane questions and giving the sputtering stars the bum's rush so they can go on to torment another celebrity. Poor Jennifer Aniston was caught arriving late, hobbling in on a cane. A reporter pounced, and though the "Friends" star was clearly in pain and hurrying, the press gal, jabbering frantically, said, "I'll just walk with you." I'd give Aniston — who won a GG — another award for staying cool and polite. Brad Pitt, too.

As for what the wins — "Chicago," "The Hours," Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson — indicate for Oscar is anybody's guess. Upsets are always fun. Though "Unfaithful" was released early, there's a strong feeling among discerning quarters that Diane Lane, who hasn't mounted a flashy campaign, will take the golden guy. What's hot now, can cool in a month and vice versa.

Streep's shock looked genuine and charming . . . Jeff Goldblum seemed oddly mocking during his presentation with an unamused-looking Calista Flockhart . . . Sharon Stone clearly wants everybody in Hollywood — and China! — to know she's back in business . . . Perhaps Lara Flynn Boyle's breakup with Nicholson affected her more than we realized (what else could explain her deranged ballerina outfit? take off the red shoes, Lara!) . . . Top glamour honors fell to Hayek, a bombshell in scarlet, and Halle Berry, a vision in lilac . . . Gene Hackman's acceptance of his Cecil B. DeMille Award was touching, recounting his childhood memories of movie-going - and it was, mercifully, brief. (Globe fashions, next page.)

PARTY-GOING: At the InStyle GG bash at the Palm Court, there was so much star wattage, including Nicolas Cage, Elton John, Heather Graham,



Getty Images Photo

LARA FLYNN BOYLE

Her ballet outfit was a fashion misstep.

Angie Harmon, Debra Messing, Lisa Kudrow, Heath Ledger, Mira Sorvino, et al — that when the power went out briefly, jeweler Martin Katz feared it was a heist because so many of the women were wearing his jewels . . . Michael Chiklis, winner for "The Shield," wouldn't let go of his award, not even when Joan Rivers tried to pry it from his hands . . . Angie Harmon was at InStyle alone — her hubby, Jason Seahorn, stayed behind at the Four Seasons, watching the playoffs with his agent . . . Faye Dunaway fielded a pitch from Oscars party host Norby Walters to attend his weekly poker party - Faye with a stogie, playing poker, an image for the ages!

But since fashion is almost as big a part of awards shows as the actual honors, here's the scooplet of the night. This year, many nominees were rumored to be required to sign contracts stating they would, indeed, wear the gown they were given, and then, the stars were paid a fee for going out and publicizing the dress. Some designers had gotten fed up with stars taking home gowns and then never wearing them to important events.

TONIGHT! A refreshed, super-slim Liza Minnelli and hubby David Gest appear on "The Late Late Show" with Craig Kilborn. They'll tell about their new \$4-million Hawaiian manse, Liza's American and European tour — (she'll be at Westbury with Joel Grey Feb. 14), and the award she'll receive in England next week for her AIDS fund-raising.

THE GREAT PHOTOGRAPHER John Bryson (he shot Ernest Hemingway kicking a can) — once a star at Life magazine — is living a larger-than-life drama resulting from the death of his actress-wife, Nancy Martin Guild, in 1999.

She left him her part of their East Hampton house, a lush acre adjacent to the town park on the historic Gardiner Estate. But a bitter lawsuit with her daughters has brought him to the place of having his home auctioned out from under him. Houses in this range begin at seven figures. The auction date is Jan. 31. Now, Bryson seeks funds for an appeal bond so he can regroup. Well-wishers can call 631-324-1055.

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