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## Oscar wild

**Hollywood's big party is given the alternative treatment.**

Most people admit that watching the Academy Awards from home can be ho-hum, but what if you could experience the thrill of actually dressing up and attending the shebang (sort of)? That's the premise behind the Alt. Oscars, a New York-based parody show hosted by Costume Cultural

Society and the Kostume Kult arts collective. As event organizer and creative director Jim Glaser puts it, "The point of the Alties is access. We're part of what some sociologists are calling the 'participatory culture.'"



This year's fest, the group's second, begins at 5pm on Sunday 25 at Mannhatta (316 Bowery at Bleecker St). For a \$20 entry fee, Glaser says you'll experience something that more closely resembles the Coney Island Mermaid Parade than Graydon Carter's annual post-Oscar bash, but that's only to say the Alties lack a certain glamour. Last year's gala attracted a diverse mix from New York's downtown art, fashion and music scenes—all intent on having their spin on the red carpet, which includes flashbulb-snapping paparazzi and a chat with a "celebrity TV interviewer."

Glaser says *Alt* is a term from the early days of the Internet, but the Alt trophy itself is pure New York: a Statue of Liberty with a disco ball instead of a torch. As far as the awards go, there are eight, for categories including best celebrity impersonation (male and female), best celebrity original (for those who come up with their own persona) and, of course, best costume. But unlike the real Oscars, where music is played to coax a chatty actor offstage, the Alties aren't as gentle. "In our Oscars," explains Glaser, "we have a Dominatrix Bo Peep, with a shepherd's crook ready. She'll literally pull you off the stage if you don't shut up!" —*Daniel Derouchie*