

## Kerry Jealous of Douglas

By: Patrick Gavin

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Throw a party on Oscar night, and the talk will be about, well, the Oscars.

Such was the case Sunday night at the residence of Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Salam Al-Sabah and Rima Al-Sabah, where the couple hosted a “Journey for Peace” dinner benefitting the Central Asia Institute.

“For those of you who could not make the Oscars,” said emcee Fareed Zakaria, the evening gave “a hint of what that glamour is like.”

“Welcome to the alternative Oscar party,” said Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) in his remarks.

The evening’s biggest star — actor Michael Douglas — got into the act. “And the Oscar goes to...” Douglas joked as he began his remarks, going on to compliment Zakaria (or as al-Sabah dubbed him, “the Backstreet Boy of broadcasting”) for his emcee skills and argue that Oscar hosts Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin had nothing on him.

Kerry poked fun at his presidential run in 2004, saying he was jealous that Douglas because he “actually got to be president” (in “The American President”).

Kerry also said that he and Douglas had at least one thing in common: “We’re constantly outshined by our dates.”

The dinner’s primary honoree was author Greg Mortensen, whose best-selling book, “Three Cups of Tea,” documents the author’s efforts to educate girls Pakistan and Afghanistan, with the help of the Central Asia Institute.

“He’s an ambassador at large,” said Ambassador al-Sabah. “And at 6’4, I mean that literally.”

As for some of the attendees’ Oscar picks, some guests were better than others in predicting what would take place in Hollywood.

Kerry said he liked “The Hurt Locker” but had “some problems with it,” he told POLITICO.

Kerry’s favorite of the year was “Avatar,” and that was seconded by both the ambassador and his wife.

D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty took the advice of a fellow party-goer and tapped “The Hurt Locker” to win. Ditto outgoing White House social secretary Desiree Rogers (who hoped Mo’Nique would win for her role in “Precious”), BBC’s Katty Kay, Adm. Mike Mullen (“those are my people”) and White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel.

As for Mortensen himself? “You’ll have to ask my wife.”