

LIFE

AMERICA'S WEEKEND MAGAZINE

HOLIDAY MOVIE MAGIC

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DON'T MISS
FAMILY FILMS



Welcome Back,

POTTER

Rupert Grint,
Emily Watson,
and Daniel
Radcliffe
(from left) of
Harry Potter
and the
Goblet of Fire

The World's Weirdest Beards • How to Outsmart Thanksgiving Calories

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER

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The World's Weirdest Beards (and a few strange mustaches)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW NIESEN AND RACHEL LA COUR NIESEN

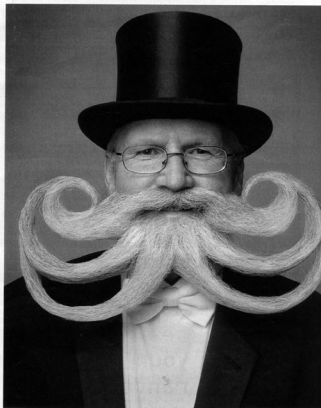
They are in facial hair what Lance Armstrong is to two-wheelers. Last month, at the World Beard and Mustache Championships, 243 bizarre growlers from 20 countries covered in Berlin to vie for honors in 17 categories, from Musketeer to Fu Manchu to Dalí. Germany usually dominates, and this year

was no exception, as the home team registered 14 wins, highlighted by Elmar Weiser and Montasche Championships, 243 bizarre growlers from 20 countries covered in Berlin to vie for honors in 17 categories, from Musketeer to Fu Manchu to Dalí. Germany usually dominates, and this year Weiser's patriotic rendering of the Brandenburg Gate (opposite, with Blaghi. The next world championships are slated for England in 2007, and Weiser is contemplating a version of London's turreted Tower Bridge. —MOSAB AYOUB



Sideburns, World Champion

Toot Jasin, Tahoe City, California Jasin bears a passing resemblance to polo-happy cowboy Yosemite Sam, and, fittingly, in Berlin he picked off some pretty stiff competition for the title. "Everybody was stoked, except the guy I beat," crowed the sole American champion. Jasin's splendid silver whiskers might have claimed the title on their considerable merits alone, but Toot figured some aw-shucks Western charm wouldn't hurt with the all-German panel of judges. "All I did was tip my hat, say 'Howdy, ma'am,' and mosby on."



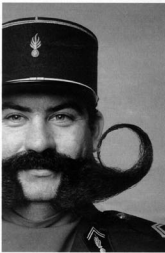
Freestyle Partial Beard, World Champion

Will Chevalier, Sunnysing, Germany Every memorable championship needs a heartwarming comeback story, and this year, Will's was the one. In 2003, just weeks before Chevalier, the reigning world champion, was set to defend his crown in Canon City, Nevada, his beard was ensnared in a power drill and torn from his face. In Berlin last month, with scars hidden beneath his wonderful whiskers, the once-and-future king competed in top hat and tails—and won back the world title.



Freestyle Full Beard, World Champion

Elmar Weiser, Brigachtal, Germany Weiser, who co-owns a hair salon, began planning his Brandenburg Gate, in emulation of one of Berlin's most revered landmarks, in 2003. He finally got the design right, and on the morning of the world championship, he and another hair stylist spent nearly five hours shaping his masterpiece.



Freestyle Partial Beard, Competitor

Hervé Diebolt, Heliwiller, France Diebolt, also a professional hairstylist (as were most of the judges), has worn facial hair ever since he could grow it, because, he says, he was told as a child that "a man with a beard is a man." Diebolt attends the WEMC not so much for the thrill of competition as for the pride he feels in representing his country. Diebolt was the only Frenchman at this year's meet, where he brandished a German Kaiserlich (or Imperial) mustache. For the record, this is his everyday style.



Wild West Mustache, Third Place

Bruce Roe, Bremerton, Washington Another rank on the podium in Berlin, Roe is also the newly elected president of the World Beard and Mustache Association. He has worn his whiskers at this length for 20 years and swears by Freeze It Hair spray—"nothing I've ever found."



Freestyle Full Beard, Competitor

Magnus Dold, Bräunlingen, Germany Dold lives in the Black Forest, a n that charms out competitive beardsters much like Venezuela grows storm Bewildered for the past 50 of his 72 years, he was recruited by the awd Swabian Beard Club of Schoemberg in 2001. His strategy at the world ch onship: have his white beard stand out in stark relief against a dark shirt. Such keen thinking indicates a bright future on this, bearding's greatest sta.

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