

Oscar-inspired drinks toast Hollywood's biggest night

By Michelle Locke / The Associated Press

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Movie magic will be the toast of Tinseltown on Oscar night, and what better way to bring the festivities couch-side than with a cocktail inspired by this year's nominees.

We asked mixologists from around the country to come up with award-worthy recipes. The results ranged from a classic cocktail that dates to the early days of flight to a bubbly concoction from the ice cream parlor featured in the family-friendly "Up."

So, dim the lights, set out the snacks and raise your glasses up, up in the air. Hurray for Hollywood.

'Up': "Up," a movie about an old man and his young neighbor who fly in a balloon-powered house to South America, includes some San Francisco Bay area landmarks, including the popular ice cream parlor, Fentons Creamery, in Oakland. Fenton's master blender Scott Whidden came up with this recipe he says will take you "Up, up and away!"

CELEBRATION ICE CREAM FLOAT

- Italian sparkling water
- 1/4 ounce orange syrup (such as Torani)
- Premium vanilla ice cream

Fill a tall glass with sparkling water and the orange syrup. Mix, then stir 1 teaspoon of the ice cream into the soda until frothy. Gently top the soda with a scoop of ice cream.

— *From Scott Whidden of Fentons Creamery in Oakland, Calif.*