

MOVIES

First cut is deepest at Oscar time

By D. M. Holiman
Emerald Contributor

Everybody predicts the winners of the Academy Awards. But what about the nominees?

The Oscar nominations will be announced in only a few weeks. Since the nominations generate almost as much interest as predicting the winners, and since it's much harder to predict nominations, the challenge is too tempting for an inveterate Hollywood prognosticator like myself. Therefore, listed below are the major categories and the expected films and performers that will nab nominations.

MOTION PICTURE

This year four different films won best film awards voted by critics' organizations. The New York Film Critics named "Broadcast News" as the year's best; The National Board voted for "Empire of the Sun"; The Los Angeles Critics named "Hope and Glory;" and the National Society of Film Critics picked John Huston's final film, "The Dead."

Usually, a film voted the year's best by the critics has an excellent chance of receiving an Academy Award nod. Therefore, all four of the above-mentioned films, except "The Dead," should have excellent chances of receiving nominations.

"The Dead" has a chance, but coming ahead of it should be "Moonstruck" and Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Last Emperor."

Other films with a chance for a nomination include "Full Metal Jacket," "The Untouchables," and "Nuts."

DIRECTOR

Generally, if a film is nominated for best director then its director is nominated too. Often, however, one director is nominated whose film was not nominated. (Recall the flap two years ago when Steven Spielberg wasn't nominated for "The Color Purple" when the film received 11 nominations?)

However, if Hollywood continues in the tradition of matching directors with nominated films, then look for James L. Brooks ("Broadcast News"), Spielberg ("Empire of the Sun"), John Boorman ("Hope and Glory") and Bertolucci ("The Last Emperor") to receive nominations.

The director who will not receive a nomination this year although the film he directed will be nominated, will be Norman Jewison ("Moonstruck"). Instead, expect to see either Stanley Kubrick ("Full Metal Jacket"), Brian DePalma ("The Untouchables") or John Huston

("The Dead") to take his place. I'm leaning toward Kubrick.

ACTOR

A number of actors have a chance for the coveted lead actor nomination. Leading the way, by virtue of being named best actor by two critics' groups is Steve Martin for "Roxanne." Michael Douglas ("Wall Street") and Jack Nicholson (probably for "Ironweed") are two other certain nominees. They also won critics' awards for best actor of the year.

The other two spots will be filled by the following: William Hurt ("Broadcast News"), Robin Williams ("Good Morning, Vietnam"), Marcello Mastroianni ("Dark Eyes"), Nick Nolte ("Weeds"), and John Lone ("The Last Emperor"). The two with the best chance are Hurt and Williams.

ACTRESS

The race for the best actress nominations is no less competitive. Leading the way are Holly Hunter ("Broadcast News"), Glenn Close ("Fatal Attraction") and Cher ("Moonstruck"). Two other strong contenders are Barbra Streisand ("Nuts") and Meryl Streep ("Ironweed").

Both Lillian Gish ("The Whales of August") and Sally Kirkland ("Anna") have shots since they won critics' awards. Maggie Smith gave a performance worthy of nomination in "The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne," but the film has yet to be released in most markets and that decreases her chances. Faye Dunaway for "Barfly" has a shot too.

SUPPORTING ACTOR

The supporting nominees are always more difficult to predict, but the favored five for the supporting actor category are Sean Connery, "The Untouchables;" Morgan Freeman, "Street Smart" (both Connery and Freeman won critics' awards); Albert Brooks, "Broadcast News" (if he isn't considered as a lead actor); Denzel Washington, "Cry Freedom" (also being touted as best actor); and Richard Dreyfuss ("Nuts").

Ian Bannen ("Hope and Glory") and Lee Ermy ("Full Metal Jacket") gave fine performances and could be nominated. The question is, who would they replace?

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

The supporting actress category is just as competitive as the others. Olympia Dukakis ("Moonstruck") is a leading candidate by virtue of winning almost every critics' award. Other strong possibilities include Vanessa Redgrave, "Prick Up Your Ears;" Elaine Stritch, "September;" Maureen Stapleton, "Nuts;" Anjelica Huston, "The Dead;" and Anne Archer, "Fatal Attraction;" and Norma Aleandro, "Gaby."



Courtesy Photo

One of the films expected to receive several Oscar nominations is "Hope and Glory," the John Boorman film about an English family who survives the blitz of Britain.

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