

DAILY VARIETY

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IT'S 4 MEN AND A FUNNY LADY DGA nominees are Demme, Levinson, Scott, Stone, Streisand

BY JOSEPH McBRIDE

Two-time Directors Guild of America award winner Oliver Stone received another nomination yesterday for Warner Bros.' controversial assassination docudrama "JFK," while Barbra Streisand, for Columbia's romantic drama "The Prince of Tides," became the third woman ever nominated by the DGA for feature directing.

Also nominated in the DGA competition—which provides a close though not always exact forecast of Academy Awards nominations in the directing category—were Jonathan Demme, for Orion's thriller "The Silence of the Lambs"; Barry Levinson, for TriStar's period gangster saga "Bugsy"; and Ridley Scott, for MGM's feminist road movie "Thelma & Louise."

The 44th annual DGA awards for features, TV shows and com-

mercials will be presented March 14 at the Beverly Hilton. The feature nominations were announced by Guild president Arthur Hiller at the DGA's L.A. h.q. TV nominations will be announced next week.

Stone's nomination is sure to shine an even more intense spotlight on "JFK," which has caused a freestorm of media debate because of its contention that elements of the U.S. government conspired to kill President John F. Kennedy in order to escalate the Vietnam War.

Stone previously won the DGA award for his Vietnam War films "Platoon" (1986) and "Born on the Fourth of July" (1989), for which he also won directing Oscars.

Streisand's first DGA nomination will be seen by her supporters as going part of the way toward rectifying what they considered an injustice done her by the Guild and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, both of which

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snubbed her 1983 directorial debut, "Yentl." That led to charges of industry sexism against women directors in general and the strong-willed Streisand in particular, and some of her supporters even mounted a public protest outside the Oscar ceremony.

Her DGA nod for "Tides" now gives her a strong likelihood of becoming the first American woman ever nominated for a directing Oscar.



Streisand

The only women previously nominated by the DGA for feature directing were Italy's Lina Wertmüller for the 1976 "Seven Beauties" (for which she also received an Oscar nomination, the only woman so honored to date), and the United States' Randa Haines, for the 1986 "Children of a Lesser God." In last year's Guild competition, the by-passing of "Awakenings" director Penny Marshall brought some criticism.

If Streisand wins the DGA award, she would be only the fourth winner of the Guild's prize who also acted in the winning film, following Woody Allen ("Annie Hall," 1977), Warren Beatty ("Reds," 1981) and Kevin Costner

("Dances With Wolves," 1990).

Among the current crop of DGA nominees, Demme and Scott also are first-time candidates, while Levinson is a past winner for the 1988 "Rain Man" and last year was nominated for "Avalon."

Scott's nomination was regarded as the most surprising this year by most observers, although "Thelma & Louise" generally received highly laudatory reviews.



Scott

Since the DGA awards were first passed out in 1949, there have been only three occasions when the feature winner has not gone on to win the Oscar as best director.

But some discrepancies in balloting arise because the DGA nominations and awards are voted on by the entire Guild membership—currently 9,710 people (most of them working primarily in TV)—while the directing Oscar nominations are made by the now 281-member directors branch of the Academy, with the Oscar voted by all active and life Academy members, currently totaling 4,968. The most recent, and most controversial, discrepancy between the directing awards competitions came in 1985, when Steven Spiel-



Levinson

berg won the DGA award for "The Color Purple" but wasn't even nominated in the Academy Awards race, which was won by Sydney Pollack for "Out of Africa."

Previously, Anthony Harvey picked up the DGA prize for "The Lion in Winter" (1968), but Carol Reed won the Oscar for "Oliver," and the DGA picked Francis Ford Coppola for "The Godfather" in 1972, while Bob Fosse took home the Oscar for "Cabaret."

Spielberg ("Hook") was among the directors passed over in the DGA nominations this year.

Others who had been considered possible contenders include Martin Scorsese ("Cape Fear"), Lawrence Kasdan ("Grand Canyon"), Akira Kurosawa ("Rhapsody in August"), Terry Gilliam ("The Fisher King"), John Singleton ("Boyz n the Hood"), Agnieszka Holland ("Europa, Europa"), Randa Haines ("The Doctor"), Jodie Foster ("Little Man Tate"), David Cronenberg ("Naked Lunch"), Alan Parker ("The Commitments") and Joel Coen ("Barton Fink"). James Cameron, the director of 1991's biggest B.O. hit, "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," also was

bypassed by the DGA, as were Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise, the directing team behind Disney's animated blockbuster "Beauty and the Beast," which is considered a likely contender for a best-picture Oscar nomination.

There is no clear-cut favorite this year for the DGA and Oscar directing honors, just as there is no clear-cut favorite for the best-picture Oscar.

In previous 1991 awards competitions, Stone won the directing Golden Globe from the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn. for " JFK"; Demme was named best director by the N.Y. Film Critics Circle and the National Board of Review for "The Silence of the Lambs"; Cronenberg was honored by the National Society of Film Critics for "Naked Lunch"; and Levinson was chosen by the Los Angeles Film Critics Assn. for "Bugsy."



Stone

As is Guild practice, the DGA includes in its nominations each director's support team of unit production manager and first, second and second second assistant directors (in two instances, the DGA trainsee also were mentioned). They are:

Levinson: Peter Giuliano, first assistant director; Gabriella Vazquez, second assistant director; and Kate Davey and George Bamber, second second assistant directors.

"JFK": Clayton Townsend, unit production manager; Joseph Reidy, first assistant director; Joseph R. Burns, second assistant director; Deborah Lupard, second second assistant director.

"The Prince of Tides": Sheldon Schragar and Timothy M. Bourne, unit production manager; Thomas A. Reilly, first assistant director; Debra Kent and Robert Huberman, second assistant directors; and Rebecca Salonz, DGA trainee.

"The Silence of the Lambs": Kenneth Utt, unit production manager; Ron Bozmann, first assistant director; Kyle McCarthy, second assistant director; and Gina Leonetti, second second assistant director.

"Thelma & Louise": Dean O'Brien and Mel Delliar, unit production managers; Steve Danton, first assistant director; B. Scott Senechal, second assistant director; Wendolyn Peterson, second second assistant director; and Martin Jeditka, DGA trainee.



Demme

unit production managers; Steve Danton, first assistant director; B. Scott Senechal, second assistant director; Wendolyn Peterson, second second assistant director; and Martin Jeditka, DGA trainee.