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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 documentary—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-

petition—which provides a close though not always exact reflection 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

came the third woman ever nominated by the DGA for feature di-

recting.

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

were announced next week.

Stone's nomination is sure to

shine an even more intense spot-

light on "JFK," which has caused a

firestorm 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 Os-

cars.

Streisand's first DGA nomina-

tion 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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DGA nods to Denme, Levinson, Scott, Stone, Streisand

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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.

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 bypassing 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 ("Reeds," 1985), when Steven Spiel-

("Dances With Wolves," 1990).

Among the current crop of DGA nominees, Denme 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.

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 con-



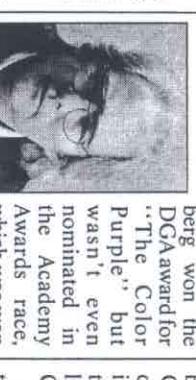
Streisand



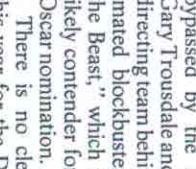
Scott



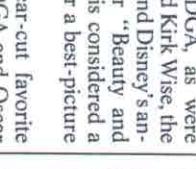
Levinson



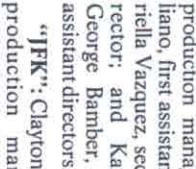
Stone



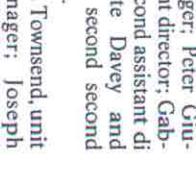
Streisand



De Palma



De Palma



Keaton

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 Gay Trousdale and Kirk Wise, the directing team behind Disney's anticipated 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"; Cro-

nenberg 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."

As is Guild practice, the DGA includes in its nominations each director's support team of unit production manager and first, second and third assistant directors (in two instances, the DGA trainees also were men-

tioned). They are: Mel Dellar, unit production managers; Steve Danton, first assistant director; B. Scott Senecal, second assistant director; Wendolyn Peterson, second assistant director; and Kevin Costner, DGA trainee.