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SPE takes Oscar primary



Col-TriStar duo bags 36 total nominations; 'Bugsy,' 'JFK' top pics

By Andrea King

As New Hampshire residents made their primary choices for president known, the members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences revealed the results of their own primary — tapping a number of expected candidates for the upcoming 64th annual Academy Awards while raising charges that it was also playing its own game of politics — shutting Barbra Streisand out of the best director category.

While the nominations for best picture went to "JFK," "Bugsy," "The Prince of Tides," "The Silence of the Lambs" and the wild card "Beauty and the Beast," it was the snub of "Tides'" director Streisand that caused many in Hollywood to cry foul — and throw charges of sexism and running a popularity contest at the Academy — whose directors branch consists of about 234 men and 12 women (*story on page 7*).

Columbia's "Tides" received seven nominations, including best actor for Nick Nolte, but it

See **OSCAR NOMS** on page 8



Nominees competing for the best picture Academy Award are, clockwise from top, "JFK" from Warner Bros.; "The Silence of the Lambs" from Orion Pictures; "The Prince of Tides" from Columbia Pictures; "Beauty and the Beast" from Buena Vista; and "Bugsy" from TriStar Pictures.

Champagne, cheers, great wake-up calls

By Kevin Phinney

Typically competitive, territorial and angst-ridden, Hollywood's best and brightest took a holiday Wednesday, basking in the nominations for one of the most wide-ranging Oscar races in cinema history.

Best picture nominees came from every genre — Jonathan Demme's horrific thriller, "The Silence of the Lambs" took its place next to Walt Disney's animated milestone, "Beauty and the Beast," John Singleton's L.A. urban opus "Boyz n the Hood," Barry Levinson's gangster drama "Bugsy" and Oliver Stone's indictment of the Warren Commission, "JFK."

And, with the exception of the omission of

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WEXLER
V I D E O I N C.

64th Academy Awards

And the nominees are . . .

PICTURE

"Beauty and the Beast" (Buena Vista), a Walt Disney Pictures Production; Don Hahn, producer
 "Bugsy" (TriStar), a TriStar Pictures Production; Mark Johnson, Barry Levinson and Warren Beatty, producers
 "JFK" (Warner Bros.), a Camelot Production; A. Kitman Ho and Oliver Stone, producers
 "The Prince of Tides" (Columbia), a Barwood/Longfellow Production; Barbra Streisand and Andrew Karsch, producers
 "The Silence of the Lambs" (Orion), a Strong Heart/Demme Production; Edward Saxon, Kenneth Utt and Ron Bozman, producers

DIRECTOR

John Singleton, "Boyz n the Hood" (Columbia)
 Barry Levinson, "Bugsy" (TriStar)
 Oliver Stone, "JFK" (Warner Bros.)
 Jonathan Demme, "The Silence of the Lambs" (Orion)
 Ridley Scott, "Thelma & Louise" (MGM)

ACTOR

Warren Beatty, "Bugsy" (TriStar)
 Robert De Niro, "Cape Fear" (Universal)
 Anthony Hopkins, "The Silence of the Lambs" (Orion)
 Nick Nolte, "The Prince of Tides" (Columbia)
 Robin Williams "The Fisher King" (TriStar)

ACTRESS

Geena Davis, "Thelma & Louise" (MGM)
 Laura Dern, "Rambling Rose" (Seven Arts)
 Jodie Foster "The Silence of the Lambs" (Orion)
 Bette Midler, "For the Boys" (20th Century Fox)
 Susan Sarandon, "Thelma & Louise" (MGM)

SUPPORTING ACTOR

Tommy Lee Jones, "JFK" (Warner Bros.)
 Harvey Keitel, "Bugsy" (TriStar)
 Ben Kingsley "Bugsy" (TriStar)
 Michael Lerner "Barton Fink" (20th Century Fox)
 Jack Palance "City Slickers" (Columbia)

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Diane Ladd, "Rambling Rose" (Seven Arts)
 Juliette Lewis, "Cape Fear" (Universal)
 Kate Nelligan, "The Prince of

Tides" (Columbia)
 Mercedes Ruehl, "The Fisher King" (TriStar)
 Jessica Tandy, "Fried Green Tomatoes" (Universal)

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

"Europa Europa" (Orion Classics), Agnieszka Holland
 "Fried Green Tomatoes" (Universal), Fannie Flagg and Carol Sobieski
 "JFK" (Warner Bros.), Oliver Stone and Zachary Sklar
 "The Prince of Tides" (Columbia), Pat Conroy and Becky Johnston



Early birds Karl Malden and Kathleen Turner announce the names of Oscar nominees.

"The Silence of the Lambs" (Orion), Ted Tally

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

John Singleton, "Boyz n the Hood" (Columbia)
 James Toback, "Bugsy" (TriStar)
 Richard LaGravenese, "The Fisher King" (TriStar)
 Lawrence Kasdan and Meg Kasdan, "Grand Canyon" (20th Century Fox)
 Callie Khouri, "Thelma & Louise" (MGM)

FOREIGN FILM

"Children of Nature," an Icelandic Film Corporation Ltd./Max Film (Berlin)/Metro Film (Oslo) Production, Iceland
 "The Elementary School," a Barrandov Film Studio Production, Czechoslovakia

"Mediterraneo," a Pentafilm S.p.A./A.M.A. Film S.r.l. Production, Italy

"The Ox," a Sweetland Films AB/Jean Doumanian Production, Sweden

"Raise the Red Lantern," an ERA International (HK) Ltd. Presentation in association with China Film Co-production Corporation Production, Hong Kong

ART DIRECTION

"Barton Fink" (20th Century Fox), art direction Dennis Gassner, set decoration Nancy Haigh
 "Bugsy" (TriStar), art direction Dennis Gassner, set decoration Nancy Haigh

"The Fisher King" (TriStar), art direction Mel Bourne, set decoration Cindy Carr

"Hook" (TriStar), art direction Norman Garwood, set decoration Garrett Lewis

"The Prince of Tides" (Columbia), art direction Paul Sylbert, set decoration Caryl Heller

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Allen Daviau, "Bugsy" (TriStar)
 Robert Richardson, "JFK" (Warner Bros.)
 Stephen Goldblatt, "The Prince of Tides" (Columbia)
 Adam Greenburg, "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (TriStar)
 Adrian Biddle, "Thelma & Louise" (MGM)

COSTUME DESIGN

Ruth Myers, "The Addams Family" (Paramount)
 Richard Hornung, "Barton Fink" (20th Century Fox)

Albert Wolsky, "Bugsy" (TriStar)

Anthony Powell, "Hook" (TriStar)

Corrine Jory, "Madame Bovary" (Samuel Goldwyn Co.)

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

"Death on the Job," a Half-Court Pictures Ltd. Production; Vince DiPersio and William Guttentag, producers
 "Doing Time: Life Inside the Big House," a Video Verite Production; Alan Raymond and Susan Raymond, producers
 "In the Shadow of the Stars," a Light-Saraf Films Production; Allie Light and Irving Saraf, producers
 "The Restless Conscience: Resistance to Hitler Within Germany 1933-1945," a Hava Kohav Beller Production; Hava Kohav Beller, producer
 "Wild by Law," a Florentine Films Production; Lawrence Hott

and Diane Garey, producers

DOCUMENTARY SHORT SUBJECT

"Birdnesters of Thailand" (aka "Shadow Hunters"), an Antenne 2/National Geographic Society/M.D.I/Wind Horse Production; Eric Valli and Alain Majani, producers

"Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment," a Women's Educational Media Inc. Production; Debra Chasnoff, producer
 "A Little Vicious," a Film and Video Workshop Inc. Production; Immy Humes, producer

"The Mark of the Maker," a McGowan Film and Video Inc. Production; David McGowan, producer

"Memorial: Letters From American Soldiers," a Couturie

NOMINATIONS BY DISTRIBUTOR

Sony Pictures Ent.*	36
Orion/Orion Classics*	9
Warner Bros.	9
Universal	7
Buena Vista	6
20th Century Fox	6
MGM-Pathe	6
Paramount	3
Seven Arts	2
Miramax	1
Samuel Goldwyn Co.	1

(* TriStar has 26 nominations; Columbia has 10 nominations. Orion has 7 nominations; Orion Classics has 2 nominations. Does not include documentaries or short films.)

Company Production; Bill Couturie and Bernard Edelman, producers

EDITING

"The Commitments" (20th Century Fox), Gerry Hambling
 "JFK" (Warner Bros.), Joe Hutshing and Pietro Scalia
 "The Silence of the Lambs" (Orion), Craig McKay
 "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (TriStar), Conrad Buff, Mark Goldblatt and Richard A. Harris
 "Thelma & Louise" (MGM) Thom Noble

MAKEUP

"Hook" (TriStar), Christina Smith, Montague Westmore and Greg Cannon
 "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (Paramount), Michael Mills, Edward French and Richard Snell
 "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (TriStar), Stan Winston and Jeff Dawn

See **NOMINEES** on page 7

64th Academy Awards

Oscar noms

Continued from page 1—

was TriStar's gangster drama, "Bugsy," which tallied the most nominations with 10. Warner Bros.' controversial Oliver Stone film "JFK" followed with eight, and Orion's cannibal thriller "The Silence of the Lambs" also had seven. Walt Disney's animated musical "Beauty and the Beast" had six nominations and scaled the Academy's walls to become the first animated film ever to receive a best picture nomination.

Although not nominated for best picture, TriStar's actioner "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" earned six nominations as did MGM's female buddy road picture "Thelma & Louise." TriStar's "The Fisher King" and "Hook" each earned five nominations.

Three nominations each were earned by "Backdraft" and "Barton Fink," with "Boyz n the Hood," "Cape Fear," "Fried Green Tomatoes," "Rambling Rose" and "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" earning two each. Picking up one nomination each were "The Addams Family," "City Slickers," "The Commitments," "For the Boys," "Grand Canyon," "Europa Europa," and "Robin Hood: The Prince of Thieves."

TriStar was way ahead of the other studios with a total of 26 nominations, followed by sister studio Columbia with 10 — bringing Sony Pictures Entertainment's total to an impressive 36 nominations. Warner Bros. was next with nine. Orion (including Orion Classics) also had nine. Universal followed with seven. MGM, Buena Vista and 20th Century Fox had six apiece, Paramount three, and Seven Arts, the Samuel Goldwyn Co. and Miramax each earned one nomination.

Warren Beatty earned a best actor nomination for his portrayal of gangster and dreamer Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel in "Bugsy," marking his fourth best actor nom and bringing his total tally in all categories for his career to 13. Beatty was also nominated this year as producer of the film.

Anthony Hopkins received his first nomination for his bone-chilling portrayal of Dr. Hannibal Lecter in "The Silence of the Lambs," while Robin Williams earned his third nomination in six years for his role as the quixotic homeless man in "The Fisher King." Although Robert De Niro's

BEST ACTRESS NOMINEES



<p>GEENA DAVIS "Thelma & Louise" 1 prior win</p>	<p>LAURA DERN "Rambling Rose" First nomination</p>	<p>JODIE FOSTER "The Silence of the Lambs" 2 prior noms; 1 win</p>
<p>BETTE MIDLER "For the Boys" 1 prior nom</p>	<p>SUSAN SARANDON "Thelma & Louise" 1 prior nom</p>	

nomination as the stalking ex-con in "Cape Fear" came as a bit of a surprise to some, the recognition only adds to his reputation as one of the best actors working — bringing his total career nomination tally to six.

Both Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon were nominated as best actress for their roles in "Thelma & Louise," marking a second

NOMINATED FILMS BY RELEASE SEASON	
Winter	1
Summer	6
Fall	4
Holiday	11

nomination for Davis who won for best supporting actress in 1988's "The Accidental Tourist" and a second nomination for Sarandon.

Other nominees include first-timer Laura Dern for her critically acclaimed role in "Rambling Rose," Oscar winner Jodie Foster for "The Silence of the Lambs" and Golden Globe winner Bette Midler, who received a nomination for "For the Boys."

In the best supporting actor category, "Bugsy" garnered another two nominations for both first-time nominee Harvey Keitel and "Gandhi" Oscar winner Ben Kingsley. Tommy Lee Jones earned his first nomination for "JFK," Michael Lerner's nomination campaign paid off for his critically acclaimed performance in "Barton Fink" and "City Slickers"

provided industry veteran and Oscar favorite Jack Palance with his third nomination.

Palance, 72, received the Golden Globe last month in the category and had not been nominated since 1953. That 39-year interval is the longest between nominations in Oscar history. Joe Pesci's name was notably absent from this list for his role in "JFK."

In the best supporting actress category, Diane Ladd received her third nomination for "Rambling Rose." The nomination of Ladd and daughter Laura Dern (for best actress) marks the first time ever that a mother-daughter pair has been nominated in the same year. Last year, Ladd was nominated for best supporting actress in "Wild at Heart," which also starred Dern. "Cape Fear" star Juliette Lewis received her first nomination as did Kate Nelligan for "The Prince

NOMINATED FILMS BY GENRE	
Drama	10
Action	4
Comedy	3
Musical	3
Thriller	2
Fantasy	1

of Tides" and Mercedes Ruehl for "The Fisher King." Jessica Tandy received her second Oscar nomination for her role in "Fried Green Tomatoes." She won the best actress Oscar for 1989's "Driving Miss Daisy."

Replacing Orson Welles as the youngest director to ever receive a best director nomination, 24-year-old John Singleton was nominated for his directorial debut film, Columbia's "Boyz n the Hood," making him the first black to ever be nominated for best director. Other best director nominations went to "Rain Man" Oscar winner Barry Levinson for "Bugsy," three-time Academy Award winner Oliver Stone for "JFK," and first-timers Jonathan Demme for "The Silence of the Lambs" and Ridley Scott for "Thelma & Louise."

Singleton, in Las Vegas to pick up a NATO/ShoWest directing award Tuesday and to appear on a panel on black filmmakers today, said that he was "surprised" when he heard the news of his two nominations. "I wasn't expecting anything — consistent with history."

When asked why he thinks he and his film were honored, Singleton replied, "I think some people had some open minds." He added, however, that getting the nomination on his debut film will only push him to "want to work harder because I still consider myself a student of film, a baby filmmaker."

Singleton said that his friend and fellow director Spike Lee should have been the first black director so honored for "Do the Right Thing."

Lee said of Singleton's nominations, "It doesn't matter who it is as long as it's someone. I'm really happy it's John because it's inspiring to see a young brother two years out of film school get a nomination for directing his first film."

Levinson and Stone are also both in contention for best picture nominations for producing their respective films.

Levinson has also received three screenplay nominations for "... And Justice for All," "Diner" and last year's "Avalon." This marks the ninth Oscar nomination for Stone and the third in the directors category. Stone received an Oscar for his screenplay of "Midnight Express," and won directing Oscar's for "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July." Other writing nominations were for "Platoon," "Salvador," "Born on the Fourth of July" and this year's "JFK."

While Columbia is certainly thrilled with Singleton's nomination, they are extremely upset with Streisand's snub. In a statement, Columbia chairman Mark Canton, who is traveling back from

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64th Academy Awards

Oscar noms

Continued from page 8—

the film's debut in London said, "All of us at Columbia Pictures are very pleased with the studio's 10 nominations, and we send our congratulations to all of the nominees — but something is missing.

"It is truly shocking that Barbra Streisand was overlooked... The film earned seven nominations in a number of areas ranging from best actor for Nick Nolte to best supporting actress for Kate Nelligan to art direction, cinematography, original score, screenplay adaptation and, of course, best picture. A film cannot be so distinguished in so many areas unless it directly reflects the vision of its director. Obviously, we think this is Barbra's movie, and that she deserves recognition for the absolutely vital role she played in every aspect of making the film. That fact, combined with the well-deserved best director nomination she recently received from the Directors Guild of America, makes this oversight for a best director Academy Award nomination particularly hard to accept."

This marks the second time that the nearly all male directors branch of the Academy has left Streisand off its best director's list. It first happened in 1983 with Streisand's directorial debut "Yentl." It should be noted that last year, despite the fact that her film "Awakenings" received three nominations, including best picture and best actor, that Penny Marshall was also shut out by the Academy. Streisand was already nominated for best director for a Golden Globe and a Directors Guild of America Award.

Nominations for the best screenplay written directly for the screen went to John Singleton for "Boyz n the Hood," James Toback for "Bugsy," Richard LaGravenese for "The Fisher King," Lawrence and Meg Kasdan for "Grand Canyon" and Callie Khouri for "Thelma & Louise." Khouri won the Golden Globe in this category.

In the best screenplay based on material previously produced or published, Agnieszka Holland, whose film "Europa Europa" received its own snub from Germany and was not eligible in the best foreign film category, earned a writing nomination along with Fannie Flagg and Carol Sobieski for "Fried Green Tomatoes," Oliver Stone and Zachary Sklar for "JFK," Pat Conroy and Becky

BEST ACTOR NOMINEES



WARREN BEATTY
"Bugsy"
11 prior noms; 1 win



ROBERT DE NIRO
"Cape Fear"
5 prior noms; 2 wins



ANTHONY HOPKINS
"The Silence of the Lambs"
First nomination



NICK NOLTE
"The Prince of Tides"
First nomination



ROBIN WILLIAMS
"The Fisher King"
2 prior noms

Johnston for "The Prince of Tides" and Ted Tally for "The Silence of the Lambs."

It came as no surprise that Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" earned four music nominations — three in the best original song category and one for score. In the best achievement in music (original song) the songs "Beauty and the Beast," "Belle" and "Be Our Guest," — all written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman — were joined by "(Every-

ture," Czechoslovakia's "The Elementary School," Italy's "Mediterraneo," Sweden's "The Ox" and Hong Kong's "Raise the Red Lantern."

Nominations for best achievements in art direction went to "Barton Fink" art director Dennis Gassner and set decorator Nancy Haigh and to the same duo for "Bugsy," to Mel Bourne and Cindy Carr for "The Fisher King," Norman Garwood and Garrett Lewis for "Hook," and Paul Sylbert and

BOXOFFICE REVENUES TO DATE FOR BEST PICTURE NOMINEES

Bugsy	(TriStar, opened Dec. 13)	\$40.4 million
Beauty and the Beast	(Buena Vista, Nov. 13)	\$110.2 million
The Prince of Tides	(Columbia, Dec. 25)	\$61.9 million
JFK	(Warner Bros., Dec. 20)	\$60.9 million
The Silence of the Lambs ...	(Orion, Feb. 14)	\$130.7 million

thing I Do) I Do It for You" from "Robin Hood: The Prince of Thieves" with music by Michael Kamen and lyrics by Bryan Adams and Robert John Lange, and "When You're Alone" from "Hook" with music by John Williams and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse.

In the best original score category, Menken's "Beauty and the Beast" was tapped along with Ennio Morricone's theme from "Bugsy," George Fenton's score for "The Fisher King," the score for "JFK" by John Williams and James Newton Howard's work on "The Prince of Tides."

Best foreign film nominations went to Iceland's "Children of Na-

Caryl Heller for "The Prince of Tides."

Allen Daviau was tapped as best cinematographer for "Bugsy," along with Robert Richardson for "JFK," Stephen Goldblatt for "The Prince of Tides," Adam Greenburg for "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," and Adrian Biddle for "Thelma & Louise."

For dressing the cast and extras to the nines, best achievement in costume design nominations went to Ruth Myers for "The Addams Family," Richard Hornung for "Barton Fink," Albert Wolsky for "Bugsy," Anthony Powell for "Hook" and Corrine Jory for "Ma-

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Vegas makes mom, daughter Oscar favorites

LAS VEGAS (AP) — An oddsmaker Wednesday pronounced actresses Diane Ladd and Laura Dern favorites to win Oscars for their roles in "Rambling Rose."

Odds maker Lenny Del Genio lists Dern as an even money co-favorite to win the best actress award, while her mother, Ladd, has been made an even money favorite to win as best supporting actress.

Del Genio also made "The Prince of Tides" and "Bugsy" even money co-favorites to win the best picture award.

Del Genio's odds are for entertainment only as Nevada sports books can only accept wagers on sporting events and were released Wednesday.

In the best picture category, Del Genio listed "The Prince of Tides" and "Bugsy" as even money favorites, followed by "JFK" at 6-5; "The Silence of the Lambs" at 3-1 and "Beauty and the Beast" at 5-1.

Dern is even money for best actress along with Jodie Foster in "The Silence of the Lambs." Geena Davis ("Thelma & Louise") was at 6-5, followed by Susan Sarandon (Thelma & Louise) at 3-1 and Bette Midler at 5-1 in "For the Boys."

Nick Nolte ("The Prince of Tides") and Anthony Hopkins ("The Silence of the Lambs") are even money for best actor, followed by Warren Beatty ("Bugsy") at 6-5, Robin Williams ("The Fisher King") at 3-1 and Robert De Niro ("Cape Fear") at 5-1.

For the best actress Oscar, Ladd is even money, followed by Juliette Lewis ("Cape Fear") at 6-5; Mercedes Ruehl ("The Fisher King") 3-1; Kate Nelligan ("The Prince of Tides") 5-1; and Jessica Tandy ("Fried Green Tomatoes") 10-1.

Michael Lerner ("Barton Fink") and Jack Palance ("City Slickers") are even money for best supporting actor, followed by Harvey Keitel ("Bugsy") at 3-1; Ben Kingsley ("Bugsy") 5-1; and Tommy Lee Jones ("JFK") 10-1.

For best director, Jonathan Demme ("The Silence of the Lambs") is even money, followed by Oliver Stone ("JFK") 6-5; Barry Levinson ("Bugsy") 3-1; Ridley Scott ("Thelma & Louise") 5-1; and John Singleton ("Boyz n the Hood") 10-1. □

Product reels

Continued from page 10—

Campbell Scott, Bridget Fonda, Kyra Sedgwick, Matt Dillon, Jim Truse, Shelia Kelly; release date second quarter.

INNOCENT BLOOD

Produced by Lee Rich, Leslie Belzberg; directed by John Landis; written by Michael Wolf; executive producer Jonathan Sheinberg; starring Anne Parillaud, Robert Loggia; release date third quarter.

MEMOIRS OF AN INVISIBLE MAN

Produced by Dan Kolsrud, Bruce Bodner; directed by John Carpenter; written by William Goldman, Robert Collector, Dana Olsen, Arnon Milchan; starring Chevy Chase, Daryl Hannah, Sam Neil; release date first quarter.

THE POWERS OF ONE

Produced by Arnon Milchan; directed by John Avildsen; written by Robert Mark Kamen; executive producers Steven Reuther, Greg Coote, Terry Jackman; starring Morgan Freeman, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Sir John Gielgud, Stephen Dorff, Fay Masterson; release date first quarter.

WHITE SANDS

Produced by William Sackheim, Scott Rudin; directed by Roger Donaldson; written by Daniel Pyne; executive producer James G. Robinson, David Nicksay, Gary Barber; starring Willem Dafoe, Mickey Rourke, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Samuel L. Jackson, Mimi Rogers, M. Emmet Walsh; release date first quarter.

BATMAN RETURNS

Produced by Denise Di Novi; directed by Tim Burton; written by Dan Waters, Wesley Strick; executive producers Jon Peters, Peter Guber, Benjamin Melniker, Michael Uslan; starring Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, Michelle Pfeiffer, Christopher Walken, Michael Gough, Pat Hingle, Michael Murphy, Vincent Schiavelli; release date second quarter.

MALCOLM X

Produced by Marvin Worth; directed by Spike Lee; written by James Baldwin, Arnold Perl, Spike Lee; starring Denzel Washington, Al Freeman Jr., Spike Lee; release date fourth quarter.

PASSENGER 57

Produced by Dylan Sellers; directed by Kevin Hooks; executive producer Lee Rich; starring Wesley Snipes, Bruce Payne; release date fourth quarter.

THE REST OF DANIEL

Produced by Bruce Davey; directed by Steve Miner; written by J.J. Abrams; executive producers Ed Feldman, J.J. Abrams; starring Mel Gibson; release date fourth quarter.

THIS BOY'S LIFE

Produced by Art Linson; directed by Michael Caton-Jones; starring Robert De Niro, Ellen Barkin, Leonardo Di Caprio; release date fourth quarter.

Paramount

PAYDIRT

Produced by Stephen Friedman; directed by Bill Phillips; written by Bill Phillips; executive producer Mort Engelberg; starring Jeff Daniels, Catherine O'Hara, Hector Elizondo, Rhea Perlman, Judith Ivey and Dabney Coleman; release date spring.

Indie exhibs

Continued from page 10—

theater owner operating in Wisconsin, advised independents to target small cities and to cluster several small-size auditoriums at each location. But Rogers added that the theaters, though small, should be equipped with the best in audio and seating technology. He counseled operating 80-seat screens, shying away from 300-seat rooms that are only profitable in large markets.

Ronald Krueger, president of the 86-year-old Wehrenberg Theatres in St. Louis, said his family-owned theaters offer some combi-

LADYBUGS

Produced by Albert S. Rubby and Andrea Morgan; directed by Sidney Furie; written by Curtis Burch; executive producer Gray Frederickson; co-executive producer Lloyd Bloom; starring Rodney Dangerfield, Jackie, Jonathan Brandis, Ilene Graff, and Vinessa Shaw; release date spring.

PATRIOT GAMES

Produced by Mace Neufeld and Robert Rehme; directed by Phillip Noyce; screenplay by W. Peter Iliff and Donald Stewart (based on a novel by Tom Clancy); executive producer Charles H. Maguire; starring Harrison Ford, Anne Archer, Patrick Bergin, Sean Bean, Thora Birch, Polly Walker, Samuel L. Jackson; release date summer.

BOOMERANG

Produced by Brian Grazer and Warrington Hudlin; directed by Reginald Hudlin; screenplay by Barry W. Blaustein and David Sheffield (based on a story by Eddie Murphy); executive producers Mark Lipsky and Kenneth Litt; starring Eddie Murphy, Robin Givens, Halle Berry, David Alan Grier, Grace Jones, Martin Lawrence, Geoffrey Holder, Chris Rock and Eartha Kitt; release date late summer/fall.

COOL WORLD

Produced by Frank Mancuso, Jr.; directed by Ralph Bakshi; written by Michael Grais, Mark Victor and Larry Gross; starring Kim Basinger, Gabriel Byrne and Brad Pitt; release date summer.

BEBE'S KIDS

Produced by Tom Wilhite and Willard Carroll; directed by Bruce Smith; written by Reginald Hudlin (based on material by Robin Harris); executive producers Reginald Hudlin and Warrington Hudlin; release date summer.

SESSIONS (working title)

Produced by Martin Bregman and Michael Scott Bregman; directed by Christopher Crowe; written by Christopher Crowe; co-producer Stephen F. Kesten; executive producers Eric Fieser, Rick Gitelson, and William Link; starring Annabella Sciorra, Jamey Sheridan, Anthony La Paglia, Jill Clayburgh, John Leguizamo, Deborah Unger and Alan Alda; release date late summer or fall.

SCHOOL TIES

Produced by Stanley R. Jaffe and Sherry Lansing; directed by Robert Mandel; written by Darryl Ponicsan; executive producer Danton Rissner; starring Brendan Fraser, Matt Damon, Randall Batinkoff, Chris O'Donnell, Anthony Rapp, Ben Affleck, Andrew Lowery, Cole Hauser and Amy Locane; release date fall.

UNTITLED RIDLEY SCOTT FILM

Christopher Columbus project. Produced by Ridley Scott and Alain Goldman; directed by Ridley Scott; written by Rosalyn Bosch; co-producers Rosalyn Bosch and Marc Boyman; executive producers Iain Smith and Mimi Polk-Sotela; starring Gerard Depardieu, Armand Assante, Frank Langella, Angella Molina, Fernando Rey, Loren Dean, and Michael Wincott; release date October.

JENNIFER EIGHT

Produced by Scott Rudin; directed by Bruce Robinson; written by Bruce Robinson; executive producers Gary Lucchesi and David Wimbury; starring Andy Garcia, Uma Thurman, Lance Henriksen, Kathy Baker, John Malkovich; release date fall.

nation of game rooms, deli food, health food, pizza by the slice, hand-made ice cream cones and alcoholic beverages to appeal to local tastes.

None of the seven seminar speakers voiced an often-cited complaint that major studios don't give independent exhibitors first-run movie prints, because studios find their venues too low-grossing to be profitable.

"They really are taking care of us," said William Stembler, an Atlanta-based independent exhibitor. However, some questioners from the floor said not getting first-run prints is a problem, in what apparently was a minority view. □

Warners

Continued from page 10—

youngest director nominee in Academy Award history, and the first black nominee in that category.

A few minutes later Lee pleaded with exhibitors to play black-themed movies, including his own upcoming "Malcolm X."

"Don't be scared of the film," said Lee. "Despite what you might read about what happens when a certain ethnic group shows up at a theater, it is not true."

"Batman Returns" star Michael Keaton, a former stand-up comic, got his share of laughs by calling his new film "this little picture," but the biggest laughs of the program went to Mel Gibson and Danny Glover, the stars of the third "Lethal Weapon" movie, produced by Joel Silver and directed by Richard Donner, also present on the dais.

Gibson and Glover offered the "top five reasons you should play 'Lethal Weapon 3.'" No. 5 was that "you'll make a whole lot of money." No. 4 was that "we'll make a whole lot of money." No. 3 was that "Batman" will play until Christmas "and you still need something else." No. 2 was a joke at the expense of Sigourney Weaver. And No. 1 was "if you don't, we're going to blow up your theater."

Some of the strongest audience reactions to the Warners product reel went to the "Batman" and "Lethal Weapon" sequels; "Unforgiven," a Western starring Clint Eastwood, Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman and Richard Harris; and "The Bodyguard," a Christmas movie starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston.

Reardon noted that in the past year exhibitors had played 181,000 Warners theatrical movie trailers, and put up 150,000 one-sheets. □

Correction

In the article "\$100 million question: How do hits grow?" (HR 2/19) the source of the information on the anatomy of a blockbuster was Entertainment Data Inc. of Beverly Hills, which confers the EDI Gold Reel Award on movies that gross over \$100 million in the United States. Also, over the past five years, the No. 1 film grossed an average of \$21.4 million on an average of 1,917 screens in opening weekend. The analysis of a blockbuster was based on the highest-grossing pictures in each of the past five years, not all \$100 million-plus grossers over the same period. □

Ashman

Continued from page 7—

listened telephonically to Angela Lansbury singing "Be Our Guest" in a Burbank studio.

It was Ashman who suggested animating the household objects like the teapot and candelabrum to provide comic relief and speed the story along. The film credits end with a tribute to him as the man "who gave a mermaid her voice and a beast his soul."

The nomination of "Beauty and the Beast" marks the triumph of a movie medium that was once dismissed as a program filler. Cartoons were never considered as art until Walt Disney made the first animated feature, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," in 1937. Since the hit film fit in no category, the Academy gave Disney a special award: one regular-size Oscar and seven little ones.

"Beauty and the Beast" had been considered as a Disney feature for almost four decades. But story was always the problem, Disney admitted. The classic fairy tale centered on the Beast's imprisonment of Belle in his enchanted castle, where every night he asked her, "Will you marry me?"

When the Disney animation program was revived under a new studio regime in the 1980s, "Beauty and the Beast" was again considered as a possible project. Linda Woolverton's script, along with story suggestions by Ashman, conquered the plot problems, and the film went into production in 1990.

Disney put its faith in a brand-new crew. Woolverton, producer Hahn and directors Kirk Wise and Gary Trousdale were first-timers in their jobs.

Veteran actors like Lansbury, Jerry Ohrbach and David Ogden Stiers were hired for the voices, and the studio took a chance on the Beast with Robby Benson, one-time teen-age idol. He proved surprisingly robust.

Yet the essential genius of "Beauty and the Beast" was provided by the real actors — the animators who brought the figures to life.

The film has already sold \$110 million in tickets in the United States and Canada and will likely make many more millions in foreign releases later this year.

"It is gratifying that something so quintessentially a team effort would be nominated not only for best picture but in all the other categories," said Walt Disney Co. Chairman Michael Eisner. "We are truly honored by these nominations." □

Reaction

Continued from page 1—

Barbra Streisand from the best director category, everyone in the industry had something to celebrate.

For some, the nominations were awards in themselves.

Michael Lerner, nominated for best supporting actor for his role as a studio mogul in "Barton Fink," went to a friend's house in the wee hours to see the nominations live. "My cable was out," he said. "And I wasn't able to sleep at all anyway. When I heard my name, I jumped up and down, broke his chair and burst into tears. This is an incredible honor, and it's a beautiful feeling."

Anthony Hopkins, recognized for his role as the malevolent Hannibal Lecter in "The Silence of the Lambs," was filming in Switzerland when director Richard Attenborough brought him the news. Hopkins called his nomination "a delightful surprise. I don't know what it is about Hannibal Lecter that fascinates people so; there's something about the nature of such a man. When I first read the script, I thought, I know this guy, I don't really know what makes him tick, but I know how to play him."

Nominated for his adaptation of "The Silence of the Lambs," Ted Tally said he and his wife celebrated the honor with a bottle of champagne given them by director Jonathan Demme more than a year ago. "It's been a long, long road to this," he said from his Pennsylvania home. "And it's been a real collaboration. This is Jonathan's first nomination and Tony's first nomination, and I'm so proud of them. You know, everyone's been delighted with Tony. He's like born again over this — a kid in a candy store — he's so excited."

The nominations left even Hollywood veterans as giddy as ingenues. "If I were going to give some advice to someone about how this process works, I wouldn't," said Warren Beatty, whose "Bugsy" is up for awards in 10 categories. "But I don't think you ever become blasé to it, not if you're interested in the work and the people you work with."

"Apart from your family," Beatty said, "I think the approval you want most is the approval of the people you work with, your peers, and that ultimately makes you happier that you're not out there spinning in space somewhere. I think the person that really made 'Bugsy' work was Annette (Bening), and I was surprised that she wasn't nominated. We all like to make

movies that are big hits and we also like to make movies that are successful on other levels."

"This wasn't a simple message to sell people," said "Bugsy" director Barry Levinson. "It's a complex story and we had to overcome a lot of negative press about it being a gangster picture at the end of a long cycle of gangster pictures. And then there was some initial exhibitor disinterest at the beginning, too. But we were trying to do something different, and I think we've finally proven our value. I feel very vindicated, and I hope this will give us a second wind at the boxoffice and let people know that this is a movie they should really give a chance to."

Director Singleton awoke at his hotel in Las Vegas to the news that his first film had earned him dual nominations for directing and original screenplay. "I was half asleep with my head on the pillow," Singleton said. "The first name they called was mine and I sprang up. And we got writer, too."

After the political maelstrom surrounding "JFK," director Oliver Stone can take heart knowing members of the Academy remember him first and foremost as a filmmaker. "Considering what this picture has been though, it's nice to have my peers recognize its values," Stone said from Las Vegas. "I feel sorry for Kevin Costner because I really think he anchors the movie; also sad for a wonderful supporting cast. But I was happy for Tommy Lee Jones, who I think was overlooked for 'Coal Miner's Daughter.'"

Filming in Spain, best actor nominee Nick Nolte said, "When it comes to awards, I try to stay as far away as possible, because it takes too much energy and time away. I know there's a lot of buzz around, but the people around me have kept it to a minimum. I certainly know the political ramifications and that it will help the boxoffice, but I prefer to think of it honoring all the work actors did this year."

Asked if he was surprised by the Academy's snub of Streisand, Nolte replied, "What does this take away from Barbra other than not getting a nomination herself? She's still the one who produced, directed and co-starred in the picture. She deserves a lot of credit for my performance, as well as the other cast, and the music — I mean, she's involved in all of that. She's won every award there is to win; you don't have to win everything."

Kate Nelligan, also nominated for "Tides," echoed his sentiments, adding that she so dreads

awards that she decided to wash underwear in her hotel sink rather than watch the nominations telecast. "I have no idea how the Oscars work," she said. "I know two people in Hollywood, and they both just lost their jobs."

Alan Menken, the composer who brought "Beauty and the Beast" to the screen, was perhaps most deeply moved. Not only was his music recognized in three out of the five spots for "best song," but his songwriting partnership with lyricist Howard Ashman, who died last year of AIDS, has been cited repeatedly as the main reason for the film's best picture nomination.

Publicists at Disney issued a short statement from Menken, which read, "I am thrilled and de-

lighted for Howard, myself and the picture and very appreciative to all the members of the Academy's music branch for acknowledging our work on 'Beauty and the Beast.'"

Screenwriter Callie Khouri, nominated for "Thelma & Louise," has said she doesn't know what would mean more as a moment — an Oscar trophy or the work itself. "It's strange but I don't know if a video copy alone would do it for me. Having a copy of the script is what really makes me happy. I'm delighted that I finally have done something that I can be really proud of — and I really am so grateful to the people that it got made." □

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

VSDA

Continued from page 12—

everybody," said VSDA executive vp Don Rosenberg, whose responsibilities were redefined in such a way that he now has sole power to hire and fire high-level VSDA staffers, including the executive director. Ballstadt said that change was a holdover of VSDA's split from sister organization the National Association of Recording Merchandisers.

Saltzer appears to have been a casualty of war, having been cut loose for a technical infraction of bylaws regarding communications between board members and VSDA regional leaders.

Saltzer, a six-year VSDA member in good standing, disseminated several strongly worded missives

at the recent VSDA regional leaders meeting, urging the group to support the ouster of non-retailers. His term was to have expired in July.

Ballstadt said that the current turmoil reflects the "growing pains" resulting from the longterm revamp effort, which ultimately would benefit the group.

"It will allow us to become a true industry representative. From the political and lobbying sense this will be particularly important," he said. "Even though Blockbuster has never had an official seat on the board, they stood side-by-side with us down in Dallas when we fought attempts to impose a local ratings board. These types of legislative efforts are going to become increasingly important for us in the future." □

Mitchell

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motive.

But Kennedy countered that neither brother was interested in money and had to be prodded by their accountant to take out life insurance policies and set up trusts to protect their investments.

The brothers owned the O'Farrell Theater, a pioneering live sex-show establishment, and produced a number of X-rated movies, including "Behind the Green Door." Kennedy said Artie Mitchell was drunk and violent the night of the shooting. Jim Mitchell said he was armed to protect himself.

"It's not a crime to be stupid ... it's not a crime to try to save your brother's life," Kennedy said in closing arguments Friday.

But Posey said Mitchell had "had it" with his brother. "He was tired of Artie Mitchell, his antics over the years. He didn't want to

deal with him any more."

Also during the 18 days of testimony, Kennedy called a psychiatrist who had not treated Jim Mitchell who testified Mitchell's forgetfulness was consistent with a condition called psychogenic amnesia. The defense attorney argued that kind of mental reaction was not consistent with a cold-blooded killing.

Jurors also heard blood-curdling "911" tapes of a call Artie Mitchell's girlfriend, Julie Bajo, made to police during the shooting. □

Cook vp legal at Fox

Laura Cook has been named vp legal affairs of 20th Century Fox. Cook will continue to be responsible for all legal affairs relating to home video worldwide, including the activities of FoxVideo and its subsidiaries in more than 40 territories. She will also oversee FoxVideo's legal relations with the CBS/Fox Video partnership.

Streisand

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my's 64-year history to garner a best director nomination was Lina Wertmüller who, in 1976, was recognized for helming the Italian-language film "Seven Beauties." No woman has ever won the coveted award.

"Barbra suffers for our sins. She is the first woman to wield power in Hollywood in recent memory, and the current that has generated is uncomfortable and has not stilled," said "The Fisher King" producer Lynda Obst. "Her commercial success is so enormous and her clout is so formidable that some sort of approval must be withheld.

"Any director that directs the best picture and best actor is a best director as far as I'm concerned. You can congratulate a woman writer, you can congratulate a woman actor, but to congratulate a woman director is congratulating a woman in power."

According to one female director who requested anonymity: "I think it is very unusual that a first-time director (Singleton) is nominated. It's interesting that these men feel more comfortable voting for deserving men than they do voting for deserving women. I mean, look at what happened last year."

Last year Penny Marshall was passed over for a best director Oscar nomination for "Awakenings" although the film garnered a best picture and best actor nomination.

In 1986 "Children of a Lesser God" had five nominations, including best picture, actor, actress (William Hurt and Marlee Matlin both won) and screenplay adaptation, but director Randa Haines was omitted in her category.

Said "Norma Rae" producer Alex Rose, who is female, "The truth of the matter is there is gender bias throughout the industry. It's an old boy network, from the White House to the entertainment industry mail room, so what's the big surprise? It's one of the facts of life. It's hard to point the finger at the Academy when the Academy is a microcosm of our society, which is a male hierarchy network."

Producer-director Richard Donner, who was on the Warner Bros. dais at the Nato ShoWest luncheon, said, "'Prince of Tides' is one of the best movies of the year by far. They didn't nominate her because she's Barbra Streisand. There's a major error here."

Others agreed, stating that the oversight smacked of sexism. "I

was absolutely stunned and appalled — I think it says something about women and Hollywood and the Academy," said producer Paula Weinstein ("Fabulous Baker Boys" and "Dry White Season"). "I can't find another reason to have a picture be nominated for seven Oscars and have the director ignored. It's happened with men, but I think there is some unconscious fear of women taking over so many of the roles and the inability to give credit, as if a woman can't be in charge."

Addressing those who say that Streisand was not nominated because she is difficult or a controlling perfectionist, Weinstein countered, "Being in charge of everything is the job of a director. This is supposed to be an Academy made up of the most excellent and honoring the most excellent. This is not a popularity contest. It's worthless if the criteria becomes who you do or don't like."

One of the industry's top male producers said the Streisand omission was "totally sexism. One hundred percent. How can John Singleton get a nomination and not Barbra? Sadly, this doesn't surprise me. They let you go only so

Discount

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Universal Pictures first proposed discounting Tuesday admissions to try to lift midweek ticket sales (HR 2/13). Universal's parent, MCA Inc., owns nearly half of Toronto-based theater giant Cineplex Odeon, which has offered bargain Tuesdays in Canada for many years.

"The concept of having a 'dollar day' or a 'one-half price day' is tempting, except we have found that all you really do is shift your audience," said Ira Korff, chief operating officer of the 725-screen National Amusements Inc. circuit. "Perhaps 70% to 80% of the people who will go on that day have shifted out of the (full-price) Friday, Saturday and Sunday bracket."

However, two theater operators on the panel said they have discounted admissions for 20 years with success. "All of a sudden, it's a new phenomenon," joked Lee Roy Mitchell, president of the 939-screen Cinemark Theatres circuit in Dallas.

Robert Goodrich, president of the 111-screen Goodrich Theatres chain in Missouri, called his long-running discount effort successful, and a good public relations tool to counter the impression movie tickets are expensive.

far, but any further than that, it becomes a man's club, stay away."

This is the second time the Academy obstructed Streisand's chances of becoming the first woman director to win an Oscar. Streisand was almost completely shut out in 1983 for her musical "Yentl."

According to producer, manager and Sandollar head, Sandy Gallin, "It goes all the way back to 'Yentl' when people said, 'Who is this woman who thinks just because she can sing and act that she can also produce and direct — which she proved she could do. She has been involved for years in every minute detail of 'The Prince of Tides' and has had so much success and accolades in her career that being snubbed by the Academy comes down to the combination of envy and jealousy and the fact that she's a woman."

Longtime Streisand friend and producer Julie Bergman agreed, saying, "I do think that it's sexism. Maybe it's because she does everything. They can't ignore her because she's so talented, but that comes with a price every time."

Kevin Phinney and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

Seminar speakers also noted the following:

- While acknowledging that credit policies at banks have tightened, Robert Brace, director of entertainment lending at Bank of Boston, said theater construction loans can be approved if borrowers put up more equity than in the past.
- While some would characterize theater operation as a dicey business, investment banker David Harris, director of investment banking at Furman Selz Inc., said that theaters have the opportunity to retrench now that the building boom of the 1980s has subsided. The lull means existing theaters are unlikely to have new competitors pop up in their backyards.
- Studios that own theater circuits do not show favoritism to their own films nor discriminate against films from rival studios, said Sherak, whose 20th Century Fox does not own theaters in North America. □

Steiger in 'Sinatra'

Oscar-winning actor Rod Steiger has been set to play mobster Sam Giancana in "Sinatra," Warner Bros.' Television's five-hour miniseries for CBS based on the life of Frank Sinatra. Executive produced by Sinatra's daughter Tina, the miniseries is scheduled to begin production today. "Sinatra" will air in November. □

Oscar noms

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dame Bovary."

Best editing nominations went to "The Commitments," "JFK," "The Silence of the Lambs," "Terminator 2" and "Thelma & Louise."

Best makeup nominations went to "Hook," "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" and "Terminator 2."

Best achievement in sound nominations were bestowed upon "Backdraft," "Beauty and the Beast," "JFK," "The Silence of the Lambs" and "Terminator 2."

Sound effects editing nominations went to "Backdraft," "Star Trek VI" and "Terminator 2." With visual effects nominations being handed out to "Backdraft," "Hook" and "Terminator 2."

Best documentary nominations went to "Death on the Job," "Doing Time: Life Inside the Big House," "In the Shadow of the Stars," "The Restless Conscience: Resistance to Hitler Within Germany 1933-1945" and "Wild by Law." Notably absent was a nomination for "Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse" which made many top 10 films of the year lists, has received critical acclaim and is doing well at the boxoffice.

In the documentary short subject arena, nominations went to "Birdnesters of Thailand," "Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment," "A little Vicious," "The Mark of the Maker" and "Memorial: Letters From American Soldiers."

Nominations for best animated short films went to "Blackfly," "Manipulation" and "Strings." With nominations for live action short film going to "Birch Street Gym," "Last Breeze of Summer" and "Session Man."

Members of the Academy branches selected the nominations in their respective fields with the exception of the nominations for documentary, foreign language film, makeup, sound effects editing and visual effects, which are made by committee. All eligible members voted in the best picture category.

Screenings of the nominated pictures will be at the Academy in the Samuel Goldwyn Theater beginning Saturday.

The Academy's entire membership, active and life members, select the winners, which will be announced March 30 at the annual ceremony at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Los Angeles Music Center. □