

And the envelope please....

The Collegian makes its 1993 Academy Awards predictions

by Rick Kastan
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Making Oscar is no easy task. Neither is it a matter to be taken lightly. Many have died in the process.

We film critics have a love/hate relationship with this time of the year because it is always a source of both excitement and agitation for us. For twelve months we sit in crowded theaters in cramped and uncomfortable seats enduring (often) dreadful films for your sake, so that you may not have

fall into oblivion.

It's a horrible, mind wrecking job-but we do it for you. . .

So, with that said, here are my 1993 Oscar predictions- off the top of my head (c'mon, you didn't actually believe that crap, did you?).

We'll start out with the big one: Best Picture. Of course the big news here is *The Crying Game*, the quaint little Irish thriller with a lot to hide that quickly proved to be the little independent that could. It had a good story, great characters, slick direction and a twist that

but I think that now that the furor has died down, it doesn't have a very strong chance of taking the big prize.

Hollywood heavy hitters *Scent of a Woman* and *A Few Good Men* were both fine films but I don't think that anybody actually believes that have a chance. This leaves *Unforgiven* Clint Eastwood's latest horse-opera. While it may not be a better film than *The Crying Game*, Eastwood has never won an oscar and I'll bet the Academy will give it to him as a homage (to both him and his mentor Sergio Leone whom the Academy also snubbed in the past).

For Best Director we have a nice mix of personalities and styles this year: Robert Altman for *The Player*, Martin Brest for *Scent of a Woman*, James Ivory for *Howard's End*, Niel Jordan for *The Crying Game* and Clint Eastwood for *Unforgiven*. It would be nice to see Altman get the prize for a wonderful film like *The Player* (especially since it attacks everyone in Hollywood that would be voting for it) but I don't think it's going to happen. Likewise for Martin Brest; I don't think the Academy will ever give the award to the man who directed *Beverly Hills Cop*.

So the three frontrunners are Ivory, Eastwood, and Jordan. Ivory and Eastwood both made fine films but I think if Best Picture goes to *Unforgiven* then Jordan will get Best Director. *The Crying Game* may have had a few holes (and not enough holes, if you know what I mean) but it was directed seamlessly and ballsily enough to beat out Clint.

The Best Actor will certainly go to Denzel Washington for *Malcolm X*, not only to satisfy Spike Lee but also because his performance SHOULD win. Other candidates include Robert Downey Jr. for *Chaplin*, Clint Eastwood for *Unforgiven*, Al Pacino for *Scent of a Woman* and Steve

Rea for *The Crying Game* who will probably get it if Washington doesn't

In the Best Actress category it looks like it's pretty much a toss-up between Emma Thompson (*Howard's End*) and Susan Sarandon (*Lorenzo's Oil*)

another toss-up between Judy Davis for Woody Allen's *Husbands and Wives* and Vanessa Redgrave for *Howard's End*. Both are strong performances but I'm going to say Davis will win out over Redgrave, Joan Plowright



Best Supporting Actress: Susan Sarandon in the role that may win her the Oscar, Micheala Odone, the mother who set out to find a cure for her son's rare illness in *Lorenzo's Oil*.

to put up with them.

Then the Academy Awards nominations roll around and we critics disappear into self-imposed exiles, sweating it out in dark, muggy smoke-filled rooms for weeks on end, sifting through old papers, racking every inch of our memories, looking at old notes and trying to decide which flick will cut the mustard and bring home the fabled statuette and which will

could curl your hair, but will it win? I don't think so (as they say, just getting nominated is an honor).

Howard's End also provided another nice surprise for those jaded with Hollywood. Based on E.M. Forster's 1910 novel about two snooty turn-of-the-century English families, the film was the darling of critics and received good word of mouth mid-summer last year,



Chaplin: Robert Downey Jr., up for Best Actor for his incredible performance as Charlie Chaplin.

over Catherine Devereux (*Indochine*), Mary McDonnell (*Passion Fish*) and Michelle Pfeiffer (for her laughable performance in *Love Field*). I'm saying the award will go to Thompson even though I think Sarandon was better and would love to see Janet for *Rocky Horror* win.

For Best Supporting Actor it could be close between Gene Hackman (*Unforgiven*) and Al Pacino (for *Glengarry Glen Ross*). I think it's Hackman's year (Pacino wins too often). Other nominees include David Paymer for *Mister Saturday Night*, Jack Nicholson for *A Few Good Minutes...er, Men* and a very commendable but not winnable Jaye Davidson for *The Crying Game*.

In the Best Supporting Actress category looks like

(*Enchanted April*) and Miranda Richardson (*Damage*). Marissa Tomei (*My Cousin Vinny*) Tomei should not even bother to attend the ceremony.

The last big category is Best Original Song. The nominees include two songs for *Aladdin* ("Friend Like Me" and "Whole New World") one from *The Mambo Kings* ("Beautiful Maria of My Soul") and two from *The Bodyguard* ("I Have Nothing" and "Run to You"). I think we can pretty much count out the *Bodyguard* and "Friend Like Me" from *Aladdin* (which was really ruined for me by that stupid Burger King commercial with Dan Cortesse) leaving "Whole New World" to edge out *The Mambo Kings*.

The Academy awards will be aired next Monday, March 29.



Deja Al: The two faces of Mr. Pacino. Will it be a Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of the Colonel in *Scent of a Woman* (left) or the Best Supporting Actor Award for his turn as top-selling real estate agent Ricky Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross*? Maybe neither this year.