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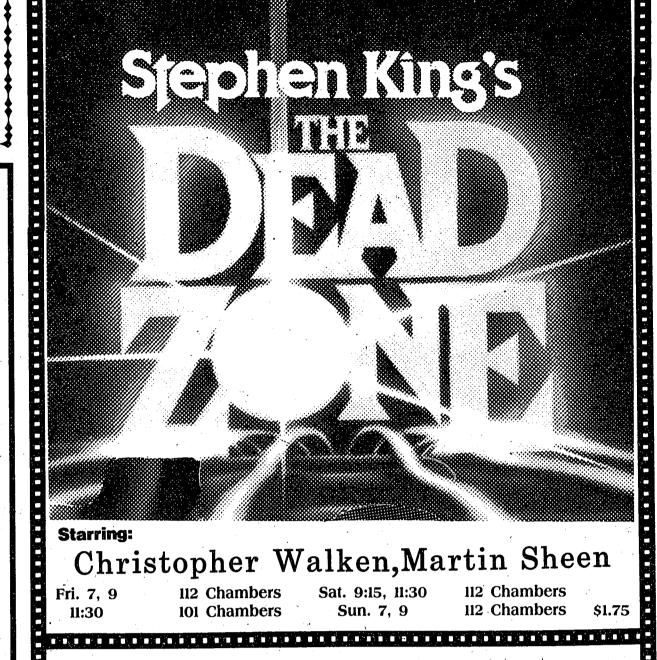


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The Daily Collegian Friday, April 6, 1984

## 1983 Oscars:

## The good and the not so good predicted to win

By SHAWN ISRAEL Collegian Staff Writer

Academy Awards time has arrived again. On Monday night, a dozen or so films will be welcomed into the exclusive canon of Oscarwinning motion pictures, as Hollywood puts on its best glitter and

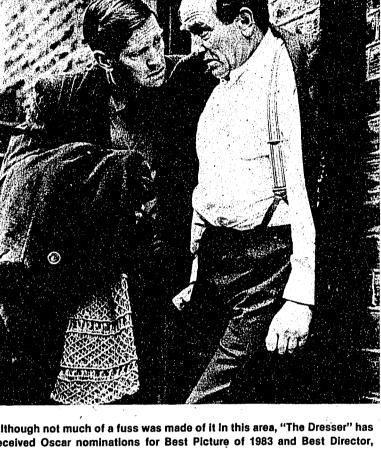
Cut me a break! It's just an overblown awards show, all developed around the somewhat inane idea to have members of a common industry compete against one another so the winners can get a 15-inch-high gilded nude man, the losers can mope and fake smiles all evening and the studio heads can (usually) watch the dough roll in from the seemingly holy prestige their winning products have been bestowed. The Oscars? Who cares? The problem is, however, that I

love movies. Being a self-confessed movie nut, I do have an aestetic interest, if nothing else, in the awards that are doled out year after year. It is, perhaps, the very influence Oscars carry in the financial and historical aspects of the film world that urges me to pay the Oscars so much attention. Usually I don't agree with the Academy's recommended by nine out of 10 crit- with nominations for Best Actor. ics. I've come to expect that from

tain ideas and preferences, howev-point. er, my patience with the Academy of

1.) Although Woody Allen's "Ze-2.) Only Glenn Close was nomiactors in "The Big Chill" (Nuts!); 3.) "Flashdance" and "Yentl" they are. each received two — count 'em, two In the Best Director slot, it looks - Best Song nominations. (What a as though James L. Brooks will be

let's get to the business of picking his prize for "Terms of Endearwinners from this year's crop of ment." He won the Director's Guild Oscar nominees. Most of the major of America Award, a near-infallible races are pretty clear-cut. In the indicator of the Oscar winner. (Only Best Picture category, it looks as twice since the DGA began doling though nothing can stop "Terms of out awards more than 30 years ago Endearment," James L. Brooks' have their choices and the Acadethoughtful, occasionally ornery, in- my's not been the same.) termittently soapy comic drama Other nominees are Peter Yates about a testy mother-daughter for "The Dresser," Ingmar Bergrelationship; a good movie, even if man for "Fanny and Alexander." there are at least seven shots in the Mike Nichols for "Silkwood" and film with microphones showing. The Bruce Beresford for "Tender Mermovie seemed to have it in the cies." Preference here goes to Ingproverbial bag since its release four mar Bergman, who combined his



behind many of those decisions. The Although not much of a fuss was made of it in this area, "The Dresser" has Academy generally loves American received Oscar nominations for Best Picture of 1983 and Best Director, movies that make money and get Peter Yates. Tom Courtney (I.) and Albert Finney have also been honored

months ago, and there's virtually no usual technical and storytelling exreason to think it can lose at this pertise in "Fanny and Alexander"

can only go so far. As always, I have ser," "The Right Stuff" and "Tena few complaints about this year's der Mercies." I've not yet seen "The nominations that will not go unmen- Dresser" or "Tender Mercies," and these gripes are purely subjective, Lawrence Kasdan's "The Big Chill" by a whisker. Although this comedy about college chums of the '60s reuniting for the funeral of a common lig" received two technical nominations, Allen went unrecognized for by Hollywood standards, it is impeccably acted and succeeds at levels of thematic complexity in exploring its nated out of the brilliant ensemble of subject that "Terms" and "Right Stuff'' don't quite reach, as good as

ummoned up to the Dorothy Chan-Now that I've done my whining, dler Pavilion stage tonight to collect

bert Finney (both for "The Dres-

It's a possibility Ingmar Bergman (r.) will receive the Best Director award for very well bring a little gold statue home for Best Cinematography. The film is

what he says is his last film, "Fanny and Alexander." Sven Nykvist also could also nominated for Best Foreign Film.

cating Rita") and Debra Winger ("Terms of Endearment"). I've seen all the performances ever been better than in their re- land her the Oscar I think she well wood" and "Tender Mercies."

with a touching bit of sentimentality. Running up against "Terms" are The Best Actor winner is almost a it. It'll never happen.) portrayal of a down-and-out country singer in "Tender Mercies." Duvall has won just about every prelimitioned. Bear in mind, however, that my personal preference of the five is nary award possible, and the Acade-Best Supporting Actor by Andrew Hollywood films. It also helps Duvall and the Corvette on Nicholson to in the bunch. Also nominated are Britishers Michael Caine ("Educating Rita"), Tom Conti ("Reuben, get my preference vote, too. Other Reuben"), Tom Courtenay and Al-

> There's less of a clear-cut front ard ("The Right Stuff") and Rip Torn ("Cross Creek"). runner in the Best Actress slot, but I'll predict Shirley MacLaine will win for "Terms of Endearment." MacLaine has won the most preliminary awards to date, and this is her fifth nomination in 25 years. I think the Academy will finally see fit to pay its due to MacLaine. Also running are Jane Alexander ("Testament''), Meryl Streep Hunt for her incredible portrayal of a race! The only obvious also-rans in ("Silkwood"), Julie Walters ("Eduexcept Alexander's, and my prefer- the film was recently given new nomination for a "special effects"

Endearment." He was even cited play Adaptation category. He's up Peterman ("Flashdance") and Wilagainst Harold Pinter ("Betrayal"), my can finally reward him for more Sarris of the Village Voice, who Ronald Harwood ("The Dresser"), than 20 years of quality work in didn't like the film. Bet the ranch Willy Russell ("Educating Rita"). and University alumnus Julius J. that he's the only American nominee win. His performance, a quietly im- Epstein ("Reuben, Reuben"). The Best Actor the same film, Charles Durning ("To Be or Not to Be"), Sam Shep-

Voting patterns of the last 20 vears, recent preliminary awards and industry hearsay all indicate Supporting Actress prize for her performance in "Silkwood." Call me trend on a hunch and predict Linda photographer Billy Kwan in "The this category seem to be Lawrence Year of Living Dangerously." Hunt Lasker and Walter F. Parkes for "WarGames." which the Academy won a great many early critical awards for her performance, and voters will probably dismiss as a ence vote goes almost equally to exposure on cable networks last movie. That leaves "The Big Chil-MacLaine and Streep. Neither have month. It just might be enough to l," "Fanny and Alexander," "Silk-



One of the main reasons for the popularity of "Flashdance" was the energetic music throughout the film. Both the title song "Flashdance...What a Feeling" and "Maniac" have received Oscar nominations for Best Song. They are up

them win the award jointly. (Forget ("Yentl") and Alfre Woodard

("Cross Creek"). every preliminary prize for his suphands-down winner for "Terms of for "Fanny and Alexander." Other porting performance in "Terms of pressive combination of killer charm and leering hedonism, would nominees include John Lithgow for

winner is almost a sure bet to be **Robert Duvall for** his portrayal of a down-and-out country singer in "Tender Mercies." Best Original Screenplay? At last,

spective nominated performances, deserves. Also running are Glenn Voting patterns tend to favor Ameriof the Jedi." can films over foreign works. (The last foreign-language film to win in a writing category was Claude Lelouch's "A Man and a Woman" — 17 years ago.) Best Picture nominees are slightly favored, having won 16 out of the last 26 times. However, the last three Oscars in this category have gone to biographies or films claiming to be biographies ("Melvin and Howard," "Chariots of Fire" and "Gandhi"), which might shift

the odds toward "Silkwood." Acting purely on a hunch, I'm going to predict Lawrence Kasdan and Barbara Benedek for their layered, witty, articulate script for "The Big Chill," which has some of the best movie dialogue of the past year. (Yes, it's also my preferential choice.) Regardless of who wins, however, this race will be close. the category for Best Cinematography. The odds significantly favor Best Picture nominees, which have won 13 out of the last 16 times. (Before 1967, there were separate categories for black-and-white and color films.) If the Academy follows this trend, "The Right Stuff," the only best pic nominee in the group, should win easily. However, also nominated is Sven Nykvist for "Fanny and Alexander." Considering that the Bergman-Nykvist team is one of the most celebrated directorcinematographer collaborations in screen history, and that Bergman will probably not go empty-handed because this is his "last" film, Nykvist has a pretty good chance. Also worth note is Gordon Willis, who. after many years of fine work and being widely touted as "America's greatest cinematographer," finally got a nomination for his work on "Zelig," and the Academy could be

softening just enough to finally give

and perhaps ideally I'd like to see Close ("The Big Chill"), Amy Irving Willis recognition after virtually ignoring his work all this time. It's anyone's guess, but I'm going Endearment" in the Best Screen- nominees in this category are Don preference vote goes hands down to Gordon Willis for his extraordinarily authentic special effects photography and seamless imitation of the textures of old 1930s newsreel foot-

age in "Zelig." Best Song is another sure bet. "Flashdance . . . What a Feeling," the most popular of the nominees, seems unbeatable, even though find it uninspiring, pretentious and without much feeling. (I'm such an ogre.) Also nominated are "Maniac," also from "Flashdance"; two songs from "Yentl" - "Papa, Can You Hear Me?" and "The Way He Makes Me Feel;" and the gentle country ballad "Over You" from "Tender Mercies." Preference vote goes to "Over You."

Here are the rest of my predic tions for tonight's winners: Foreign-Language Film: "Fanny Costumes: Marik Vos, "Fanny

and Alexander. Sound: Ben Burtt, Gary Summers, Randy Thom, Tony Dewe, "Return

Documentary Feature: "Seeing

Original Score: Bill Conti, "The Right Stuff.' **Original Song Score or Adaptation** Score: Michel Legrande, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, "Yentl."

Animated Short Subject: "Mickey's Christmas Carol." Live Action Short Subject: "Boys Editing: Glenn Farr, Lisa Frucht-

man, Stephen A. Rotter, Doug Steward. Tom Rolf, "The Right Stuff." Art Direction/Set Decoration: Geoffrey Kirkland, Richard J. Lawrence, W. Stewart Campbell, Peter Romero; Pat Pendin, George R. Nelson, "The Right Stuff." Sound Effects Editing: Ben Burtt, "Return of the Jedi."



Glenn Close