

Oscar night predictions:

And the winner is...

by Susan Kass
The Collegian

The Academy Awards have been exciting and boring, loved and hated, but they are always watched. This year is no exception. An Oscar can make or break a career or profit margin. Movies like *Bugsy* and *Prince of Tides*, which have done poorly at the box office, have already profited by being nominated for numerous awards, including the coveted best picture trophy.

The most popular categories -- best picture, actor, actress, supporting actor, supporting actress, and director -- are being watched closely this year. Each category contains hidden surprises and disappointments, so predicting the winner is quite difficult this time around. As Jodie Foster has said, "It's a lottery draw."

Best Picture

The nominees for best picture are *JFK*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Prince of Tides*, and *Bugsy*.

The Academy always tries to stay away from controversy, which *JFK* has had plenty of. Despite director Oliver Stone's remarkable work and campaigning, the "docudrama" traits which fictionalize numerous incidents might have been too radical for academy stalwarts.

Beauty and the Beast is the first full-length animated feature to ever be nominated for best picture. This is a very special honor, but the Disney classic is not the best of its kind. Two things can explain its nomination: it's a bad year for Oscar-worthy movies, and Disney debuted it at the New York film festival this summer.

Even with the artful direction of Jonathan Demme and spectacular performances by Anthony Hopkins and Jodie Foster, *The Silence of the Lambs* is a long shot; it's difficult to imagine that the academy will vote for a horror film as best picture.

With the superb performances of Kate Winslet and Nick Nolte, as well as an adapted screenplay which will almost certainly win an Oscar, *Prince of Tides* is a quality movie.

Of all the nominees, *Bugsy* stands to gain the most and, judging from the ten nominations it received (more than any other this year) and the past history of Oscar, it will probably win.

Predicted winner:
Bugsy
Preferred winner:
Silence of the Lambs

Best Actor

The best actor category is the most saturated with talent. All the nominees deserve the award; in fact, I think votes will be so evenly distributed that there might even be a tie.

First up is Robert De Niro for *Cape Fear*, whose performance was fantastic. But De Niro has always excelled; considering the competition this year, I think he could handle stepping aside once.

Anthony Hopkins was a perfect Hannibal Lecter in *Silence of the Lambs*, and Robin Williams provided audiences with a good performance in *The Fisher King*. In another year, with less brilliant competition, they would have a better chance.

Warren Beatty was actually believable and quite good in *Bugsy*. Looking at his past performances in *Reds* and *Bonnie and Clyde*, I have to say that this was his best role to date.

Nick Nolte stole *The Prince of Tides* from Streisand with a believable and honest style. Many say this is his year, judging from his recent surge in popularity. But what will win him the Oscar is that he is a manly man who cries.

Predicted Winner:
Nick Nolte
Preferred Winner:
Anthony Hopkins

Best Actress

The best actress category is less diverse than in other years, but nonetheless interesting. The nominees are Laura Dern for *Rambling Rose*, Bette Midler in *For the Boys*, Jodie Foster for *Silence of the Lambs*, and Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon for *Thelma & Louise*.

Dern received much critical acclaim, but since she is very young she'll probably have to wait to be nominated again. On the other hand, this is Davis' second nomination, but her performance this time around was not particularly outstanding.

Sarandon, who received nothing for her performance in *Bull Durham*, is due for acceptance and recognition.

Bette Midler won the Golden Globe for best actress two months ago, for her role in *For the Boys*, but that is not always a good predictor.

That leaves Jodie Foster in *Silence of the Lambs*, who gave a spectacular performance. Foster is popular enough to win a second Oscar, and she very well may do it this year.

Predicted winner:
Jodie Foster
Preferred winner:
Jodie Foster

Best Supporting Actor

The best supporting actor

category is quite bland this year. All the nominees were good, but none had a particularly significant effect on the movies they were in.

Harvey Keitel and Ben Kingsley were nominated for *Bugsy*, even though Elliot Gould was the only one praised for his performance in the same picture.

The other nominees were Tommy Lee Jones for *JFK*, Michael Lerner for *Barton Fink* and Jack Palance for *City Slickers*. I think Palance deserves it the most and probably will get it.

Predicted winner:
Jack Palance
Preferred winner:
Jack Palance

Best Supporting Actress

This category contains quite a few strong performances this year, most notably Diane Ladd for *Rambling Rose*, Jessica Tandy for *Fried Green Tomatoes*, and Mercedes Ruehl for *The Fisher King*. Other nominees include Kate Winslet in *The Prince of Tides* and Juliette Lewis for *Cape Fear*.

Ladd was good in *Rambling Rose*, but this is her first recognized part. I expect her to be nominated again in the future.

The favorite seems to be Lewis, however. She gave a startling, affective performance, but since her nomination she has been somewhat lethargic about getting an Oscar. Members might vote for Winslet simply because they're scared what Lewis might say in her acceptance speech.

Predicted winner:
Juliette Lewis
Preferred winner:
Kate Winslet

Best Director

The best director category normally reflects the best picture category. This is true for Jonathan Demme (*Silence of the Lambs*), Oliver Stone (*JFK*), and Barry Levinson (*Bugsy*). But many were surprised by the nomination of John Singleton (*Boyz n the Hood*) and Ridley Scott (*Thelma & Louise*).

Singleton, who was also nominated for best original screenplay, is the youngest nominee ever in this category. He is also the first African American to get a nomination as a director.

Although Demme and Stone deserve credit for their respective entries, Singleton should have no problems winning here.

Predicted winner:
John Singleton
Preferred winner:
Johnathan Demm

You Pick the Oscars

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Best Picture

- Beauty and the Beast*
- Bugsy*
- JFK*
- The Prince of Tides*
- The Silence of the Lambs*

Best Actor

- Warren Beatty -- *Bugsy*
- Robert De Niro -- *Cape Fear*
- Anthony Hopkins -- *The Silence of the Lambs*
- Nick Nolte -- *The Prince of Tides*
- Robin Williams -- *The Fisher King*

Best Actress

- Geena Davis -- *Thelma & Louise*
- Laura Dern -- *Rambling Rose*
- Jodie Foster -- *The Silence of the Lambs*
- Bette Midler -- *For the Boys*
- Susan Sarandon -- *Thelma & Louise*

Best Supporting Actor

- Tommy Lee Jones -- *JFK*
- Harvey Keitel -- *Bugsy*
- Ben Kingsley -- *Bugsy*
- Michael Lerner -- *Barton Fink*
- Jack Palance -- *City Slickers*

Best Supporting Actress

- Diane Ladd -- *Rambling Rose*
- Juliette Lewis -- *Cape Fear*
- Kate Winslet -- *The Prince of Tides*
- Mercedes Ruehl -- *The Fisher King*
- Jessica Tandy -- *Fried Green Tomatoes*

Best Director

- John Singleton -- *Boyz n the Hood*
- James Toback -- *Bugsy*
- Oliver Stone -- *JFK*
- Jonathan Demme -- *The Silence of the Lambs*
- Ridley Scott -- *Thelma & Louise*

Name _____

Phone # _____

Campus Box # _____

- All entries must be dropped off in *The Collegian* office (1st Floor Reed) by noon on Monday, March 30.
- Winners will be chosen according to the Oscar telecast Monday night; the entries with the most correct answers win.
- Five winners will receive two VIP passes to any film at the Millcreek Mall Cinemas.
- In the event of a tie, a random drawing conducted by *The Collegian* editors will determine contest winners.
- Winners will be announced in the April 2, 1992, issue of *The Collegian*.
- This contest is open to all students, faculty and staff, with the exception of *The Collegian* staff.