

Who's who in the Academy

By SARAH INGERSOLL

This year 1980 was not what one would call a banner year for the film industry. There were a few good films, several passable ones and a ream of trashy ones. However, some of the good ones were excellent and those are among the nominees for this year's 53rd Annual Academy Awards.

Through some unique streak



of luck, my last year's predictions were on-the-nose, so this year I'll try again and with any luck at all I may get one right.

This year promises to be as controversial as every other year, but the controversy isn't limited to who ends up with

Oscar but who is nominated. Just as it was beyond comprehension, how Humphrey Bogart won for "African Queen" over Marlon Brando for "A Streetcar Named Desire", it baffles me how Donald Sutherland was not nominated for his role in "Ordinary People". It is undoubtably Sutherland's best performance ever, and in my opinion it was a definite snub that he was left out the race, especially since the other three major actors in this film were nominated.

Another inexplicable exclusion is Beverley DeAngelo's name from Supporting Actress nominations. DeAngelo's portrayal of country singer Patsy Cline in "Coal Miner's Daughter" was not only ONE of this year's best but, looking at the nominees, it was the best and why she was overlooked is just another example of how things are run in Tinseltown.

Ah well, enough bitching for now...more to come later, I'm sure. On with the show....

Nominees for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role are:

Eileen Brennan - Private Benjamin; Eve La Gallienne - Resurrection; Cathy Moriarty - Raging Bull; Diana Scarwid - Inside Moves; Mary Steenburgen - Melvin and Howard.

This is the most difficult category to predict so let's get rid of it quickly.

While Eileen Brennan always gives a credible performance, whether it be in "The Sting" or "Private Benjamin", she is not what one would term a great actress ---not in the same league as Meryl Streep or Maggie Smith, both past winners in this category. Next comes Eva La Gallienne. Now tell the truth, do you know this lady? Or how about Diana Scarwid? This is probably totally unfair of me to judge these ladies

due to not recognizing them, but I'm still quite miffed at

DeAngelo not being nominated. One thing LaGallienne has going for her is that she is 82 years old and the Academy likes to bestow Oscar on the very old and the very young -- witness George Burns and Tatum O'Neal. The only two I see in contention for this award are Cathy Moriarty and Mary Steenburgen. Steenburgen is a fine actress as was evident in last year's "Time after Time" and this year's "Melvin and Howard". However, neither of these were big at the box-office which shouldn't matter but does. Moriarty on the other hand, has won overwhelming critical praise for her work in the huge critical and box-office success "Raging Bull". This should claim Oscar for her, yes? Not necessarily. This is Moriarty's first try at acting...in anything. She was spotted in a night club (as a patron) by an associate of Director Martin Scorsese, who suggested her for the role. And, while it is true, that her performance was superb, I am wondering how could anyone's not be when you have Robert DiNiro and Martin Scorsese two work with. Also, I can't help thinking that Academy members will not be so anxious to give the award to a greenhorn...and from New York to boot. (That's them talk-

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Next (what, there's more) comes the category of Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role. Nominees are:

Judd Hirsh - Ordinary People; Timothy Hutton - Ordinary People; Michael O'Keefe - The Great Santini; Joe Pesci - Raging Bull; Jason Robards - Melviand Howard.

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Nominations for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role include:

Ellen Burstyn - Resurrection; Goldie Hawn - Private Benjamin; Mary Tyler Moore - Ordinary People; Gena Rowlands - Gloria; Sissy Spacek - Coal Miner's Daughter.

Okay, don't sneeze because I'm cutting three of these ladies very quickly. Out you go Ellen Bursytn (you just won a few years ago), Goldie Hawn (so did you) and Gena Rowlands (you didn't but so what.)

"Spacek is young and likely has many fine performances ahead of her while God knows when Moore will be offered another plum role"

I am torn between Moore and Spacek. Both gave excellent performances in their respective and very different films. Moore creating a character and Spacek portraying a living person. I must tell you that when I saw "Coal Miners Daughter" a year ago, I was sure that Spacek would win the award this year. But then came "Ordinary People" and I was astounded at Moore's portrayal of a cold, unfeeling, bitchy, tragic woman who cannot come to terms with the loss of her favorite son. There was not a hint or suggestion of Mary Richards in her performance and my loyalty went from Spacek to here. What I don't know is what the Academy is going to say. Moore is a known television performer, which goes against her, but then, Sally Field broke that prejudice last

year by winning. Spacek has, throughout her career, given top-notch performances. That puts Spacek in front. Now sentimentality steps in and this is where Moore comes out on top. She has not had a good year personally -- her marriage is over and her only son died of a self-

inflicted gunshot wound. Spacek is young and likely has many fine performances ahead of her while God knows when Moore will be offered another plum role. Therefore my particular choice and my prediction -- Mary Tyler Moore.

Robert DiNiro - Raging Bull; Robert Duvall - The Great Santini; John Hurt - The Elephant Man; Jack Lemmon - Tribute; Peter O'Toole - The Stunt Man.

This is the most interesting category this year and the most difficult to predict. Each nominee is truly gifted at his craft and a winner in his own

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