entertainment

Ethal Simmons editor/644-1100

Publicity paves way for Oscar contenders

OON EVERY FILMGOER worth the salt on his popcorn will have an opinion on the Oscars. And entertainment writers, feature writers, columnists, political jundits — even sports reporters — will tell you who's going to win the annual award. But these serbles and would-be critics all will have one advantage. When they predict their winners, the nominees will have been announced. It's not hard to assess the five nominees in the four major categories — best thin and the color provides a significant of the control of th

the picks out of our proce prometrial.

What is difficult, however, is picking the nominees. Now that demands both insight and a genuine passion for public ridicule. So without further ado and for the first time anywhere, here's a list of the nominees for this year's Academy Awardt.

FOR BEST FILM the nominees are:

• "E.T."

- "Gandh!"
 "Sophle's Choice"
 "Tootsie"
 "The Verdict"
- One factor permeates the three general types of films represented by these nominations: publicity. Every picture on this best-film list has garnered so much press that filmsgoers really didn't

FOR BEST DIRECTOR the nomi-

- ecs arc:

 Richard Attenborough, "Gandhi"

 Sidney Lurnet, "The Verdiet"

 Alan Pakula, "Sophie's Choice"

 Sidney Pollack, "Tootsie"

 Steven Spleiberg, "E.T."

No surprises here; all the directors come from the best-film nominees. Richard Attenborough's 20 years of work will not go unrewarded. Sidney

have to see the pictures to know what they're about or how good they are. Media hype made the films Ocear contenders, even though only two or three of them are genulinely potential award winning wors.

Regarding the film types: "Sophies Cholee." Totale' and "The Vertice" are Oscar contenders because they are star vehicles. Each features a major star in "an Academy Award performance," so it follows — unnaturally—that the films themselves are "Academy Award films."

"Gandhi" qualifies as an epic work — "20 years in the making," as the adsproclaim — and also because of its epic, larger-than-life qualities. And "E.T." of course, makes the list because it's the most popular film of all time, and the Academy is not about to tell millions of filmigores that they've been paying \$4\$ to see a second-rate flick.

If there's a darkhorse bet it's "Missing," the little-publicized film by director Costa-Gavras. Unfortunately, "Missing" premiered a full year ago, and it's unlikely that Oscar voters can remember that far back.

FOR BEST DIRECTOR the nomi-

"Moonlighting" is an English film that's prospered from wonderful word-of-mouth. It hasn't played in many markets but already is being touted as a best foreign-film nominee and possible best-film contender. The former is likely, the latter unlikely, and Jeremy Irons, who starred in last year's "The French Lleutenant's Woman," at least should garner a best-actor bid.

Dostin Hoffman, Ben Kingsley and Paul Newman are cast "miss nominees for their "star-vehicle" performances. Kingsley's newcomer status will work against him in the best-actor voting but won't prevent him from winning a nomination. Newman certainly will get quale job in "The Vacchiotar so many times been denied an observable of the started of the started

wood tradition to reward longevity.

Hofiman is the most-certain shoo in
and Peter O'Toole the greatest
longabet for nominations, but Tinsel
Town loves an actor who plays a drunk
(witness Dudley Moore's acclaim for
"Arthur"), so O'Toole seems the likely
fifth choice.

FOR BEST ACTRESS the numinees

- e:

 Jessica Lange, "Tootsie"*
 Susan Sarandon, "Tempest"
 Sissy Spacek, "Missing"
 Meryl Streep, "Sophie's Choice"
 Debra Winger, "An Officer and a
 Gentleman"

Gentleman"

It's the safest bet since Heary Fonda for "On Golden Pond" that Meryl Streep will win for "Sophie's Cholee," although that really doesn't concern us here. Jessica Lange, who won notoriety for "Tootsie" and praise for her portrayal of actress Frances Farmer (in a fillm released in select markets in order to qualify for the Oscarbid, heace the asterisk next to her name. Debra Winger deserves, and will get, a nomination for her fine performance in the best-liked sentimental film of the year, "An Officer and a Gentleman."

Because it was a lean year for actresses — and because no foreign actress distinguished herself, as is so frequently the case— the Academy likely will compensate Susan Sarandon for which constant year, when she should the will compensate Susan Sarandon for which a complation even though her work in "Tempest" wasn't exactly sterling.



Dustin Hoffman is a struggling actor who masquerades as a woman and Sydney Pollack is a New York ugent in "Footsle." The film, its stars and director are likely to be among Oscar contenders.

The final spot boils down to Sisay Spacek ("Missing") and Julie Andrews O'Victor, Victoria"). Spacek is the probable litth nomine— once again her selection would be a surer bet had not released so long ago.

Andrews turned heads with her portrayal of a woman disgulsed as a man disgulsed as a woman, but "Victor, Victoria" is nearly as old as "Missing."

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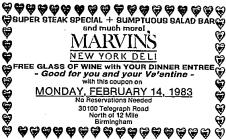
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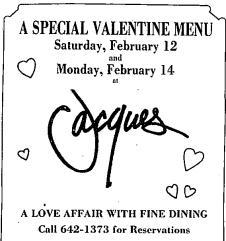
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