



Danny Glover and Whoopi Goldberg appear in this scene from Steven Spielberg's "The Color Purple," Greenberg's choice for Best Picture.

the movies

Dan Greenberg

'Old critic' makes annual predictions of Oscar winners

First I was out of step with the millions who love Rocky and Rambo. Then I alienated young persons without number by saying Molly Ringwald is not Pretty in Pink, or out of it for that matter. Now, once again, it is time for this old critic to expose his incompetence by predicting the 1986 Oscar winners.

If I even approach last year's 63 percent, I'll feel pretty good, but don't call Jimmy the Greek just yet.

Unlike Awards Night (Monday, March 24, this year), I won't try for the big finish. Rather, let's start at the top with Best Picture. This year's nominees include some of the best films of the decade. Looking at academy politics, I suspect that "Color Purple" will win Best Picture, although I think "Prizzi's Honor" and "Kiss of the Spider Woman" are better films.

IT'S ALWAYS a shaky proposition to compare films which are so diverse. In years less richly endowed with new films, either of these three or "Out of Africa" probably would walk away with most of the Oscars.

But, given the heavy competition this year, I think the emotion will carry the day for "Purple," even though I'm picking "Spider Woman" because "Prizzi's" sardonic irony didn't sell well. Besides, that crowd already has won quite a few awards.

I do think John Huston will take home an Oscar as Best Director for "Prizzi," reflecting respect and honor for a filmmaker of great accomplishment who made a very clever, entertaining movie. Plunging right ahead, for Best Actor, I'm torn between Jack Nicholson and William Hurt. Immediately after screening "Prizzi" I ordered Jack's statue. Then I saw "Spider Woman." Both Hurt and Nicholson deserve the award but neither wants half, so I'll bet on Hurt since Nicholson's got a couple. Watch — after all this clever reasoning, James Garner will get a sympathy award for "Murphy's Romance." Not from me.

Best Actress, hands down, goes to Geraldine Page for her bravura performance in "Trip to Bountiful." After eight nominations, she finally should get the award. Whoopi Goldberg did turn in a superb performance but "Purple" will win so much that there's got to be some backlash. I'm betting on that in this category. Besides, Page did a marvelous job.

ALL FIVE ACTRESSES in the Supporting category are deserving but, to me at least, Oprah Winfrey in "Purple" is just a little bit ahead of the field and gets my vote.

William Hickey is most deserving in the Supporting Actor column but, among "Prizzi's" political problems, it peaked too early. Hickey, primarily known as a teacher of acting, should have a lot of support, but I'll bet Don Ameche gets it on sentiment. After all, if he hadn't invented the telephone, how could you call your agent?

"Miss Celie's Blues" from "Purple" for Best Song, although the kids on the pop charts may win for "Power of Love" from "Back to the Future" or "Say You, Say Me" from "White Nights." If Miss Celie doesn't get it, I'll pick "Power of Love."

"The Purple Rose of Cairo" was a very clever film, even though its box office wasn't smash. I'll pick Woody Allen for Original Screenplay. For Screenplay Adaptation, again the competition is intense with Horton Foote's "Trip to Bountiful" breaking into the select circle of "Purple," "Prizzi," "Africa" (screenplay by Kurt Luedke of Birmingham) and the "Spider Woman."

In most years, any one of those would be three lengths ahead of its closest challenger. "Purple," on a roll, will get this one as well as Original Score and Makeup.

Film Editing to "Runaway Train" while "Back to the Future" wins Sound and Sound Effects Editing. "Cocoon" gets my vote for Visual Effects and "Out of Africa" will win Costume and Cinematography.

Most of the Foreign Film and Documentary nominations weren't available so I don't have to stick my neck out there.

Here's hoping my percentage is better than last year. But who's counting?



Greenberg picks Geraldine Page as Best Actress for "The Trip to Bountiful" and William Hurt as Best Actor for "Kiss of the Spider Woman."

table talk

Irish feast

A buffet featuring corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, chicken with Irish whiskey and cream, soda bread, boiled potatoes, spinach noodles, rice pilaf, green beans almondine, brussels sprouts, assorted desserts and salad bar will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6-10:30 p.m. Monday, March 17, at the Wicker Works at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. Irish coffee and green beer will be available both in the Wicker Works and Hurley's Lounge. Lunch is \$4.95, dinner \$10.95. Hurley's will offer live entertainment by the fleet Happy Irish Siring Band from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Green offerings

Specials of Irish lamb stew, corned beef and cabbage, and Irish beef stew will be offered on St. Patrick's Day at the Clarkson Cafe. Beer and martinis will be green. An Irish trio, Laurie and Friends, will entertain from 5 p.m. to midnight Monday, March 17. Pianist Jim Bajor will fill in at the breaks.

Dinner dance

The Rhinoceros restaurant and the Taboo nightclub in Detroit's Rivertown have joined to present an all-inclusive dinner and dancing package Wednesday-Thursday. The evening begins with live entertainment at the Rhinoceros and a full dinner with choice of entree (fresh rainbow trout, filet of beef, chicken Wellington, ratatouille with shrimp, pasta primavera or a daily special). At the Taboo, within walking distance, guests will be offered two cocktails each and dancing, as part of the package. Total cost is \$20 per person including taxes and tip.

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