## MOVIES

# Oscar hopefuls announced, city ready to celebrate

Plan to attend the Detroit Institute of Arts Oscar Night America Gala, 630 p.m. Sunday, March 25 at the Roostertail, 100 Marquette Drive, Detroit. Guests of the gala, presented by the DIA's Cinematic Arts Council, will receive an official 73rd Annual Academy Awards pro-gram. The event benefits the Detroit Film Theatre and is expected to sell out. Tickets cost \$135. Call (313) 833-7967.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA

The 73rd Annual Academy

The 73rd Annual Academy Award nominations announced Tuesday, Feb. 13 didn't come as much of a surprise to the Detroit Film Theatre's curator and resident film expert. Elliot Withelm might not agree with all of the choices, but that's all part of the excitement of Osera time.

This year Tinsel Town is talking about Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon — Ang Lee's mystical martial arts film that's crossed over into mainstream America, earning a grand total of 10 nominations. For a foreign language film, it's managed to garner even more attention than the 1998 Italian-subtitled Academy favorite, Life Is Beautiful.

"It's a good alternative audience movie," said Wilhelm of Crouching Tiger, which is on the verge of becoming the highest grossing foreign language film. "Audiences have indeed responded to it." He added that the foreign language status of the film lends prestige.

### Romantic fable

Romantic fable
Among those also nominated for the highest honors is the romantic fable, Chocolat, Steven Soderburg's Traffic and Erin Brockovich and Ridley Scott's Gladiator. Soderburg will actually compete against himself in the two most coveted categories, Best Picture and Director.

As Best Picture, the film that earns Osear tends to represent what the Academy hopes to be remembered by in that year, said Wilhelm. "It's the message

Appearing... Now

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Embraced: Laura Linney (shown with Jon Tenney) is nominated as Best Actress for her role as Sammy in "You Can Count on Me." Her competition includes Joan Allen, Juliette Binoche, Ellen Burstyn and Julia Roberts.

they want to send to the world. If you look at the history of the Academy Awards, it's on a kind of graph of socio-political history and the second of graph of socio-political history.

That's something to take into consideration when casting your own votes on Sunday, March 25.

# Making a difference

Making a difference
"If Erin Brockovich wins the
Oscar," said Wilhelm, "it's not
just going to be because it's a
pretty good movie, it's going to
be because it's the story of a real
person making a difference in
society." By these standards
Traffic doesn't stand much of a
chance due to its bleak message
about the war on drugs.

"When I think about the
Oscars, I see reflections of how
society sees itself, "said Wilhelm.

Willem DeFoe, Shadow of a

Benicio Del Toro. Traffic Albert Finney, Erin Brock-ovich

Joaquin Phoenix, Gladiator Actress - supporting

Judy Dench, Chocolat Marcia Gay Harden, Pollack Kate Hudson, Almost Famous Frances McDormand, Almost

Julie Walters, Billy Elliot ■ Actor

Javier Bardem, Before Night

Russell Crowe, Gladiator

Warren Woods Community Theatre 13400 12 Mile Road (West of Schoenher) Warren, Mi Tickets \$18.00 Info: 248-887-4677 Ticket Master (248) 645-6666

Tom Hanks, Castaway Ed Harris, Pollack Geoffrey Rush, Quills



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SEE THE DATE MOVIE OF THE YEAR

"A Lovely Romance For Your Valentine."

Joan Allen, The Contender Juliette Binoche, Chocolat Ellen Burstyn, Requiem for a

Laura Linney, You Can Count

lia Roberts, Erin Brockovich

B Directing
Steven Daldry, Billy Elliot
Ang Lee, Crouching Tiger,
Hidden Dragon
Steven Soderburg, Erin Brock-

Steven Soderburg, Traffic Ridley Scott. Gladiate

Screenplay — original Almost Famous Billy Elliot Erin Brockovich

You Can Count on Mc

Chocolat Crouching Tiger, Hidden

O Brother, Where Art Thou? Traffic Wonder Boys

■ Foreign Language Film Amores Perros Crouching Tiger, Hidden

Divided We Fall

Everybody Famous! The Taste of Others ■ Best Picture

Chocolat Crouching Tiger, Hidden

ragon Erin Brockovich Gladiator Traffic



