

# Godfather, Cabaret lead Oscar nominations

Review by Larry Kubert and Jim Gray

Cliche as it may sound, 1972 was a heckuva year for movies.

In that year the *Godfather* came in like gangbusters. *Cabaret* danced in, proving that musicals don't have to be comedy. *Lady Sings the Blues* and *Sounder* brought black movies into the big leagues. And *Sleuth* proved that a bang-up murder mystery can be successful, even today.

All of which makes the Academy Award presentation, to be seen on NBC (KMTV, channel 3 in Omaha) at 8 p.m. Tuesday a little bit more suspenseful and much more important.

Newly stripped of two of its Academy Award nominations, (because of a dispute over the originality of its best score and best song nominations), the much-touted *Godfather* now shares the limelight with *Cabaret*, both tallying 10 nominations.

With all the high-power celuloid wonders fighting for top honors, it's difficult to decide exactly who deserves what. Nonetheless, the *Daily Nebraskan's* movie reviewers, Larry Kubert and Jim Gray, have chosen their picks for the major Oscars.

would be a close race. Olivier and Caine would probably have had a chance in any other year, especially since *Sleuth* was an 'actor' movie. O'Toole's performance was strong and well-motivated, but at times tiresome. Winfield was good, but not that good. Brando should win.

Kubert: "Don Corleone didn't have to resort to 'offers you can't refuse' when it comes to Brando's performance in *The Godfather*. Although Caine's and especially Olivier's performances in *Sleuth* were strikingly powerful and ran the gamut of emotions, Brando should corner the Oscar with his electrifying portrayal as the omnipotent head of The Family. O'Toole and Winfield have to work hard at tredding water in comparison to the other three."

**Best actress nominations:** Liza Minnelli, *Cabaret*; Diana Ross, *Lady Sings the Blues*; Maggie Smith, *Travels With My Aunt*; Cicely Tyson, *Sounder*; and Liv Ullman, *The Emigrants*.

Gray: "It's Minnelli, hands down. She gives one of the most startlingly real musical roles I've ever seen and easily deserves the Oscar. Ross is closest, because her first-time role showed surprising depth. Smith and

Gray: "Pacino doesn't really belong here, because his role was definitely that of a major actor. Because of that, I go with Gray for his menacing emcee role in *Cabaret*. Somehow, that movie couldn't have existed without him. Duval and Caan succeeded in their roles but didn't really have to do much acting. And I don't even know why Albert's stereotype protective father role got him a nomination."

Kubert: "*The Godfather* is top-heavy in this category with Pacino, Caan and Duvall all nominated. Perhaps Pacino doesn't belong in the support category, since his role was bigger than Brando's, but it's no reason to dismiss him. Pacino should get the award. Bravo."

**Best supporting actress nominations:** Jeannie Berlin, *The Heartbreak Kid*; Eileen Heckart, *Butterflies Are Free*; Geraldine Page, *Pete 'n' Tillie*; Susan Tyrrell, *Fat City*; and Shelly Winters, *The Poseidon Adventure*.

Gray: "I missed *Fat City*, so I can't comment on Tyrrell. But it's a close race with three of the other four (Page was boringly tiresome in *Pete 'n' Tillie*). I'll go with Berlin, basically because she adds the most to her movie, without taking it over like Winters and Heckart do. It wouldn't be disappointing if either got the Oscar."

Kubert: "Until Berlin's performance as the sun-burnt wife in *The Heartbreak Kid*, Winters had the award wrapped up. But now I'm afraid she won't be able to have her name engraved on the Oscar. Berlin will, rightfully. Heckart and Tyrrell will come in third and fourth with Page not even deserving a nomination."

**Best picture nominations:** *Cabaret*, *Deliverance*, *The Emigrants*, *The Godfather* and *Sounder*.

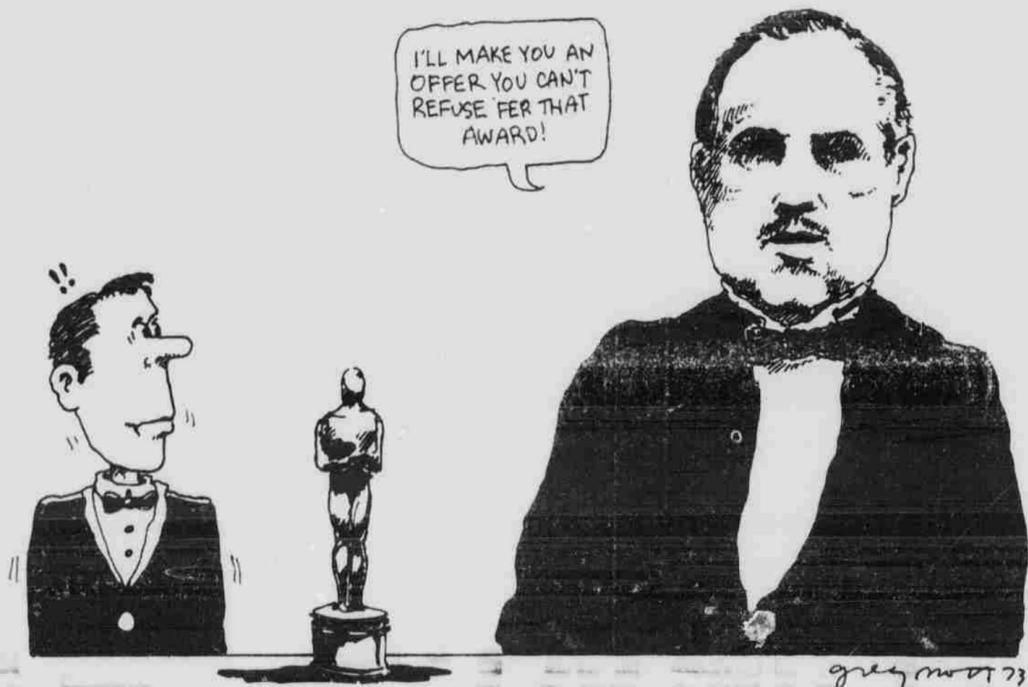
Gray: "*Godfather* mania strikes again. I'll go along because the movie showed unparalleled grace and strength. *Deliverance* and *Cabaret* pulled close tie for second because of their sheer impact and total effect. In other years, they'd be the winners. *Sounder* is excellent but not masterful.

Kubert: "If *Sleuth* was up for a best picture nomination, it might be a little more difficult, but let's face it, *The Godfather* was an extremely dramatic and influential motion picture. If it doesn't win this award, there just ain't no justice."

**Best direction nominations:** Bob Fosse, *Cabaret*; John Boorman, *Deliverance*; Jan Troell, *The Emigrants*; Francis Ford Coppola, *The Godfather*; and Joseph L. Mankewicz, *Sleuth*.

Gray: "Here's where I put down my foot to the *Godfather* sweep. Coppola will probably get it, undeservedly. Because of the sheer brilliance and power of his instincts in direction and bringing together what could easily have been woodsy drivel, Boorman deserves this one. Coppola did an adequate job, but he had outstanding material to work with. The other three are close, but no cigar."

Kubert: "Boorman and Coppola are both high in the consideration. Fosse and Troell I can't say since I haven't seen *Cabaret* or *The Emigrants*. However, my pick is Mankewicz's *Sleuth*. The director produces one of the most suspenseful murder mysteries to ever hit the silver screen. If anyone deserves it, Mankewicz does."



(*The Emigrants* is not rated in this compilation because it was not viewed by either reviewer. The movie had been scheduled to begin playing in Lincoln Wednesday, but its run at the Stuart Theater was postponed by the holdover of *The Heartbreak Kid*.)

**Best actor nominations:** Marlon Brando, *The Godfather*; Michael Caine, Lawrence Olivier, *Sleuth*; Peter O'Toole, *The Ruling Class*; and Paul Winfield, *Sounder*.

Gray: "If Brando weren't in the category, this

Tyson were adequate, but boring.

Kubert: "Questionable, because of all the nominees, *Cabaret* is one movie I neglected to see. Even so, looking at the other actresses up for the award, Ross and under-rated Smith are closest. But because she's been named Entertainer of the Year and over-looked a couple of times by the Academy, I say Minnelli will win."

**Best supporting actor nominations:** Eddie Albert, *The Heartbreak Kid*; James Caan, Robert Duval and Al Pacino, *The Godfather*; and Joel Gray, *Cabaret*



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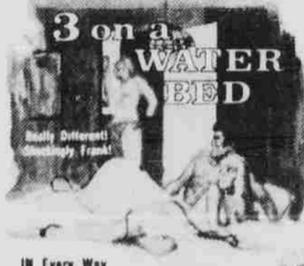
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