

# 81ST ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS®

## SIDEBARS

This year's most nominated film is *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* with thirteen nominations. This is one short of the current record of fourteen nominations held by two films, *All about Eve* (1950) and *Titanic* (1997).

With her sixth nomination for Best Picture (for *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*), Kathleen Kennedy has tied the record for nominations for individual producers in the category. Since 1951, when individual producers rather than companies were first cited in the Best Picture nominations, only two other producers, Stanley Kramer and Steven Spielberg, have received six nominations. Kramer never won the award; Spielberg won in 1993 for *Schindler's List*. Kennedy has yet to win. Only two other women have more than one Best Picture nomination: Julia Phillips (two nominations, including one win) and Fran Walsh (three nominations, including one win).

With her fifteenth nomination this year, Meryl Streep extends her lead as the most nominated performer. Katharine Hepburn and Jack Nicholson are tied at twelve nominations each.

Heath Ledger, who died one year ago on January 22, 2008, is the sixth performer to receive a posthumous nomination. The others were James Dean (Actor, *East of Eden*, 1955, and Actor, *Giant*, 1956); Spencer Tracy (Actor, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, 1967); Peter Finch, the only posthumous acting winner to date (Actor in a Leading Role, *Network*, 1976); Ralph Richardson (Actor in a Supporting Role, *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes*, 1984); Massimo Troisi (Actor in a Leading Role, *The Postman (Il Postino)*, 1995).

In the acting categories, nine individuals are first-time nominees. Five of the nominees (Sean Penn, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Angelina Jolie, Meryl Streep and Marisa Tomei) are previous Oscar® winners.

Supporting Actor nominee Philip Seymour Hoffman is the only performer who was also nominated last year (for *Charlie Wilson's War*).

At 33, Kate Winslet (born October 5, 1975) is the youngest performer to receive six nominations. The previous record holder was Bette Davis, who was 34 when she received her sixth nomination in 1942, for *Now, Voyager*.

Frank Langella is the second actor nominated for playing former President Richard Nixon. Anthony Hopkins was nominated for his performance in *Nixon* (1995).

For the fifth time since 1944, when the number of nominations in each category was standardized at five, the Directing and Best Picture nominations have honored the same five pictures. This has happened in 1957, 1964, 1981 and 2005.

The two Original Song nominations for *Slumdog Millionaire* represent the third and fourth nominations for songs that are not in the English language. "Ave Satani," from *The Omen*, nominated in 1976, is entirely in Latin. The Spanish-language "Al Otro Lado Del Río," from *The Motorcycle Diaries*, won the Oscar in the category in 2004.

*Waltz with Bashir* (Israel) is the first animated film to be nominated in the Foreign Language Film category.

Lora Hirschberg is the third woman nominated in the Sound Mixing category. The others are Anna Behlmer (nine nominations) and Pud Cusack (one nomination).

Andrew Stanton is the fourth person to have more than one nomination in the Animated Feature Film category. He joins John Lasseter, Hayao Miyazaki and Brad Bird, all of whom have two nominations in the category.

### Best Picture Release Dates:

*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* - December 25, 2008

*Frost/Nixon* - December 5, 2008

*Milk* - November 26, 2008

*The Reader* - December 12, 2008

*Slumdog Millionaire* - November 12, 2008