

On Oscar noms day, think of overlooked

By Robert Osborne

NEW YORK -- A deep bow to all you brand-new Academy Award nominees as of 5:30 a.m. Pacific time today. Enjoy the day, the attention, the pats on the back. It's something that doesn't happen often -- unless your name is Streep, Nicholson or Dench -- and do keep in mind those gloriously talented people who did great work but never received a single Oscar nomination in their entire careers, including such heavyweights as Edward G. Robinson (think "Key Largo," "Little Caesar") Myrna Loy ("The Thin Man," "The Best Years of Our Lives"), Dana Andrews ("Laura," for one), Joseph Cotten ("Citizen Kane" and "The Third Man," for two), Mia Farrow (amazingly overlooked in "Broadway Danny Rose") and Fred MacMurray (no nom for "Double Indemnity" or "The Apartment"). Also Ida Lupino, Joan Bennett, Kay Kendall, Marilyn Monroe, Maureen O'Hara, Eli Wallach and Robert Walker -- and that's only a fraction of the actors never recognized with a nomination for a competitive Oscar. Many in the director category have had the same fate, among them Robert Aldrich, Sam Peckinpah, Nicholas Ray, John Cromwell, Michael Powell, Roberto Rossellini, Douglas Sirk, Raoul Walsh, Rouben Mamoulian, etc. ... It'll be announced momentarily where this year's Oscar party in New York for East Coast Academy members will be held. The most likely spot: the Versailles Room of the St. Regis Hotel. What began as a regular and festive affair at the famed Russian Tea Room in 1990, and remained there until the RTR shut its doors in 1995, has since moved around town to such spots as the Tavern on the Green (two years), 21 (one year), the Waldorf-Astoria's Empire Room (two years), Le Cirque 2000 (five years) and Gabriel's (in 2005). ... This week's Broadway opening: "Rabbit Hole" on Thursday at the Biltmore, with Cynthia Nixon and Tyne Daly and directed by Daniel Sullivan for the Manhattan Theatre Club. ... Previews begin Feb. 8 at the Barrymore on the Johnny Cash musical "Ring of Fire," directed by Richard Maltby Jr. ... Off-Broadway, one day earlier, previews begin on a revival of Rose Franken's 1944 play "Soldier's Wife," a Broadway success with Martha Scott and rarely seen anywhere since. It'll have a run at the Mint Theater as part of their season devoted to American female writers. ... On its way to a late-February launch in Los Angeles, the legit "Dr. Dolittle" starring Tommy Tune received a decidedly thumbs-up reception in Tennessee, with the Chattanooga Post giving it a rave. Next stop: Denver, then California and, hopefully, New York in the near future. ...

Meanwhile, the Players Club is featuring an ambitious project: For the first time in New York, it will give concert readings of every full-length play, sketch or one-acter that George Bernard Shaw ever wrote for the stage, and it's free to audiences. (A quirk of Shaw's: He preferred no admission charge.) It's a two-year project that will be done on a once-a-month basis with David Staller producing and directing. Shaw's "Arms and the Man" began the series last week; "Fanny's First Play" will follow Feb. 27, "Heartbreak House" on March 20, with such Shaw delights as "The Apple Cart," "Misalliance" and "Captain Brassbound's Conversion" also on the agenda before the end of the year.

http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/thr/columns/osborne_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1001921162

www.hollywoodreporter.com