Glade Predicts Academy Awards

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Every year it's the same old run-around. The Capistrano swallows make their annual pilgrimage, the monsoon season begins the annual offensive by the Viet Gnomes on the Rice marshes, and in an attempt to perpetuate the tradition of catatonic spring paralysis in television, the Oscars get distributed with all the excitement of a dead chipmunk.

Ah well, to business. Picking the winners in the upcoming extravaganza is always like playing Russian roulette with four bullets. This year, though, things are happily different.

Now there are six.

Close Race

In what promises to be the closest overall race in recent history, the choices for the 1965 Academy Awards present a front of vague "ifs" and "maybes" such as never before. This, however, shall not deter the foolhardy, so here are the predictions.

First: The award for the best performance by an actor will be given to Rod Steiger for "The Pawnbroker" (for which he was nominated) and "Dr. Zhivago" (for which he was not and should have been.) It's been his banner year and no amount of politics seems likely to overwhelm an Academy vote for quality. But, just in case, since the Academy has never been bound by quality, pick Lee Marvin ("Cat Ballou") for second position.

Julie Christie

For many the same reasons, Julie Christie deserves and will receive the award for best actress. Her performance in "Darling" impressed many (it got her the nomination), but she ought to win for her magnificent performance in "Dr. Zhivago." Furthermore, the other choices include Julie Andrews (who won last year), Samantha Eggar (for "The Collector" and relatively unknown), Elizabeth Hartman (for "Patch of Blue" who was great, but again relatively unknown) and Simone Signoret (for "Ship of Fools"). By process of elimination, choose Signoret for second.

Only given a "Dr. Zhivago" sweep of the awards could Tom Courtenay win best supporting actor, but watch out — that might materialize. Otherwise, the choice is between Michael Dunn ("Ship of Fools") and Frank Finlay ("Othello"). Finlay deserves it for his Iago; Dunn will get it, Hollywood being what it is.

Ditto

Ditto Shelley Winters for "A Patch of Blue." The two "Othello" nominees (Joyce Redman and Maggie Smith) will cancel each other out in the voting and Peggy Wood didn't have a role worth mentioning in "Sound of Music," Ruth Gordon ("Inside Daisy Clover") is a dark horse, but a good choice for second bet.

Thus, the tea leaves have writ: Rod Steiger and Julie Christie for best actor and actress with Michael Dunn and Shelley Winters for support.

Best song is a toss-up. For lack of anything more concrete, play a hunch and choose "The Shadow of Your Smile" from "The Sandpiper" as the Academy bow to the Burton-Taylor cult.

Zhivago

Finally, the best picture of the year with the best director (as the two awards generally go hand-in-hand) will be (envelope please) — Yes! It is "Dr. Zhivago" directed by David Lean! Robert Wise's "Sound of Music" could pull it out after all, but following "My Fair Lady," the Academy members wouldn't choose another sugary musical made into another sugary movie with another Julie Andrews role.

And that is everything. Next week, this column will be wrong—but, for what it's worth, that's the view from here.