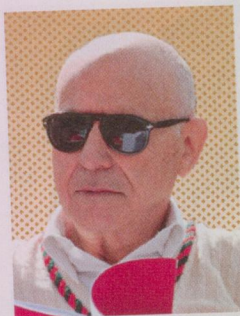
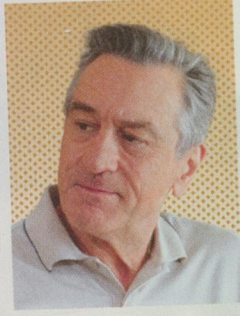




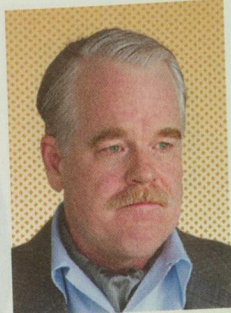
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR



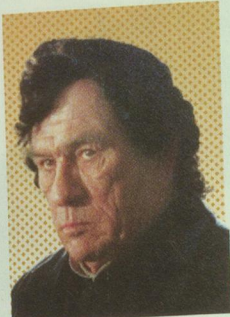
ALAN ARKIN
ARGO



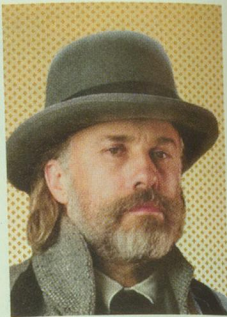
ROBERT DE NIRO
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK



PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN
THE MASTER



TOMMY LEE JONES
LINCOLN



CHRISTOPH WALTZ
DJANGO UNCHAINED

➔ **GENTLEMEN, START YOUR TEMPER.** The front-runners here are playing some of the most cantankerous characters imaginable—Tommy Lee Jones as the withering antislavery congressman in *Lincoln*, Alan Arkin as the crotchety Hollywood producer in *Argo*, and Robert De Niro as the grumbling, football-obsessed dad in *Silver Linings Playbook*. Even Philip Seymour Hoffman's charismatic New Age messiah in *The Master* is prone to tantrums. The fifth slot is a question of who gets in from *Django Unchained*: Christoph Waltz's chipper gunslinging bounty hunter? Leonardo DiCaprio's rotten-toothed, slave-driving plantation owner? Or will the Academy have the nerve to vote for Samuel L. Jackson's scheming house slave? My guess is the Academy chooses the guy with a smile this time.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

The Screen Actors Guild gave that fifth position to *Skyfall*'s Javier Bardem for playing Silva, a deformed, vengeance-seeking former agent who turns terrorist against the British secret service. He could well crack the top five at the Oscars, too, though it would be the first time an actor from any of the 23 James Bond movies got a nomination. The Academy loves Bardem, who has three previous nominations, including a win in 2008 for *No Country for Old Men*.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS



AMY ADAMS
THE MASTER



SALLY FIELD
LINCOLN



ANNE HATHAWAY
LES MISÉRABLES



HELEN HUNT
THE SESSIONS



MAGGIE SMITH
THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL

➔ **ANNE HATHAWAY** is the clear leader for her heartbreaking, gut-wrenching performance as the desperate mother Fantine in *Les Misérables*, but you can't count out *Lincoln*'s Sally Field as the erratic and driven First Lady Mary Todd. Field has been nominated twice before and won each time—although the last time was in 1985 for *Places in the Heart*. The voter consensus is leaning toward three other Oscar veterans for the remaining slots: Helen Hunt as a sex surrogate in *The Sessions*, Maggie Smith as a prejudiced retiree in *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, and Amy Adams as the modern messiah's calculating wife in *The Master*. Although Adams could fall off if indie underdog Ann Dowd gets her due for playing a fast-food manager conned by a fake cop in the thriller *Compliance*.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

The shock Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe nominee was Nicole Kidman, who was widely praised for playing the sweaty, sexy femme fatale in *The Paperboy*, even if the Southern gothic murder mystery was otherwise destroyed by those same critics. She could get a nod if voters are inspired to overlook the movie's flaws when they check out the screener.

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