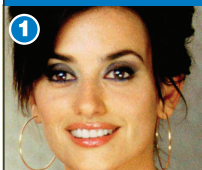


Oscar nominees – Best Actress



1 Penélope Cruz: A first Academy Award nomination for Cruz in Spanish film ***Volver***. Cruz portrays a woman dealing with a series of events that threaten to throw her life into chaos

2 Helen Mirren: Hot favourite to win for ***The Queen***, in which she portrays Queen Elizabeth II during the week after the death of Princess Diana. This is Mirren's third Oscar nomination

3 Judi Dench: In ***Notes On A Scandal*** Dench plays a lonely teacher who develops an unrequited infatuation with a new colleague. This is Dench's sixth Oscar nomination

4 Meryl Streep: In ***The Devil Wears Prada*** Streep wins a record 14th nomination as a fashion editor whose outrageous demands make the lives of her two assistants a nerve-wracking challenge

5 Kate Winslet: Her fifth Oscar nomination. In ***Little Children*** Winslet plays a discontented wife and mother whose affair with a neighbour could destroy both their marriages