

Honors for Bardem, Nair, Sehring

By Gregg Goldstein

NEW YORK -- A pair of Oscar nominees, actor Javier Bardem and director Mira Nair, and indie film titan Jonathan Sehring will be honored with tributes at the 17th annual Gotham Awards.

For the first time, retrospectives of films from two of the honorees, Bardem and Nair, will be held at New York's IFC Center and BAM Rose Cinemas before the Nov. 27 awards presentation. The ceremony, produced by the indie film organization IFP, also will move from its longtime Chelsea Piers berth in Manhattan to Brooklyn's Steiner Studios complex in an effort to better accommodate the event's 1,000 guests.

Nominees in the six competitive Gotham Award categories -- feature and documentary, breakthrough actor and actress, ensemble cast and Best Film Not Playing at a Theater Near You (for a feature without theatrical distribution) -- will be announced Oct. 22, with at least one more tribute announced this fall. IFP and its Filmmaker magazine will present five of the nominees for Best Film Not Playing at a Theater Near You at the Museum of Modern Art Nov. 16-19.

IFC entertainment president Sehring has shepherded hundreds of independent films over the years, most recently increasing indie film distribution with the IFC First Take theatrical and video-on-demand simultaneous release program.

Spanish star Bardem was nominated for a best actor Oscar for his 2000 release "Before Night Falls." He appears in three dramas this year: "Love in the Time of Cholera," "No Country for Old Men" and "Goya's Ghosts."

Indian director Nair helmed 1988's "Salaam Bombay!" nominated for a foreign language film Oscar, along with "Monsoon Wedding," "Vanity Fair" and "The Namesake."

A selection of Bardem's early films will be shown Nov. 24-26 at BAM Rose Cinemas at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). A larger group of Nair's films will be shown at Manhattan's IFC Center Nov. 14-20.

The event will be taped and broadcast locally on NYC TV.