



Fifty Dead Men Walking toward clutch of Genie prizes

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The B.C. producers of the drama *Fifty Dead Men Walking*, a U.K.-Canada co-production, saw their Irish-filmed biopic nominated for best picture and six other prizes at this year's Genie awards for Canadian film.

Fifty Dead Men Walking, which stars Britain's Jim Sturgess in the based-on-fact story of a British agent deep inside the 1980s Irish Republican Army, earned the best-pic nomination for Vancouver's Shawn Williamson and Stephen Hegyes, who produced the movie with Toronto director-writer Kari Skogland.

Skogland was also nominated for best adapted screenplay and best directing.

The movie also took nominations for the musical score by Vancouver's Ben Mink and for art direction, cinematography and editing.

Elsewhere on the Genie nomination list, Vancouver actor Josh Jackson is nominated for best actor for his role as a man with a terminal disease in the comic drama *One Week*.

That movie was filmed all across Canada, befitting its story about a guy who rides a motorcycle from Toronto to Tofino after he's diagnosed with an expiry date.

Overall, *Polytechnique* leads the way with 11 nominations, including best picture and director.

The acclaimed film is director Denis Villeneuve's examination of the Montreal massacre, which occurred Dec. 6, 1989, at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, after Marc Lepine shot 14 women to death before turning the gun on himself.

Competing against *Polytechnique* and *Fifty Dead Men Walking* for the top award are *NURSE. FIGHTER. BOY*, which scored 10 nominations overall, *Before Tomorrow* (nine nods) and *3 Saisons*.

Other acting contenders include Stephen McHattie (*Pontypool*) for best actor, and Karen LeBlanc (*NURSE. FIGHTER. BOY*) and Karine Vanasse (*Polytechnique*) for best actress

Marie-Helene Cousineau and Madeline Piujuq Ivalu (Before Tomorrow), Charles Officer (NURSE. FIGHTER. BOY) and Bruce McDonald (Pontypool) will compete with Skogland and Villeneuve for best director.

The awards will be handed out April 12.

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