

Beatty for President: Does it Play in Peoria?

If you think Hollywood's tough – try playing in Peoria.

That's the message for actor Warren Beatty: He gets nine percent support for the Democratic presidential nomination in an ABC News/Good Morning America poll, a long way shy of Al Gore's 61 percent, or even Bill Bradley's 24.

Beatty, a Democratic activist who starred as a blunt-spoken senator in the 1998 political movie *Bulworth*, said last week he was considering running as a liberal alternative.

His positions – and how they play – remain to be seen. But at least initially, Democrats nationally seem underwhelmed. Beatty appears to siphon a few votes from each of the current candidates without fundamentally altering anything. Gore was 39 points ahead of Bradley in June, and he's 37 points ahead now.

	Gore	Bradley	Beatty
8/15/99	61	24	9
6/13/99	65	26	NA

SLOWER THAN ROSS - The last surprise candidate, Ross Perot, got a quicker jump out of the box; he scored 24 percent in the first ABC News poll to test his independent candidacy, on May 9, 1992. Then again, a slow start might be a better idea: Perot's support peaked the very next month.

Here's another bit of perspective on Beatty's nine percent support: That same 1992 poll tested a made-up name as an independent candidate, just to see what would happen. The fictional character got five percent.

Indeed, nothing much seems to click for Beatty in this poll. His support is lowest among older, better-educated and higher-income Democrats, all of whom are among the most reliable voters. He does a little better on the West Coast, but even there barely cracks single digits. And, marquee looks aside, he does no better among women (eight percent support) than among men (11 percent).

These results are among "leaned Democrats," meaning Democrats and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party. Beatty does a little better among those independents

(14 percent support) than among the Democratic loyalists (seven percent). Independents, though, are less likely to turn out for party primaries.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News poll was conducted by telephone Aug. 12-15, 1999, among a random national sample 452 leaned Democrats. The results have a five-point error margin. Fieldwork by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

1. (Asked of leaned Democrats) Suppose your state holds a Democratic primary or caucus for president in 2000 and the candidates were: Al Gore, Bill Bradley and the actor Warren Beatty. For whom would you vote?

Net Leaned:

	Gore	Bradley	Beatty	Jackson	Other (vol.)	Neither/None/ Wouldn't (vol.)	No op.
8/15/99	61	24	9	NA	1	2	3
6/13/99	65	26	NA	NA	*	4	5
6/6/99	56	19	NA	19	0	2	4
3/14/99	58	21	NA	17	*	2	2

*=<0.5%