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AUTHOR! AUTHOR! Directed by Arthur Hiller. Written by Israel Horovitz. Produced by Irwin Winkler. Released by Twentieth Century-Fox. At the Coronet and Criterion Center.

by J. Heberman Village Voice 6/29/82
Kind of like *The Brady Bunch* gone Broadway, *Author! Author!* concerns playwright Al Pacino writing a smash hit for movie-star-gone-legit Dyan Cannon while contending with the stomach-turning quintet of pint-sized comedians that his estranged wife Tuesday Weld has understandably ditched in their West Village townhouse. Two nice touches—Andre “Bon appetit!” Gregory gets fired in the first scene; Tuesday uses the verb “shtup”—amid a lot of lame one-liners on bean sprouts, Elaine’s, and the *New York Post*. Director Arthur Hiller has no sense of rhythm; even old reliables like Alan King and Bob and Ray fall flat. Surprisingly, Pacino is the best thing in the movie—capitalizing on the flair for morose mania he unveiled in *Dog Day Afternoon*. It’s a credible performance for which he gets rewarded with a pie in the face, not once but twice, at the hands of his motherless brood.