

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Rebel without a cause</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Los Angeles International Film Exposition</i>
Date	1982
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Rebel without a cause, Ray, Nicholas, 1955

5:30 pm Wednesday, March 17 (17A)

## USA

**Rebel Without a Cause**

1955. Color. 2.35 (scope) format .  
111 min.

*Producer:* David Weisbart/*Director:* Nicholas Ray/  
*Screenwriter:* Stewart Stern/*Cinematographer:*  
Ernest Haller/*Editor:* William Ziegler/*Music:* Leonard  
Roseman/*Principal Cast:* James Dean, Natalie  
Wood, Sal Mineo, Jim Backus, Ann Doran/*Produc-  
tion Company-Print Source:* Warner Bros.

Rebel Without a Cause was perhaps the definitive youth-culture picture of the fifties, and it proved financially successful to the studio even as it was deeply disturbing to the adult community. The film placed the rebellion of youth squarely in the middle class, and the young people in this film—so ably embodied in James Dean, Natalie Wood, and Sal Mineo—live in a secret culture of their own. Warner Bros. first purchased Robert M. Lindner's novel in 1946, but it was only filmed when James Dean needed another starring vehicle while waiting for filming to begin on *Giant*. Nicholas Ray had come to the studio with his own outline for a juvenile movie, but he was given the directing assignment for *Rebel Without a Cause* instead and turned out a piercing and vital film that remains timely today.

Ray decided to make the film from the vantage point of teenagers, keeping adults in the background, and this increases the sense of a separate world created by these young people to escape from the pieties and empty warnings of their parents. Sequences in the film remain vividly in the memory, particularly the fatal "chickie run" at a Pacific Palisades cliff and the finale at the Griffith Observatory. In that last scene, director Ray makes a cameo appearance as an astronomer arriving for work, thus putting his signature on one of his finest films. For Natalie Wood, the film was a turning point in her career, winning her a new audience and giving her the opportunity for more dramatic and adult parts.