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## The Films of John Cassavetes

The first nationally-touring  
retrospective tribute

to one of American film's  
finest independent directors

Friday, October 6 through Friday, November 17  
at Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley

The University Art Museum's Pacific Film Archive, located at 2625 Durant Avenue in Berkeley, is pleased to present the first nationally-touring retrospective tribute to John Cassavetes, one of American film's finest independent directors. The series presents eleven features directed by Cassavetes, from his ground-breaking independent feature SHADOWS (1958/59) to LOVE STREAMS, released in 1984, as well as his acting performance in Elaine May's MIKEY AND NICKY (1976). **"The Films of John Cassavetes"** will be shown at PFA from Friday, October 6 through Friday, November 17. Organized by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, and Pacific Film Archive, this series offers audiences the opportunity to view Cassavetes' fine films, which were never widely shown; it presents the achievements of a passionate maverick, whose influence on directors around the world has been profound. Cassavetes died this past February at the age of 59.

John Cassavetes began his career as a film and television actor in the 1950s, and financed the production of his first film, SHADOWS (made for \$40,000 with non-professional actors and crew), with profits from a tv role as detective Johnny Staccato. This ground-breaking independent film, which incorporated improvisational acting styles, and has a fine music score by Charles Mingus, won the International Critics' Award at the Venice Film Festival. Influenced in part by Italian Neorealism, SHADOWS, in turn, exerted strong influence on a number of American and European filmmakers. PFA will screen SHADOWS at 7:30 pm Friday, October 6, followed at 9:10 pm by TOO LATE BLUES (1962), directed by Cassavetes for Paramount, and starring Bobby Darin as an L.A. jazz pianist.

FACES (1968), nominated for three Oscars and winner of five awards at the Venice Film Festival, was the first American independent feature to reach a national audience. A powerfully emotional examination of a marriage, FACES presents John Marley, Lynn Carlin, Gena Rowlands, and Seymour Cassell in unforgettable performances. PFA screens FACES at 7 pm and 9:25 pm, Friday, October 13.

HUSBANDS (1970) will be shown at 7 pm on Friday, October 20. Ben Gazzarra and Peter Falk (two actors who did some of their finest work for Cassavetes) star with Cassavetes, who in this film directed himself for the first time. The film depicts a weekend binge shared by three men who reunite at the funeral of a friend; they find themselves uncomfortably pondering their lives and mortality. Also to be shown October 20, at 9:35 pm, is A CHILD IS WAITING (1963), which, like TOO LATE BLUES, was a Hollywood studio production. A CHILD IS WAITING is the only film Cassavetes directed from another writer's (Abby Mann's) script, and he quarreled with producer Stanley Kramer and lost control of the film's finally edited form. Nonetheless, it is a very touching movie about retarded children; it stars Judy Garland, Burt Lancaster, Bruce Ritchie, and young patients at Pacific State Hospital in Pomona, California.



MINNIE AND MOSKOWITZ (1971), a comedy of an unlikely love affair, was a family project, which featured not only Cassavetes' wife, Gena Rowlands, but also their children, her mother and brother, and the director's mother. PFA presents MINNIE AND MOSKOWITZ at 7 pm and 9:10 pm on Friday, October 27.

The series continues in November, beginning with two screenings of one of Cassavetes' critical and commercial successes, A WOMAN UNDER THE INFLUENCE (1975), on Friday, November 3 at 7 pm, and Saturday, November 4 at 9:05 pm. Starring Gena Rowlands and Peter Falk, this profoundly moving study of family crises and love received Academy Award nominations for Best Director and Best Actress for Rowlands' bravura performance. Also to be shown November 3 and 4, at 9:40 pm and 7 pm respectively, is THE KILLING OF A CHINESE BOOKIE (1976), a film noir in color, starring Ben Gazzara as the owner of a tawdry L.A. nightclub.

GLORIA (1980) will be shown at 7 pm on Friday, November 10. Gena Rowlands again enacts a wonderful role, as a gun moll who finds herself the sole protector of a young child sought by mobsters.

In the 1978 film OPENING NIGHT, which premiered and then was not released, Rowlands plays an actress on the verge of a breakdown. Janet Maslin noted in The New York Times that "Miss Rowlands, as she has shown in other films directed by her husband, can be incomparably funny while coming apart at the seams." Though revived last year, OPENING NIGHT has been shown rarely. PFA will screen it at 9:05 pm on Friday, November 10, and again at 7 pm on Saturday, November 11.

Also to be shown on November 11, at 9:40 pm, is MIKEY AND NICKY (1976), directed by Elaine May. Cassavetes and Peter Falk give their best performances outside Cassavetes' films in this black comedy about two hoodlums hiding from a hit squad.

**"The Films of John Cassavetes"** concludes on Friday, November 17, with two screenings of Cassavetes' final film, LOVE STREAMS (1984); it will be shown at 7 pm and 9:35 pm. Begun when the director was already quite ill, LOVE STREAMS is Cassavetes' fond celebration of themes, characters and events from his artistic career. In a plot drawn loosely from Shakespeare's The Tempest, Cassavetes and Rowlands portray characters trying to solve the mysterious problems of love and families.

Screenings of **"The Films of John Cassavetes"** will be held in PFA's George Gund Theater, located in the University Art Museum at 2625 Durant Avenue, one half-block west of College Avenue, Berkeley. General admission is \$4.25 for one film and \$5.25 for double bills. For further information, please phone 642-1412.

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