

Document Citation

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|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Title | Johnny Guitar |
| Author(s) | |
| Source | <i>Harvard Film Archive</i> |
| Date | 2004 Oct 03 |
| Type | program note |
| Language | English |
| Pagination | |
| No. of Pages | 1 |
| Subjects | |
| Film Subjects | Johnny Guitar, Ray, Nicholas, 1954 |

♥ October 3 (Sunday) 9 pm

Johnny Guitar

Directed by Nicholas Ray

US 1954, 35mm, color, 110 min.

*With Joan Crawford, Sterling Hayden,
Mercedes McCambridge*

IN THIS MOST UNCONVENTIONAL of westerns, Joan Crawford stars as Vienna, a saloon keeper under attack from Emma Small, a ruthless landowner played with malicious glee by Mercedes McCambridge. Determined to bring down Vienna and her cohorts, Emma tries to pin the town's crimes on her rival's posse. Vienna makes a defiant stand against these forces with the aid of her recently-returned former lover, the mysterious Johnny Guitar. Seething with sexual tension and marked by day-glo costuming, Ray's world twists the moralistic divide between good and evil in a film which was dismissed in its time by critics but has since been revived (thanks in large part to writers such as Jean-Luc Godard and François Truffaut) as a masterful allegory of the ethically-challenged McCarthy-era.

Harvard Film Archive Fall 2004