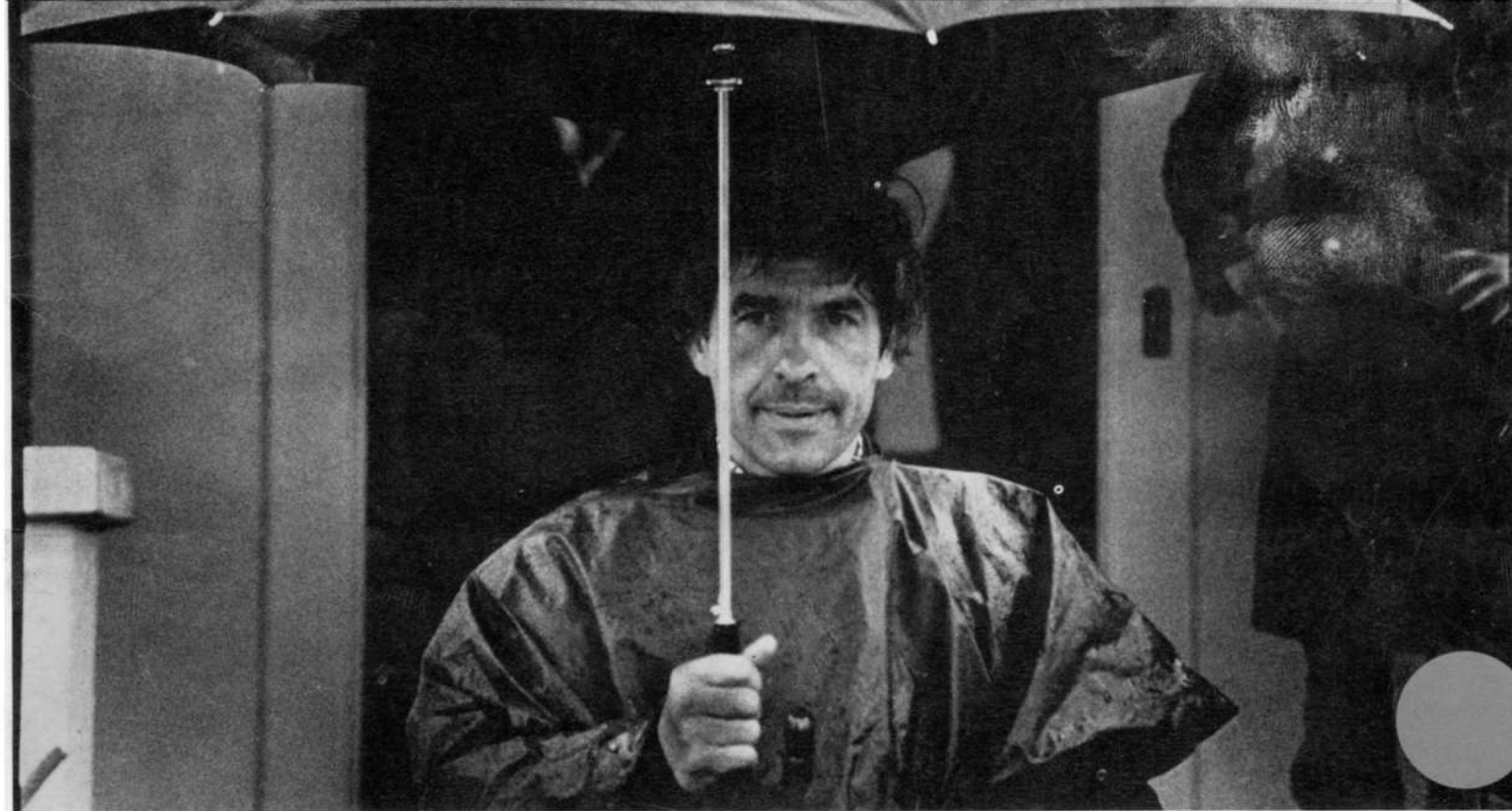


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A WOMAN UNDER THE INFLUENCE



SYNOPSIS

They live on the edge of the razor, the quietly insane, partially fulfilling, endless line between near pleasure and near pain.

"A Woman Under The Influence" is just that. Under the influence of a man she loves (PETER FALK), Mabel Longhetti (GENA ROWLANDS), a working man's housewife, is put in charge of her three children and a house that belongs more to her husband, family and friends than to her. The loneliness strikes when the children are sent to school. The hours between ten and three in the afternoon -- it is this time when the influence vanishes and a woman is most confused.

Sending her children to her mother's and preparing for a special night with Nick becomes an overwhelming disappointment when a sudden emergency at work prevents Nick from getting home until morning. Mabel, like all women, has built her expected romantic evening with her husband into something very important. The empty house becomes an emotional prison. She wanders the night streets until she finds a bar and in the bar a man, and for the first time we recognize this is a woman who's incapable of handling the dangers of the outside world. The talk with the new man at the bar is strange, she drinks too much and too fast, she sings a few strains of an old song and leans heavily upon the man trying to gain comfort and love. She pretends whomever she sleeps with is her husband. On this particular night she takes the stranger home to the empty house, sleeps with the man only to awaken with a terrible feeling of regret and guilt. Mabel's justification in "A Woman Under The Influence" is insanity. Her pretending that this stranger is Nick drives the man from the house and leaves Mabel alone, shaken, for she is in love with Nick and she's cursed with human drives that in terms of her love cause her defensive pretenses to go beyond the realm of reality.

This part of the picture is more or less the prologue not the cause but the justification for a story that pits family against the personal life of a woman. "A Woman Under The Influence" is an examination of a love story between a man who's happy with his work,

content with his life and ignorant of the personal dimensions of the woman he loves. The love affair between Nick and Mabel is strange and withdrawn, delicate and frightening. She is crazy and he is attracted to her but only when they are alone. Mabel's childish acceptance of her wife-position and her love for him compels her to act repeatedly in ways which Nick cannot accept because they are not private. To Nick, being embarrassed in front of his family and friends is against all "rules".

A series of episodes of these embarrassments, minor and major, lead to a scene with the family doctor, her children, her mother-in-law and her husband, in which Mabel achieves new heights of madness culminating in her being sent away for six months to a state institution.

Nick is surprised, shocked and embarrassed to discover that his friends at work, their wives and his own relatives, have a deep affection and understanding for Mabel. He discovers he cannot live as a father or a man without her.

When she returns everything is as it was. And she enters once again into the overwhelming responsibility of commitment to family and home. But Mabel has changed. She has been betrayed, paid the price and is now frightened of making mistakes.

Nick is also changed and no longer willing to sacrifice her for anything or anyone. He fights to get her back, fumbling, shouting, aggravating the situation by his determined ridiculous demands for her instant return to the "old" Mabel. He openly forces the neurotic, quiet personality of the new Mabel to change back into the up-and-down personality of the old one.

In the course of this final sequence Mabel attempts suicide in front of her children only to be slapped down finally into submission, her young and innocent children racing madly and hysterically about the house charging at their father, confused and upset -- for these three kids exposed to adult madness desperately fight to maintain a grip on their own realities. When

the storm of emotion clears everything appears to be calm -- graceful goodnights to the kids, much kissing and apologizing. Nothing that has taken place seems to have any importance except that Mabel has been set free. The children still accept their parents and Nick and Mabel have in some way discovered they can accept the difference between commitment and emotional needs. The ritual of preparing for sleep, re-establishing, without conversation, the need to make room for the dilemmas of love.

PETER FALK (Nick Longhetti) made his acting debut in 1956 in "Don Juan". He followed this play with numerous roles in off-broadway productions including "The Iceman Cometh", "Saint Joan" and others. He played Stalin in "The Passion of Josef D" on Broadway in 1964 and more recently starred in Neil Simon's award-winning play "Prisoner of Second Avenue" with Lee Grant.

Mr. Falk has appeared in numerous film roles since making his first major film appearance in "Murder, Inc." for which he won his first of two Oscar nominations, followed by his second for "A Pocketful of Miracles." He starred in Cassavetes' "Husbands" and has continued this association in "A Woman Under The Influence." He is also currently starring in Elaine May's "Mikey and Nicky" in which he again appears with John Cassavetes.

In television, Mr. Falk's credits include "The Price of Tomatoes" for which he garnered the first of his two Emmy Awards. He is currently starring in his fourth season as "Columbo" for NBC which won him numerous awards including another coveted Emmy for "Best Actor of the Year." The series is so overwhelmingly popular that "Columbo" is currently being seen in 35 countries all over the world.

GENA ROWLANDS is the woman in "A Woman Under The Influence", a slender, soft blonde with green eyes and a fine smile who broke all the rules about beautiful women not being able to act when she crashed onto the scene in a co-starring role opposite Edward G. Robinson in Broadway's "Middle of the Night". She was signed to an immediate contract with MGM - made one comedy with Jose Ferrer there called "The High Cost of Loving". She played the deaf mute wife (Teddy Carella) on "87th Precinct", Adrienne VanLeyden on "Peyton Place", starred in "Faces", then opposite Kirk Douglas in "Lonely Are The Brave", co-starred with Burt Lancaster and Judy Garland in "A Child is Waiting", co-starred with Frank Sinatra in "Tony Rome", played with Falk and Cassavetes in "Machine Gun McCain", starred with Seymour Cassel in Cassavetes' "Minnie and Moskowitz". Now she stars as Mabel Longhetti in "A Woman Under The Influence".

JOHN CASSAVETES, writer, director of "A Woman Under the Influence", improvised his first film "Shadows" which won five Venice Film Festival Awards and the Jean George Oriol award which is the French equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, was nominated for an Academy Award for his screenplay of "Faces," and the picture again won five Venice Film Festival Awards: John Marley won the best actor award in Venice, best screenplay, best direction and best foreign film. The picture also won Academy Award nominations for first-time actress Lynn Carlin and Seymour Cassel. Cassavetes, between times, co-authored with Dick Carr and directed "Too Late Blues" with Bobby Darin, Stella Stevens and Everett Chambers. He directed an Abby Mann script of "A Child Is Waiting" starring Burt Lancaster, Judy Garland, Gena Rowlands and Steve Hill. He then went on to "Husbands" with Ben Gazzara and Peter Falk. From there he wrote and directed "Minnie and Moskowitz" with Gena Rowlands and Seymour Cassel. "A Woman Under The Influence" is his seventh picture as a director. As an actor, Cassavetes broke in with the "Golden Age of Television" and did shows ranging from "Omnibus" to "Playhouse 90". His movies as an actor include "The Dirty Dozen" (for which he was nominated for an Academy Award), "Rosemary's Baby", "Edge of the City", and "The Killers."

SAM SHAW, the producer of "A Woman Under The Influence", broke in as a crime reporter with "The Saturday Evening Post", he was a top photographer for "Life" and "Look", taking numerous photographs and covers. He worked for Kazan, Billy Wilder and Charles K. Feldman. He did the torn shirt of Brando and the ads for "A Streetcar Named Desire", the blowing skirts of Marilyn Monroe in "The Seven Year Itch," designed the layouts for "What's New Pussycat", "Shadows", "Faces", "Viva Zapata", "Husbands", etc. His first picture as a producer was "Paris Blues", directed by Martin Ritt, starring Sidney Poitier and Paul Newman. An artist, writer, photographer, and producer, he first became associated with Cassavetes in the capacity of associate producer on "Husbands". He is a lifetime friend of Cassavetes. Of Shaw, Cassavetes says, "he started me in this business and taught me everything I know."

"A WOMAN UNDER THE INFLUENCE"

Cast and credits

Nick Longhetti	PETER FALK
Mabel Longhetti	GENA ROWLANDS
Tony Longhetti	MATTHEW CASSEL
Angelo Longhetti	MATTHEW LABORTEAUX
Maria Longhetti	CHRISTINA GRISANTI
Mama Longhetti	KATHERINE CASSAVETES
Martha Mortensen	LADY ROWLANDS
George Mortensen	FRED DRAPER
Garson Cross	O.G. DUNN
Harold Jensen	MARIO GALLO
Doctor Zepp	EDDIE SHAW
Vito Grimaldi	ANGELO GRISANTI
Bowman	JAMES JOYCE
Clancy	JOHN FINNEGAN
Aldo	CLIFF CARNELL
Muriel	JOANNE MOORE JORDAN
Willie Johnson	HUGH HURD
Billy Tidrow	LEON WAGNER
Joseph Morton	JOHN HAWKER
James Turner	SIL WORDS
Angela	ELIZABETH DEERING
Tina	JACKI PETERS
Principal	ELSIE AMES
Adolph	NICK CASSAVETES
Dominique Jensen	DOMINIQUE DAVALOS
Adrienne Jensen	XAN CASSAVETES

John Jensen

Eddie the Indian

Aldo

Gino

Adolph

Nancy

PANCHO MEISENHEIMER

CHARLES HORVATH

SONNY APRILE

VINCE BARBI

FRANK RICHARDS

ELLEN DAVALOS

THE FILMMAKERS

LIGHTING CREW

IN CHARGE OF LIGHTING

GAFFER

Additional Photography

Key Grip

Camera Assistants

Music and Sound

Boom

Mix

First Assistant Director

Second Assistant Director

Art Director

Production Secretary/Wardrobe

Script Continuity

Props:

Graphics:

Supervising Editor

In Charge of Post Production

Editors

Produced by

Written and Directed by

CHRIS TAYLOR - BO TAYLOR - MERV DAYAN

MITCH BREIT

DAVID LESTER

CALEB GRAVER

CLIFF CARNELL

TONY PALMIERI-FRED ELMES-LESLIE OTIS-LARRY
SILVER

BO HARWOOD

NICK SPAULDING

MIKE DENECKE

JACK CORRICK

ROGER SLAGER

PHEDON PAPAMICHAEL

CAROLE SMITH

ELAINE GOREN

KEVIN JOYCE

STEVE HITTER

TOM CORNWELL

ROBERT HEFFERNAN

DAVID ARMSTRONG-ELIZABETH BERGERON-SHEILA
VISELTEAR

SAM SHAW

JOHN CASSAVETES

PETER GENA



**A WOMAN
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