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## **KNOCK ON ANY DOOR**

Director: Nicholas Ray

USA 1949 100 minutes \* Cast: Humphrey Bogart, John Derek

"Live fast, die young, and have a good-looking corpse" is the motto of pretty boy Nick Romano who faces the electric chair for the murder of a policeman. Bogart plays the crusading lawyer who methodically reveals Nick's story (in flashback) to prove that he is innocent. A childhood in the slums, a descent into delinquency, and a brief moment of happiness with a woman that ended in tragedy: these, Bogart argues, made Nick into a petty criminal but not a cop killer. Nicholas Ray characteristically is less interested in the mechanics of the courtroom drama, and more in the anguish of his lonely, broken characters. John Derek is memorable as the baby-faced manipulator: critics have found his narcissism so utter, they seem to want to strap him into the chair themselves. "Fascinating . . . hard-hitting . . . tautly crafted" (*Time Out*). JQ

Saturday, June 5 8:45 p.m.