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Friday

Nicholas Ray's **Rebel Without a Cause** (1955), from a screenplay by Stewart Stern and an adaptation by Irving Shulman, based on a Ray story, with James Dean, Natalie Wood, Sal Mineo, and Corey Allen, is an emotionally explosive rites-of-passage movie about teens in the '50s that thrillingly encapsulates the craft and aspirations of an underrated decade. Director Ray observed the classical unities when he designed the melodrama to fit one day's passing bracketed by nights of painful confrontation. Dean, Wood, and Mineo, as psychically scarred adolescents, break away from their real families and form a surrogate union full of suppressed yearnings and fetishes. Though Wood's sprite shallowness and Mineo's mannered hysteria are somewhat dated, Dean's performance is more dynamite than ever. The film's full scope, literal and figurative, can be perceived only in a theatrical widescreen presentation, and, when the print is newly struck, the colors can be seen to emblazon iconographic Southern California with an almost cartoonish boldness. *Rebel*, a landmark of its times that is still growing in prestige, remains a lasting testament to the fruitful and poetic collaboration of the angst-ridden souls of Dean and Ray. (Co-feature: Elia Kazan's *East of Eden*, with Dean) **Theater 80 Saint Marks: also Saturday, 4:05, 8:10, 12:15.**

Revivals in Films
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