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## **A Child is Waiting**

USA 1963

Director: John Cassavetes

Producer: Stanley Kramer

Screenplay: Abby Mann

Principal Cast: Burt Lancaster, Judy Garland, Gena Rowlands, Steven Hill, Bruce Ritchey

102 minutes

Although in Cassavetes' view **A Child is Waiting** was over-sentimentalized by producer Stanley Kramer's interference, this powerful depiction of the difficulties faced by mentally retarded children is surprisingly moving and provocative. In the basic conflict between the rule book world of children's home superintendent Burt Lancaster, and the more emotional response of new music teacher Judy Garland, Cassavetes gives the movie a directness, honesty and compassion that makes superfluous all the interpolated information.

**A Child is Waiting** marked the end of Cassavetes pandering to distributors, and with the exception of **Minnie and Moskowitz** all his other films have been independent projects — the finances accrued from friends, unsalaried actors, and predominantly his own resources.