

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
August 1990

AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE: TEN YEARS OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING

September 14 - 22, 1990

In recognition of the tenth anniversary of American Playhouse and its commitment to challenging and independent filmmaking, The Museum of Modern Art presents a program of ten original and distinguished feature films from September 14 to 22, 1990. Over the past decade, American Playhouse has been involved in producing a significant number of American films of social and artistic consequence; many have been released theatrically, and all have been broadcast on public television.

Among the works featured in AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE: TEN YEARS OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING are Robert M. Young's *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez* (1983), the true story of an itinerant Mexican cowhand who shoots an American sheriff; Ramon Menendez's *Stand and Deliver* (1987), a portrait of a math teacher in a high school in east Los Angeles, and Wayne Wang's *Eat a Bowl of Tea* (1989), a comedy about newlyweds straining to adjust to Chinese family traditions and each other.

Other films include Joyce Chopra's *Smooth Talk* (1985), a portrayal of a teenage girl's growing pains one summer after she meets an alluring stranger, and Michael Toshiyuki Uno's *The Wash* (1988), in which a Japanese woman leaves her husband of forty-five years, but continues to do his laundry. The remaining titles are Lynne Littman's holocaust drama, *Testament* (1983), Gregory Nava's chronicle about immigration, *El Norte* (1984), Jill Godmillow's

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story about Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, *Waiting for the Moon* (1987), Errol Morris's award-winning documentary, *The Thin Blue Line* (1988), and Norman Renè's drama about AIDS, *Longtime Companion* (1990).

American Playhouse was founded in 1980 by David M. Davis, its president, to encourage the creation of public television programs that explore the human experience within the American experience. Each year, under the direction of executive producer Lindsay Law, it presents an eclectic combination of American history, biography, literature, drama, and comedy. A joint presentation of public television stations KCET Los Angeles, WETV South Carolina, WGBH Boston, and WNET New York, American Playhouse begins its tenth broadcast season in March 1991.

AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE: TEN YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING was organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

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No. 90

For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE: TEN YEARS OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING

Exhibition Schedule

Friday, September 14

- 2:30 p.m. *Testament*. 1983.
Lynne Littman. Written by John Sacret Young from a story by Carol Amen. With Jane Alexander, William Devanne, Philip Anglim. 90 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*. 1983.
Robert M. Young. Written by Victor Villasenor from the novel by Americo Paredes. With Edward James Olmos. 105 min.

Saturday, September 15

- 12:00 p.m. *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*.
See Friday, September 14, at 6:00.
- 2:30 p.m. *Testament*.
See Friday, September 14, at 2:30.
- 5:00 p.m. *Eat a Bowl of Tea*. 1989.
Wayne Wang. Written by Judith Rascoe from a novel by Louis Chu. With Victor Wong, Russell Wong. 120 min.

Sunday, September 16

- 12:00 p.m. *The Wash*. 1988.
Michael Toshiyuki Uno. Written by Philip Kan Gotanda. With Nobu McCarthy, Mako. 90 min.
- 2:30 p.m. *Stand and Deliver*. 1987.
Ramon Menendez. Written by Menendez and Tom Musca. With Edward James Olmos, Lou Diamond Phillips, Rosana de Soto. 105 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Smooth Talk*. 1985.
Joyce Chopra. Written by Tom Cole from a story by Joyce Carol Oates. With Laura Dern, Treat Williams, Mary Kay Place. 92 min.

Monday, September 17

- 2:30 p.m. *Smooth Talk*.
See Sunday, September 16, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Stand and Deliver.*
See Sunday, September 16, at 2:30.

Tuesday, September 18

2:30 p.m. *El Norte.* 1984.
Gregory Nava. Written by Nava and Anna Thomas. With David Villalpando, Zaide Silvia Gutierrez. 140 min.

6:00 p.m. *The Wash.*
See Sunday, September 16, at 12:00.

Thursday, September 20

2:30 p.m. *Eat a Bowl of Tea.*
See Saturday, September 15, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *El Norte.*
See Tuesday, September 18, at 2:30.

Friday, September 21

2:30 p.m. *Waiting for the Moon.* 1987.
Jill Godmillow. Written by Mark Magill. With Linda Hunt, Linda Bassett, Bernadette Lafont. 85 min.

6:00 p.m. *The Thin Blue Line.* 1988.
Errol Morris. A documentary investigation into the 1974 slaying of a Dallas police officer and subsequent miscarriage of justice. 120 min.

Saturday, September 22

12:00 p.m. *Waiting for the Moon.*
See Friday, September 21, at 2:30.

2:30 p.m. *The Thin Blue Line.*
See Friday, September 21, at 6:00.

5:00 p.m. *Longtime Companion.* 1990.
Norman Renè. Written by Craig Lucas. With Bruce Davison, Mark Lamos, Cambell Scott. 95 min.