

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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"JOHN CASSAVETES, FILMMAKER AND ACTOR" OPENS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A retrospective exhibition of the work of JOHN CASSAVETES, FILMMAKER AND ACTOR, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on Friday, June 20 and runs through Friday, July 11, 1980. Cassavetes will introduce the 8:30 PM screening, opening day.

This comprehensive program spans two decades of work and includes not only the nine feature films Cassavetes has directed to date -- from SHADOWS (1960) to OPENING NIGHT (1978), being given its first New York public screenings -- but also a number of major theatrical films (ROSEMARY'S BABY, THE DIRTY DOZEN) and television films (JOHNNY STACCATO episodes, THE ALFRED HITCHCOCK HOUR and COLUMBO) in which Cassavetes, the actor, plays a major role.

At the filmmaker's request, the exhibition opens with HUSBANDS (1970, from Columbia Pictures), in which Cassavetes directs himself, Ben Gazzara and Peter Falk. HUSBANDS will be shown at 8:30 PM on Friday, June 20, with Mr. Cassavetes present, and again at 8:30 PM on Friday, July 4. CRIME IN THE STREETS (1956, from Allied Artists/Lorimar), one of the earliest films in which Cassavetes appears as an actor, will be shown at 6 PM on opening day and at 8:30 PM, June 21.

"Over the past two decades John Cassavetes, as a filmmaker working for the most part independently of the 'industry', has created a distinct, consistent and significant body of work," according to Larry Kardish, Associate Curator of Film. "The significance in part derives from the filmmaker's exceptional ability with actors, both in the remarkable performances he extracts from them (particularly Gena Rowlands, Peter Falk and Ben Gazzara), and in the manner

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in which these are recorded and edited.

"In effect Cassavetes collaborates with his actors who help create the dialogue for the filmmaker's own scenarios. Cassavetes' singular understanding of the particular art of film acting is informed by his being an accomplished and celebrated film and television actor himself."

Cassavetes is currently working on his tenth feature, GLORIA, for Columbia Pictures. His other films are SHADOWS (1960); TOO LATE BLUES (1961) with Bobby Darin, Stella Stevens; A CHILD IS WAITING (1963) with Judy Garland, Burt Lancaster, Gena Rowlands; FACES (1968) with John Morley, Lynn Carlin, Gena Rowlands, Seymour Cassel; HUSBANDS (1970) with Cassavetes, Peter Falk, Ben Gazzara; MINNIE AND MOSKOWITZ (1971) with Gena Rowlands, Seymour Cassel; A WOMAN UNDER THE INFLUENCE (1975) with Gena Rowlands, Peter Falk; THE KILLING OF A CHINESE BOOKIE (1976) with Ben Gazzara; and OPENING NIGHT (1978) with Gena Rowlands, Ben Gazzara, Joan Blondell, Cassavetes.

Some of the films in which Cassavetes appears as actor are CRIME IN THE STREETS (1956, Don Siegel), EDGE OF THE CITY (1957, Martin Ritt), THE KILLERS (1964, Don Siegel), THE DIRTY DOZEN (1967, Robert Aldrich), and ROSEMARY'S BABY (1968, Roman Polanski).

The Department of Film would like to thank Faces International Films, Inc. for making available many of the theatrical films in this exhibition, and Columbia Pictures for its cooperation. The Department acknowledges the participation of Allied Artists, MCA (Universal 16mm and MCA-TV), MGM and Paramount Pictures for their collaboration in this program. The Department is also grateful to the following organizations for their permission to present Cassavetes' television work: American Federation of Musicians; Directors Guild of America, Inc.; Screen Actors Guild, Inc.; and Writers Guild of America. The following individuals also gave support and advice for JOHN CASSAVETES, FILMMAKER AND ACTOR: Kathleen Barker, Robert Ferguson, Robert Fieldsteel, Lucy Fischer, Al Ruban, and Sam Shaw.

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