Elaine May and Louis Malle will be honored by The Museum of Modern Art as part of the ongoing DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA: FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE. Ms. May, film director, playwright, actress, and comedienne, is the subject of a tribute on Monday, November 17, at 6:00 p.m., when her 1976 revisionist buddy-movie Mikey and Nicky will be screened. Mr. Malle, a provocative director of sensual images who has experimented with a variety of film forms, will present his 1980 film Atlantic City, starring Burt Lancaster and Susan Sarandon, on Monday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m.

In Mikey and Nicky Ms. May tailors the framing and dialogue to the personalities of the actors John Cassavetes and Peter Falk. Convinced that a contract is out for him, Nicky (Cassavetes), a small-time hood, calls his childhood friend Mikey (Falk), a syndicate man. Their one night encounter is the focus of the film. A seemingly casual approach cleverly disguises a tight, carefully-planned structure.

From a screenplay by John Guare, Mr. Malle's Atlantic City uses the transitory character of the boardwalk town as a backdrop for a tale of decay and corruption. Mr. Lancaster plays the aging friend and protector of an ambitious nightclub croupier, played by Ms. Sarandon.

As a child Ms. May appeared on stage and radio with her father, Jack Berlin. After collaborating with Mike Nichols on stage, radio, and television through the mid-sixties, she made her film acting debut in Clive.
Donner's *Luv* (1967) and Carl Reiner's *Enter Laughing* (1967). In 1970 she wrote and directed her first feature, *A New Leaf*, in which she costarred with Walter Matthau. Her 1972 *The Heartbreak Kid*, a satire about a young couple's crisis after their honeymoon, was written by Neil Simon and starred Ms. May's daughter, Jeannie Berlin, as well as Cybill Shepherd and Charles Grodin.


The Directors Guild of America, which has 8,000 members in film, television, and radio, began with the formation of the Screen Directors Guild in 1936. King Vidor was the first president, and the original members included Rouben Mamoulian, Frank Borzage, Howard Hawks, Henry King, and William Wellman. In 1960 the Screen Directors Guild of America merged with the Radio and
Television Directors Guild to form the Directors Guild of America, Inc. In the sixties other skilled professionals, such as assistant directors and unit production managers, became members of the DGA.

Ms. May and Mr. Malle are the tenth and eleventh directors to be honored by the Museum during the DGA's golden anniversary year. The DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA: FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE is organized by Stephen Harvey, assistant curator, and Adrienne Mancia, curator, Department of Film, with the collaboration of George Wallach, director of special projects, Directors Guild of America.

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