

American Dreaming The Films Of John Cassavetes And The American Experience

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through words and pictures cassavetes is shown to have been a deeply thoughtful and self aware artist and a profound commentator on the american experience

american filmmaker john cassavetes 1929 1989 made only nine independent films during a quarter century but those films affected the cinema culture of the 1960s to the 1980s in unprecedented ways with a close nucleus of actors and crew members on his team including his wife gena rowlands peter falk and ben gazzara cassavetes created films that explored the gritty side of human relationships he staunchly advocated the right of actors and filmmakers to full artistic freedom over their work attracting both fervent admirers and harsh critics cassavetes s films have garnered prestigious awards in the us and europe and continue to evoke strong reactions starting in new york with his first film shadows 1959 cassavetes moved on to the west coast with faces 1968 husbands 1970 minnie and

moskowitz 1971 a woman under the influence 1974 the killing of a chinese bookie 1976 opening night 1977 gloria 1980 and love streams 1984 he also directed several studio films which often rankled his independent streak that rebelled against a loss of artistic freedom cassavetes s work in the theater and his performances in numerous television programs and films including the dirty dozen 1967 and rosemary s baby 1968 made him as a director fiercely protective of his actors right to self expression cassavetes s contributions to film as actor writer director producer and cinematographer at a time of radical changes in cinema history continue to inspire independent filmmakers to challenge creative restrictions and celebrate actors artistic contributions john cassavetes interviews captures this maverick streak of an intensely personal filmmaker who was passionate about his art

on films of john cassavetes

a good movie john cassavetes has remarked will ask you questions you don t already know the answers to and in his films cassavetes is as good as his word taking up the radical question that cassavetes s films consistently pose specifically where is the line between actor and character fiction and reality film and life george kouvaros reveals the unique and illuminating position that cassavetes s work occupies at the intersection of filmmaking and film theory central to any understanding of cassavetes s achievement is the issue of performance looking at the work of gena rowlands ben gazzara and cassavetes himself in films such as faces a woman under the influence and the killing of a chinese bookie kouvaros shows how performative instances gestures words or glances open up intimations of dramas belonging neither strictly to these films nor to the everyday worlds in which they are immersed a major reassessment of the filmmaker as a formal experimenter where does it happen gives cassavetes his due as a filmmaker whose critical place in the modern cinema is only now becoming clear george kouvaros is senior lecturer in the school of theatre film and dance at the university of new south wales australia

drawing on interviews with his closest collaborators tom charity s critical biography explores the pain and perseverance of cassavetes widely known as a passionate and charismatic film director and producer

in 1983 visionary director john cassavetes asked journalist michael ventura to write a unique film study an on set diary of the making of his film love streams cassavetes laid out his expectations he wanted a daring book a tough book in ventura s words all i had to do for daring and tough was transcribe this man s audacity day by day cassavetes directs describes the creation of love streams shot by shot crisis by crisis during production the director learned that he was seriously ill that this film might as it tragically turned out be his last starring alongside actress and wife gena rowlands cassavetes shot in sequence reconceiving and revising his film almost nightly in order that love streams could stand as his final statement both an intimate portrait of the man and an insight into his unique

filmmaking philosophy cassavetes directs documents a heroic moment in the life of a great artist

early life and influence of parents philosophy of life need for freedom beginning of interest in acting attitudes toward acting profession professionalism learning the craft effect of success relationship of money to expression and creativity attitudes toward television and hollywood acting negative influence of criticism on writers

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