

The Museum of Modern Art

***Modern Matinees: Directed
by John Cassavetes***
September 11-October 27, 2017
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

A Pair of Boots. 1962. USA. Directed by John Cassavetes. Screenplay by Mort R. Lewis, Aaron Spelling. With Lloyd Bridges, Beau Bridges, Seymour Cassel. 35mm print. 25 min.

In this episode of The Lloyd Bridges Show, Bridges plays a reporter at a Civil War museum exhibition who meets a boy fascinated by a pair of worn boots. Soon the scene flashes back to the battlefield, as two desperate soldiers square off in a curious confrontation over the boots.

Fri, September 1, 1:30PM T2
Thurs, September 21, 1:30 PM T2

A Child Is Waiting. 1963. USA. Directed by John Cassavetes. Screenplay Abby Mann. First produced as a television drama for the CBS series Studio One in March 1957. 102 min.

Jean Hansen, a failed pianist searching for purpose in her life, responds to a help-wanted ad for the Crawthorne State Training Institute, a facility for the care and education of mentally challenged children. There she becomes fond of Reuben, a 12-year-old boy considered beyond help by institute administrator Dr. Clark. Undeterred, Jean instinctively believes the child needs the attention and love of the mother who has abandoned him. Other than Reuben, played by actor Bruce Richey, the children in the film were real patients at the Pacific State Hospital.

Wed, September 6, 1:30PM T2
Fri, September 22, 7:00PM T2
Wed, October 18, 1:30 PM T2

Faces. 1968. USA. Written and directed by John Cassavetes. With John Marley, Gena Rowlands, Seymour Cassel. 35mm. 130 min.

Complicated and dissolving marriages were a topic Cassavetes frequently explored in his films. Richard and Maria are an ordinary middle-class couple with a nice home and a comfortable lifestyle—until Richard leaves Maria for a younger woman. Soon Maria begins dating, and becomes involved with a man many years her junior. The seemingly conventional nature of Faces is what makes it so radical; Cassavetes holds up a mirror that woefully captures everyday lives.

Thurs, September 14, 7:00PM T2
Sun, September 24, 5:00PM T1

Husbands. 1970. USA. Written and directed by John Cassavetes. With Cassavetes, Peter Falk, Ben Gazzara. 35mm. 138 min.

Harry, Archie, Gus, and Stuart are the Four Musketeers! When Stuart dies suddenly, the others gather to mourn their friend by drinking, telling stories, and some general carousing. These men all have families, mortgages, and jobs waiting for them once they shake the blues. But when Harry decides he's not going home, will Archie and Gus follow his lead?

Fri, September 8, 1:30PM, T1

Thurs, October 5, 1:30PM T2

Fri, October 20, 1:30PM T2

Night Moves. 2013. USA. Directed by Kelly Reichardt. Screenplay by Jonathan Raymond, Reichardt. With Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning, Peter Sarsgaard. 112 min.

The environmental thriller *Night Moves*, about a trio of eco-terrorists deep into a plot to blow up an Oregon hydroelectric dam, represents a monumental shift in Kelly Reichardt's filmography. Each protagonist has a private backstory—dropout, trust-fund baby, ex-military—that tumbles out in the quiet moments of the film. As in many of Reichardt's films, the primordial, verdant Oregon landscape often acts as a hushed character in the narrative.

Sat, September 16, 7:00PM T2

Tues, September 19, 7:00PM T2

A Woman Under the Influence. 1974. USA. Written and directed by John Cassavetes. With Gena Rowlands, Peter Falk, Fred Draper. 35mm. 155 min.

Mabel Longhetti, a wife and mother in a stable marriage, is often overwhelmed and awkward around guests, traits magnified by her husband Nick's easygoing, gregarious manner. The film is set just prior to and just following her six-month stay in a psychiatric ward, as the fragile Mabel perseveres in keeping their family life together. Gena Rowlands, Cassavetes's real-life wife, received an Academy Award nomination for her portrayal of Mabel.

Wed, September 13, 1:30PM T2

Wed, October 4, 1:30PM, T2

Fri, October 27, 1:30PM T2

The Killing of a Chinese Bookie. 1976. USA. Written and directed by John Cassavetes. With Ben Gazzara, Timothy Carey, Seymour Cassel. 35mm. 135 min.

Cosmo Vitelli, proprietor of a cheesy strip club called the Crazy Horse West, isn't a bad guy, but he drinks too much and gambles with abandon. Now Cosmo owes the mob more than \$20,000 and the only repayment they want is the murder of one of their enemies. The film plays with the idea of false identities, from the mob wrongly describing Cosmo's target as a Chinese bookie to Cosmo himself—a self-styled suave, cool character who's actually quite rough around the edges.

Thurs, September 14, 1:30PM T2

Wed, October 11, 1:30 PM T1

Opening Night. 1977. USA. Written and directed by John Cassavetes. With Gena Rowlands, Ben Gazzara, Joan Blondell. 35mm. 144 min.

Myrtle Gordon, an aging actress who drinks too much, is starring in a new drama about an aging actress—and the out-of-town rehearsals aren't going so well. The booze helps Myrtle cope with the wrinkles she sees in the mirror every morning, as well as the possibility that a fan may have been killed by her limo. On opening night, Myrtle is so drunk that she has to be dressed, made up, and pushed onto the stage. Perhaps her life is so dramatic that the margins between reality and theater are longer apparent.

Fri, September 15, 2:30PM T1

Fri, October 6, 1:30PM T2

Gloria. 1980. USA. Written and directed by John Cassavetes. With Gena Rowlands, Buck Henry, John Adames. 35mm. 123 min.

Tough-talking Gloria Swenson likes her solo life, but when her neighbor's family is about to be rubbed out by some bad guys she winds up—not without protesting—having a small boy to protect. Gloria is streetwise enough to know she'd better get out of town with the kid. Cassavetes's take on the fugitive-chase picture is shrewd and quirky, and you can't help falling for Gloria and the kid.

Wed, September 20, 1:30PM T2

Fri, October 13, 1:30PM T2

Wed, October 25, 1:30PM T2

Love Streams. 1984. USA. Directed by John Cassavetes. Screenplay by Ted Allan, Cassavetes, based on Allan's play. With Gena Rowlands, Cassavetes, Seymour Cassel. 35mm. 141 min.

Sarah and Robert are siblings who have little connection to each other. Robert, a successful writer of pulp fiction, is emotionally remote and skilled at pushing away anyone who tries to enter his life—hence the string of casual relationships. Sarah, a housewife whose marriage is on the rocks, is a big open wound of emotion who can't stop acquiring pets and knickknacks. As critic Roger Ebert put it, "Viewers raised on trained and tame movies may be uncomfortable in the world of Cassavetes; his films are built around lots of talk and the waving of arms and the invoking of the gods."

Thurs, September 28, 1:30PM T2

Thurs, October 12, 1:30PM T2

Big Trouble. 1986. USA. Directed by John Cassavetes. Screenplay by Andrew Bergman. With Peter Falk, Beverly D'Angelo, Alan Arkin. 35mm. 93 min.

Cassavetes concluded his directorial career with this farce, strongly inspired by the 1944 noir classic *Double Indemnity*. Peter Falk and Alan Arkin—reunited here thanks to the success of their raucous comedy *The In-Laws* (1979)—are zany insurance agents who get caught up in a murder plot. If you're a fan of classic crime movies, *Big Trouble* is for you. Cassavetes passed away in February 1989, three years after the film's completion.

Fri, September 29, 1:30PM T2

Thurs, October 19, 1:30PM T1