



The John Cassavetes Collection
The Killing of a Chinese Bookie
 Starring Ben Gazzara, Seymour Cassel

The Killing of a Chinese Bookie, released on 15 July 2013, is the fifth and final title in the BFI's John Cassavetes Collection. Presented on Blu-ray for the first time, it is released in a Dual Format Edition (containing both DVD and Blu-ray) in its original 1976 cut and Cassavetes' re-edited shorter 1978 version. Also available on the same date will be a Limited 3-Disc Collector's Edition with a bonus DVD containing the documentary *Anything for John* (1993), the short film *The Haircut* (1982), and an interview with Tamar Hoffs, director of *The Haircut*.

In an absorbing performance, Ben Gazzara plays small-time Sunset Strip entrepreneur Cosmo Vitelli, owner of the Crazy Horse West night spot. An obsessive showman, Cosmo navigates a murky world of loan sharks and crooks to keep his club afloat, but, when a gambling debt spirals out of control, he is blackmailed into accepting a murderous commission.

Featuring stand out turns by Seymour Cassel and Timothy Agolia Carey as the underworld racketeers out to fleece Cosmo, John Cassavetes' portrayal of one man's hubristic descent subverts the conventions of its plot to explore the darker regions of the American dream.

Arguably the most plot-driven of all his films, Cassavetes withdrew *The Killing of a Chinese Bookie* shortly after the initial release and subsequently re-cut a new version which features different scenes.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- Includes the original 1976 cut of *The Killing of a Chinese Bookie*
- Selected scenes commentary on 1976 version by Al Ruban and Peter Bogdanovich
- Illustrated booklet with a newly commissioned essay by Tom Charity

Limited 3-Disc Collector's Edition – Dual Format – As above, plus:

- *The Haircut* (Tamar Simon Hoffs, 1982, bonus DVD only): John Cassavetes stars as busy music executive sidetracked by a haircut in Hoff's delightful directorial debut
- *Anything for John* (Doug Headline, 1993, 91 mins, bonus DVD only): feature length documentary tribute to John Cassavetes, featuring interviews with Peter Falk, Gena Rowlands and Al Ruban
- Tamar Hoffs interview (Doug Headline, 1993, 6 mins, bonus DVD only)

Product details

Standard Edition: RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1177 / Cert 15

USA / 1976 + 1978 / colour / English language (optional hard-of-hearing subtitles) / 134 mins + 109 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.85:1

Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono 2.0 audio (48k/16-bit)

Disc 2: DVD9 / Dolby Digital mono audio (256kbps)

Special Edition: RRP £24.99 / cat. no. BFIB1128 / Cert 15

Disc 3: DVD9 / Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps)

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Images are available at www.image.net under BFI DVD 2013

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/shop

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