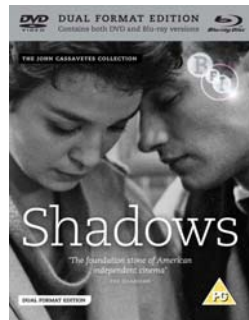


DVD & Blu-ray press release



BFI launches The John Cassavetes Collection on 23 April with Dual Format Editions of *Shadows* and *Faces*

Five films by American filmmaker John Cassavetes – the spiritual father of the independent film scene – will have their worldwide Blu-ray premiere this year, with the release of Dual Format Editions (containing DVD and Blu-ray discs) by the BFI. **The John Cassavetes Collection** is launched on 23 April with his ground-breaking debut feature *Shadows* (1959) and his 1968 film *Faces* starring Gena Rowlands.

Shadows

Cassavetes' first film charts the doomed relationship between a young mixed-race woman Lelia (Lelia Goldoni) and Tony (Anthony Ray), a white man who betrays his prejudice when he meets Lelia's brother, a struggling jazz singer. Shot on location with a cast and crew largely made up of amateurs *Shadows* features a swinging, improvised score by **Charlie Mingus** and Shafi Hadi, and is considered to be the first truly independent American film.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- Audio commentary with actor Seymour Cassel and film critic Tom Charity
- *Falk on Cassavetes: the early years* (DVD only, 13 mins): never-before-seen interview footage with Cassavetes' friend and collaborator
- *16 mm footage of John Cassavetes and Burt Lane's acting workshop* (DVD only, 4 mins)
- Original theatrical trailer (DVD only, 4 mins)
- 32-page illustrated booklet featuring new essays and notes from Michael Atkinson, Brian Morton and Tom Charity

Faces

Shot in searing, high-contrast black and white 16mm, Cassavetes dissects the suffocating world of middle-class Los Angeles where hollow laughter and drunken frivolities mask loneliness and social alienation. Nominated for 3 Oscars® – an unheard-of achievement for an independent film at the time – *Faces* employs a freewheeling, realist approach, and showcases some of the finest performances ever seen in American cinema.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- *Alternative opening sequence* (DVD only, 20 mins)
- *Alternative opening sequence audio commentary* (DVD only, 20 mins): Peter Bogdanovich and Al Ruban discuss an earlier cut of *Faces*
- *Seymour Cassel interviewed by Tom Charity* (DVD only, 47 mins)
- 32-page illustrated booklet featuring interviews and new essays from Tom Charity and Al Ruban

Cont...

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John Cassavetes' three mid-1970s features *A Woman Under the Influence* (1974), *The Killing of a Chinese Bookie* (1976) and *Opening Night* (1977) will be released in Dual Format later in 2012.

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For further information and review copies please contact:

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Images are available at www.image.net under BFI DVD 2012

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Filmstore

Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

Technical information

Shadows

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1125 / Cert PG

USA / 1959 / black & white / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 82 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1

Disc 1: BD25 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono audio (48k/24-bit)

Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320 kbps)

Faces

RRP: 19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1126 / Cert 15

USA / 1968 / black & white / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 130 mins / Original aspect ratio 1:66:1

Disc 1: BD25 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono audio (48k/24-bit)

Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320 kbps)