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# CASSAVETES DIRECTS

MICHAEL VENTURA

new title

## SALES POINTS:

- The most important and influential independent American filmmaker
- Provides invaluable insight into the production of an independent film from A-Z
- Packed with insider detail and anecdotes about the life and work of Cassavetes, his actors and his Hollywood peers
- Cassavetes has a consistent and growing fan base
- His films are studied on every university film course

## MARKET:

film, film history

Targeted Marketing:

- Cassavetes and contemporary cinema fans
- Specialist websites
- Students and film historians

## DESCRIPTION:

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.

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY:

**Michael Ventura** wrote and directed the documentary *I'm Almost Not Crazy: John Cassavetes, the Man and His Work*, and was curator of the Sundance Festival's 1989 Cassavetes retrospective. His screenwriting credits include *Echo Park*, directed by Robert Dornhelm. As a journalist, Ventura has received a USA PEN award, a Los Angeles Press Club award and the Upton Sinclair Award. He has published three novels and several books of non-fiction. Since 1993 Ventura's bi-weekly column "Letters at 3AM" has appeared in the Austin Chronicle. Selections from his work can be found at [www.michaelventura.org](http://www.michaelventura.org)