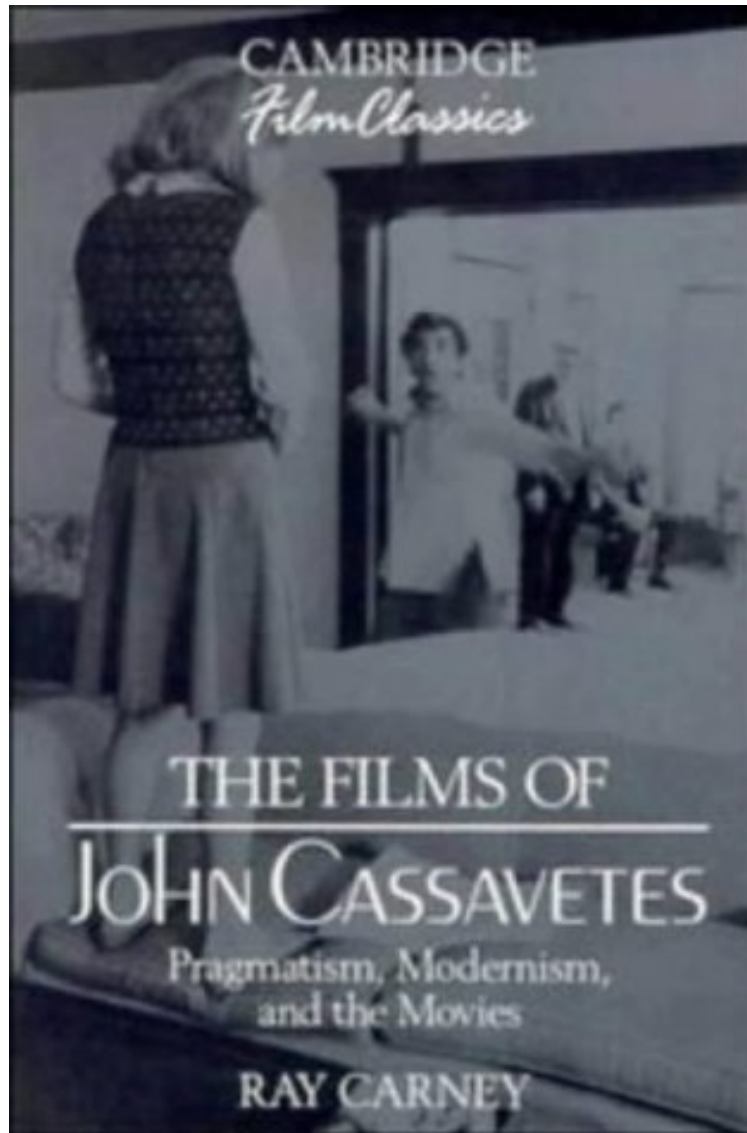


[Free] The Films of John Cassavetes: Pragmatism, Modernism, and the Movies (Cambridge Film Classics)

## The Films of John Cassavetes: Pragmatism, Modernism, and the Movies (Cambridge Film Classics)

Ray Carney

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**Ray Carney : The Films of John Cassavetes: Pragmatism, Modernism, and the Movies (Cambridge Film Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Films of John Cassavetes: Pragmatism, Modernism, and the Movies (Cambridge Film Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Cassavetes Was The Original Independent Filmmaker..By J. John Sebastian Attorney I really enjoyed this analysis of Cassavetes different films....The book does an in depth discussion

of each of Cassavetes' movies. Cassavetes' films are really amazing and this book describes all the different underlying themes and messages that he sends to the audience. It really gave me a better understanding of Cassavetes the person and the filmmaker. His films are quite extraordinary and Carney does a great job explaining the different ways Cassavetes was able to communicate through film. I highly recommend watching all his films and reading this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By PJ Good filmmaker. Like to read about him. 31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. The Noam Chomsky of film's expressive manifesto. By langdonboom This book changed my life. It wasn't a pretty experience, either. I argued with it. I dismissed it. I fought it tooth and nail. But in the end, reading this book and seeing the films it discusses represented the single most important educational, emotional, and artistic experience I've ever had. I tell you, the thing is a mental a-bomb. I broke down. It literally caused me a crisis of the faith regarding everything that I thought I knew or held dear about filmmaking, and maybe even the world. I lost friends. Not only does this book chronicle in deep, loving detail the films, working methods, and world-view of one of the most important (yet underappreciated) filmmakers in American cinematic history, it is a manifesto, articulating and illustrating an entirely original and brain re-wiring theory of filmmaking, present in the films of John Cassavetes; a theory at odds with 99% of the films EVER MADE. Everything you thought you knew is suspect in the glaring light of Ray Carney's prose. Forget Citizen Kane. Forget Casablanca. Forget Vertigo. They're like fingerpaintings next to a Picasso. Neither lightweight nor academically verbose for its own sake, Carney's tone is as friendly as if he were chatting with you over a beer, yet what he says is nothing short of revolutionary. It was simple: I was blown away. Finding precedent for Cassavetes' work in the long-standing American Romantic tradition of Walt Whitman, Emerson, William James, John Dewey and others, Carney's book gives film its proper due as the greatest 20th century artform. An artform, it suggests, still in its infancy. What Cassavetes' films did to me was simple and profound -- they showed me a new way to experience the world. A new attitude. A new awareness. Carney did the same thing, articulating those ways, and celebrating them with the reader. I read a lot of film books, but this is the beat-up, dog-eared one I go back to time and time again. No plain-jane film text is as insightful or inspirational. Read it and you will never be the same again. I wasn't.

*The Films of John Cassavetes: Pragmatism, Modernism, and the Movies* is the first book to tell in detail the story of a maverick filmmaker who worked outside the studio system. Providing extended critical discussion on six of his most important films (*Shadows*, *Faces*, *Minnie and Moskowitz*, *A Woman Under the Influence*, *The Killing of a Chinese Bookie*, and *Love Streams*), Ray Carney argues that Cassavetes' work is a distinctly life-affirming form of modernist expression that is at odds with the world-denying modernism of many of the most important art works produced in this century. Cassavetes is revealed to be a profoundly thoughtful and self-aware filmmaker and a deeply philosophical thinker, whose work takes its place in the American tradition along with the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and William James. The six films treated here emerge as expressive interpretations of the bewildering challenges in contemporary American cultural experience.

"...it is a special event...when Carney publishes a book that illustrates what film study and analysis can be at their most visionary and inspiring. Carney is clearly a born teacher....Every page of *The Films of John Cassavetes* is informed by the passion of a man on a mission to change the way movies are thought and written about. Carney has an extraordinarily exalted vision of the function of cinematic art. Film is, for him, neither escapist entertainment and recreation...nor an intricate stylistic game played off to one side of life...but a way of exploring the most important and complex aspects of human experience." Diane Cherkerzian, *The Boston Globe*"One of the most exciting aspects of this book is the impression it conveys that absolutely everything is open to reappraisal and reevaluation....Not the least innovative aspect of Carney's writing is the degree to which it is radically interdisciplinary, and he sketches a series of strikingly original (yet persuasive) connections between Cassavetes' work and that of other American artists and thinkers....I turned the pages, almost holding my breath at moments, startled by the depth, power and unexpectedness of the argument, emotionally suspended between exhilaration and fear." Diane Cherkerzian, *The Boston Globe*"...reflects not only years of devotion to Cassavetes' work but also numerous conversations and interviews that the author had with the filmmaker, his colleagues and his friends....Carney's descriptions...are reinforced by the many photographs he provides of Cassavetes energetically working on scenes and individual moments with his actors and crew....Far from mere illustrations of the text, however, these 'inside photos'--published in this book for the first time--reinforce the focus of Carney's book." *Filmmaker*"Carney's approach to Cassavetes is shaped by the depth and discipline of scholarly analysis, and also by the out-and-out enthusiasm of a movie-lover writing about some of his favorite pictures." *The Christian Science Monitor*"There is plenty of sturdy analysis here and. . . Carney makes a strong case for his subject." *Times Literary Supplement*From the Back Cover Through words and pictures, Cassavetes is shown to have been a deeply thoughtful and self-aware artist and a profound commentator of the American experience.