

# CINEMA

## Review: Love Streams

Directed by John Cassavetes; screenplay by Ted Allan and John Cassavetes; based on a play by Ted Allan; starring John Cassavetes, Gena Rowlands, Seymour Cassel, Diahnne Abbott.

You've got to be bordering on either genius or insanity to create a work that is wild and crazy and emotionally draining and makes perfect logic simply because it isn't logical. The work is John Cassavetes' *Love Streams* and it is as crazed as they come.

Cassavetes plays author Robert Harmon, a lonely bachelor with a houseful of women (some of whom he doesn't know) and a fascination for California night life. Gena Rowlands is Sarah Lawson, a neurotic, unstable woman working her way through divorce and the loss of her daughter, who refuses to live with someone as genuinely strange as Sarah (she visits dying people for relaxation). They are both impulsive, slightly nutso people who really do belong together, but are never united until about two-thirds of the way through the picture. The moment Sarah pulls up to Robert's house for a surprise visit (they greet each other as old, dear friends), Robert is on his way to Las Vegas with his son.

Cassavetes' world is totally unpredictable; his characters' irrational, impulsive actions are meshed with the randomness of events in their lives. Robert's son, whom he hasn't seen since birth, is dropped off by his mother out of nowhere. They spend a night in Las Vegas, where Robert leaves the kid overnight in a hotel room while he goes to pick up women, and then brings him home, never to see him again. (This is one



John Cassavetes and Gena Rowlands in *Love Streams*.

small episode in the life of Robert, given maybe half an hour of screen time, and then dropped as quickly as it is introduced.)

If Robert is impulsive, Sarah is wildly spontaneous. After taking a disastrous vacation in Europe, she drops in on Robert out of nowhere. Sensing Robert's emptiness (not unlike herself), she decides to buy him a baby. A farm is more like it; what began as a pet dog turned into a veritable zoo, a menagerie which practically takes over the house. A bemused Robert accepts the creatures for fear of hurting Sarah with rejection. For all of their failures in life, they love each other deeply.

The performances are as deeply felt as the crazed screenplay. Cassavetes epitomizes impulse; his face is never still, his eyes wander

as he talks, his hands fidget constantly. Rowlands is a veritable dynamo of emotion, all but bursting at every moment. Apart from her own irrational spheres, she releases her tension and troubles through vivid, bizarre dreams and fantasies, which for her are almost reality.

*Love Streams* is a quirky, bizarre study of human relationships, all the more real because it unfolds as randomly as real life. The characters are as passionate as they are lonely, and they need each other more than anything else. It's a unique vision of life that Cassavetes presents, and a unique kind of picture. Engrossing and fascinating, *Love Stream* is as strange an outlook on human relationships as you're likely to find.

—Sean Axmaker

## NOW SHOWING

**Amadeus:** Mozart's music becomes a character in this lavishly filmed story of the playfully brazen child-man Mozart (Tom Hulce) and his mediocre musical rival Antonio Salieri (F. Murray Abraham). Cinema World (342-6536).

**Beverly Hills Cop:** Eddie Murphy is a Detroit cop who comes to Beverly Hills to solve the murder of his best friend. Directed by Martin Brest (*Going in Style*, *Mayflower* (345-1022) and *Springfield Quad* (726-9073)).

**The Breakfast Club:** Five high school students meet in the morning to spend the day in detention together and the antics of "The Breakfast Club" begin. John (Sixteen Candles) Hughes directs. Stars Molly Ringwald and Anthony Michael Hall (*Sixteen Candles*), Emilio Estevez (*The Outsiders*, *Repo Man*), Ally Sheedy (*War Games*) and Rick Moranis (*Ghostbusters*) as the janitor. National (344-3431).

**Breakin':** Break-dance film. Shows with *Fast Forward* at West 11th Tri. 342-4142.

**Brother From Another Planet:** Science-fiction comedy from versatile writer-director John Sayles (*The Return of the Secaucus Seven*, *Lianna*, *Baby, It's You*). A black alien from Outer Space (Joe Morton) crashes near Harlem and is pursued through Manhattan by extraterrestrial bounty hunters. (Sayles plays the fair-haired bad guy in black.) Bijou (686-2458).

**Cotton Club:** Francis Ford Coppola's lavish music, dance, gangster extravaganza. Co-written with Pulitzer-prize winning novelist Wm. Kennedy. The stories are drawn from *The Cotton Club*, a New York prohibition-era speakeasy. Stars Richard Gere, Gregory Hines, Dianne Lane, Lonette McKee. Fine Arts (747-2201).

**The Falcon and the Snowman:** True story of young idealist Christopher John Boyce, who, while working for TRW Corporation in 1974, decided (with friend Andrew Dalton Lee) to sell U.S. spy satellite data to the Soviets. Timothy Hutton (*Ordinary People*, *Iceman*) plays Boyce, and Sean Penn (*Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Bad Boys*) plays Lee. Directed by John Schlesinger (*Yanks*). Cinema World (342-6536).

**Fast Forward:** High voltage dance flick. Shows with *Breakin'*. West 11th (342-4142).

**Heaven Help Us:** A group of students gets stirred up by a liberal priest (John Heard, *Cutter's Way*) where Donald Sutherland is the conservative priest in charge. *Springfield Quad* (726-9073).

**The Killing Fields:** This British film shows the transformation of Cambodia into a concentration camp after the American evacuation from Saigon. The true story of *N.Y. Times* correspondent Sydney Schanberg (Sam Waterston) and his Cambodian interpreter-friend Dith Pran (Haing S. Ngor). The men were separated and the journalist spent years trying to find Pran, who had been interred in the camps of the Khmer Rouge—the Killing Fields. British stage director Roland Joffe makes his film directorial debut. McDonald (344-4343).

**Love Streams:** Award-winning film. John Cassavetes as Robert, has one pure love—his sister Sarah (Gena Rowlands), a divorcee who is trying to retrieve her husband and daughter. A film about families—man, woman, love, hope, despair. Roger Ebert says this film has unexpectedly funny moments and lists it among his 1984 top 10. Cinema 7 (687-0733).

**The Mean Season:** Stars Mariel Hemingway and Kurt Russell (Meryl Streep's boyfriend in *Silkwood*, Goldie Hawn's lover in *Swing Shift*). A cynical news reporter becomes confidante to a serial murderer. *Springfield Quad* (726-9073).

**Micki & Maude:** Dudley Moore's wife (Ann Reinking of *All That Jazz*) is a hot-shot lawyer who won't let pregnancy interfere with her career. His girlfriend (Amy Irving, *Yentl*) gets pregnant, he marries her planning to divorce his wife, who, surprise!—is getting a visit from the stork. Blake "10" Edwards directs this good idea which could have been a good movie if only... Shows with *Protocol* at the Oakway (342-5351).

**Mischief:** Comedy about a teenager's first sexual experience. *Springfield Quad* (726-9073).

**Mrs. Soffel:** A true story. In 1902 a warden's beautiful Victorian wife (Dianne Keaton) fell in love with a handsome inmate (Mel Gibson) of the Allegheny County Jail in Pittsburg and helped him escape. Script by Ron Nyswaner, directed by Australian Gillian Armstrong (*My Brilliant Career*, *Starstruck*). Valley River Twin (686-8633).

**A Passage to India:** Set in a richly colored, politically fragile British Colonial India (1926), the story is an impassioned treatment of racially forbidden loves—one a deep and honorable friendship between two men, Indian Dr. Aziz and British schoolmaster Fielding (Victor Banerjee and James Fox); the other a forbidden yet uncontrollable connection between the vibrant Dr. Aziz and the beautiful Adele Quested (Judy Davis, *My Brilliant Career*). West 11th Tri Cinema (342-4142).

**Protocol:** Goldie Hawn is the dizz-head Washington DC cocktail waitress who seduces a Middle Eastern sheik to permit placement of a U.S. military base in his country. Shows with *Micki & Maude*. Oakway (342-5351).

**Turk 182:** Timothy Hutton (*Ordinary People*, *Iceman*, *Falcon & The Snowman*) is furious when he discovers his brother has been denied his firefighter's pension as a result of an on-the-job injury. The "Turk" embarks on a one-man campaign to rally New York City behind his brother's cause. Directed by Bob Clark (*Porky's*). West 11th Tri Cinema (342-4142).

**Vision Quest:** Romantic Comedy. A teenager is trying to win a wrestling scholarship to college and a girl disturbs his concentration. Cinema World (342-6536).

**Witness:** 20th century police department meets 17th century religion. Lukas Haas (*Testament*) is a young Amish boy who witnesses a murder. Investigating detective Harrison Ford (*Raiders*, *Indiana Jones*, *Star Wars*) discovers that police colleagues are involved in the murder, and hides out with the boy and his mother (Kelly McGillis, *Reuben, Reuben*) in Pennsylvania Amish Country, while a plan is devised. Directed by Australian Peter Weir (*The Last Wave*, *Gallipoli*, *The Year of Living Dangerously*). Cinema World (342-6536).

—S.R.

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