



February 2020 Screenings – UCLA Film & Television Archive Presents John Sayles: Independent, Archive Treasures, and Sontag, From the Archive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES (Jan. 17, 2020) – UCLA Film & Television Archive is pleased to present its February programs. Including the longest running series this month in honor of the godfather of American independent cinema, John Sayles; hosted by the American Cinematheque and the Archive with Sayles attending the first five screenings for conversations and to sign copies of his new novel, *Yellow Earth*.

On Feb. 7, the Archive will present a new 2K restoration of Susan Sontag's directorial debut, *Duet for Cannibals* (1969). In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Sontag's premiere filmmaking effort, the Archive is joining with UCLA Library Special Collections to present highlights from the Susan Sontag Papers, a collection of professional and personal correspondence that will be in display in the lobby of the Billy Wilder Theater before the screening.

Archive Treasures showcases works from UCLA Film & Television Archive's extensive holdings, which comprise one of the largest moving image collections in the world. Included in this series will be deserving and rarely screened gems.

Lastly, the Archive Treasures program, which presents rarely screened gems in original and restored format, returns on Feb. 23 with a screening of two rare videotape television productions from the late 1960s and early '70s examining social issues facing African American and Chicana communities.

[JOHN SAYLES: INDEPENDENT](#)

UCLA Film & Television Archive is honored to be the official home of John Sayles and Maggie Renzi's Anarchists' Convention Moving Image Archive. Starting with five consecutive nights presented by [American Cinematheque](#) and the Archive between February 13 and 17 at the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum, the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood, and the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica.

February 13, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – [Return of the Secaucus Seven / Lianna](#) – In person: John Sayles

Return of the Secaucus Seven (1979) - A group of formerly radical friends, who were arrested 10 years prior in Secaucus, New Jersey, on their way to a demonstration, reunite in New Hampshire.

With their shared experience of the sexual revolution and second-wave feminism still floating on the surface of each action and interaction, the film dwells less in the nostalgia-drenched world of the one it would inspire, *The Big Chill* (Lawrence Kasdan, 1983), instead interested in what their youthful, shared idealism means for their present conditions, as well as their future longings. This film was added to the National Film Registry at the Library of Congress in 1997.

***Lianna* (1983)** - Inspired by America's increasing divorce rate, John Sayles' intent was to tell "a traditional romantic story" in the vein of Paul Mazursky's *An Unmarried Woman* (1978) and Woody Allen's career-best romantic dramedy, *Annie Hall* (1977). Retaining the same realistic visual style as his first directorial effort while exhibiting a maturity of pacing and shot diversity, *Lianna* focuses on the dissolution of a hetero-normative marriage between student-housewife Lianna (Linda Griffiths) and philandering teacher-husband Dick (Jon DeVries), and the discovery of the pleasures found in new relationship energy—this time, a homosexual romance with a female professor (Jane Hallaren)—and our protagonist's sexual awakening. Per Sayles, *Lianna* offers "an interesting story about someone who at 33 begins to grow up."

February 14, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – Offsite at Egyptian Theatre: [Piranha \(1978\)](#) / [The Howling \(1981\)](#) In person: John Sayles, Joe Dante (schedule permitting), moderator Mark Garris.

February 15, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – [The Brother From Another Planet \(1984\)](#) / [Baby It's You \(1983\)](#)
In person: John Sayles

February 16, 2020 – 4:00p.m. – Offsite at Aero Theatre: [Lone Star \(1996\)](#) / [Limbo \(1999\)](#)
In person: John Sayles

February 17, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. –Offsite at Aero Theatre: [Matewan \(1987\)](#) / [City of Hope \(1991\)](#)
In person: John Sayles

February 21, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – [Sunshine State \(2002\)](#)

February 22, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – [The Secret of Roan Inish \(1994\)](#)

February 28, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – [Passion Fish \(1992\)](#)

February 29, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – [Eight Men Out \(1988\)](#)

[SONTAG, FROM THE ARCHIVE](#)

On the debut feature occasion of the new 2K restoration of Susan Sontag's *Duet for Cannibals* and the 50th anniversary of her premiere filmmaking effort, the Archive is joining with UCLA Library Special Collections to present highlights from the Susan Sontag Papers, a collection acquired in 2002.

February 7, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – [Duet For Cannibals \(1969\)](#)
Facsimile collection materials will be on view in the lobby, including a brief presentation.

Essayist, novelist, critic, cinephile, and all-around intellectual dynamo Susan Sontag made her directorial debut with this definition-defying, dryly funny psychological serio-comedy, the result of a

Swedish studio's invitation for her to make a film in Stockholm. The result, revolving around the quadrangular relationship between an arrogant ex-revolutionist German intellectual exile, his elegant wife, their Swedish student secretary, and the earnest secretary's bride-to-be, is a roundelay of partner-swapping that gradually drifts towards uncharted territory and gamesmanship that broaches the surreal and violent. Defying literal-minded interpretation, *Duet for Cannibals* is both an illustrative companion to Sontag's criticism and an introduction of a startlingly original filmmaker.

Billy Wilder Theater doors open 30 minutes prior to program start time. Tickets are \$10 each online. Discounted tickets only apply at the box office: \$9 general admission; \$8 for non-UCLA students, UCLA Alumni Association Members and seniors. Free admission for UCLA students.

[ARCHIVE TREASURES](#)

Archive Treasures showcases works from UCLA Film & Television Archive's extensive holdings, which comprise one of the largest moving image collections in the world. Included in this series will be deserving and rarely screened gems.

February 23, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. – [Shot on Videotape: Social Issue Dramas Preserved by UCLA](#)
Free admission for all!

Presented here are two rare videotape productions from the late 1960s and early '70s examining social issues facing African American and Chicax communities. Both programs serve as notable examples of the quality, inclusivity and reach that television is capable of, regardless of budget or medium of production.

ABC Theatre: "If You Give a Dance You Gotta Pay the Band" – (ABC, 12/19/1972)

Airing on primetime network television near the height of the blaxploitation motion picture craze, this critically-acclaimed videotaped drama presents an alternative, realistic inner-city tale examining the harrowing consequences of poverty and racism as told through the eyes of children. Starring Donna Bryan and future superstar, Laurence Fishburne.

Preceded by

***Canción de la Raza (Song of the People): Show #1* – (KCET, 10/14/1968)**

This public service telenovela presented a stark look at life in East LA via the dramatization of the daily challenges facing a fictional Mexican American family. This debut episode concerns the Chicax student walkouts ("blowouts") of 1968, including incidents of police brutality (depicted via L.A.P.D. footage).

About UCLA Film & Television Archive

Now part of the UCLA Library, the Archive is internationally renowned for rescuing, preserving and showcasing moving image media and is dedicated to ensuring that the visual achievements of our time are available for information, education and enjoyment. The sixth-largest moving image repository in the world, and the second largest in the U.S., behind only the Library of Congress, the Archive's more than 450,000 holdings are stored in a state-of-the-art facility that meets and exceeds all preservation standards, from nitrate film to digital.

The Archive Research and Study Center, located in Powell Library, provides free access to its holdings to researchers, writers and educators. Many of the Archive's projects are screened at prestigious film events around the globe, as well as [locally at UCLA's Billy Wilder Theater](#).

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