

**American independent film veteran actor Seymour Cassel
in person at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater on February 13**

Advance tickets on sale Friday, January 16

Omaha, Nebraska (Tuesday, January 13, 2009)— In the course of his 50-year acting career, Seymour Cassel has become an icon of American independent cinema, including his early work with director and indie pioneer John Cassavetes and more recent performances in Wes Anderson's RUSHMORE, THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS and THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU.

On Friday, February 13, Cassel will speak about his remarkable career during a special appearance at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, 14th and Webster Streets. The evening will begin with a 7 p.m. screening of Cassavetes' 1971 film MINNIE AND MOSKOWITZ (starring Cassel opposite Gena Rowlands) and continue with a post-show Q&A and cocktail reception with the actor.

Tickets to the event are \$25 for Film Streams Members (on sale today) and \$30 for non-members (on sale Friday, January 16 at 10 a.m.). All tickets include the screening, Q&A and cocktail reception at the Ruth Sokolof Theater.

Cassel's appearance in Omaha will coincide with Film Streams' upcoming "Great Directors" series celebrating the work of John Cassavetes, widely acknowledged as the "father of American independent cinema." The series, which runs February 6 through March 26, features several films with performances by Cassel, including SHADOWS (1959), TOO LATE BLUES (1961), FACES (1968), MINNIE AND MOSKOWITZ (1971), THE KILLING OF A CHINESE BOOKIE (1976), OPENING NIGHT (1978), and LOVE STREAMS (1984).

The week of Cassel's appearance, Film Streams will also show director Wes Anderson's RUSHMORE (1998), which features a quietly assured performance from Cassel as the father to troubled teenager Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman) and barber to forlorn industrialist Herman Blume (Bill Murray). The film will play February 13-19.

In 1969, Cassel earned an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor (and won the same award from the National Society of Film Critics) for his role in Cassavetes' masterwork FACES. In 1992, he was recognized with a Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival for his performance in the comedy IN THE SOUP, and in 2003 the Rhode Island Film Festival honored Cassel with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

An acclaimed character actor, Cassel has also appeared in DICK TRACY (1990), WHITE FANG (1991), HONEYMOON IN VEGAS (1992), INDECENT PROPOSAL (1993), TREES LOUNGE (1996), and STUCK ON YOU (2003), among many other films.

For more information on this event, please visit filmstreams.org. For questions, please contact Casey Logan at (402) 933-0259 ext. 11 or casey@filmstreams.org.

Film Streams is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural environment of the Omaha-Council Bluffs area through the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. In July 2007, we opened the Ruth Sokolof Theater, our two-screen cinema located within the Saddle Creek Records development north of downtown Omaha. For more information, visit us online at www.filmstreams.org.