A Live Director's Screening & Commentary of Photo credit: Greg Gorman

> McANINCH ARTS CENTER Mar 16, 2025



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Enjoy the show!

Diana Martinez
Director, McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage presents

# John Waters: A Live Director's Screening & Commentary of Hairspray

The U.S. Library of Congress added *Hairspray* to the National Film Registry in 2022, Librarian of Congress calling it ..."an irresistible look at Baltimore's teen dance scene in 1962, as well as a moving plea for racial integration."

The McAninch Arts Center acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Sun, Mar 16, 2025, 3p Belushi Performance Hall



Photo by Greg Gorman

Born in Baltimore, MD in 1946, **John Waters** (Writer/ Director) was drawn to movies at an early age, particularly exploitation movies with lurid ad campaigns. He subscribed to *Variety* at the age of twelve, absorbing the magazine's factual information and its lexicon of insider lingo. This early education would prove useful as the future director began his career giving puppet shows for children's birthday parties. As a teenager, Waters began

making 8-mm underground movies influenced by the likes of Jean-Luc Godard, Walt Disney, Andy Warhol, Russ Meyer, Ingmar Bergman, and Herschell Gordon Lewis.

Using Baltimore, which he fondly dubbed the "Hairdo Capitol of the World," as the setting for all his films, Waters assembled a cast of ensemble players, mostly native Baltimoreans, and friends of long standing: Divine, David Lochary, Mary Vivian Pearce, Mink Stole, and Edith Massey. Waters also established lasting relationships with key production people, such as production designer Vincent Peranio, costume designer Van Smith, and casting director Pat Moran, helping to give his films that trademark Waters "look."

Waters made his first film, an 8-mm short, *Hag in a Black Leather Jacket* in 1964, starring Mary Vivian Pearce. Waters followed with *Roman Candles* in 1967, the first of his films to star Divine and Mink Stole. In 1968, he made his first 16-mm film with *Eat Your Makeup*, the story of a deranged governess and her lover who kidnap fashion models and force them to model themselves to death. *Mondo Trasho*, Waters' first feature length film, was completed in 1969 despite the fact that the production ground to a halt when the director and two actors were arrested for "participating in a misdemeanor, to wit: indecent exposure."

In 1970, Waters completed what he described as his first "celluloid atrocity," *Multiple Maniacs*. The film told the story of Lady Divine and her lover, Mr. David, proprietors of a freak show who lure unsuspecting suburbanites into their tents to witness "The Cavalcade of Perversions."

In 1972 Waters created what would become the most "notorious" film in the American independent cinema of the 1970's, *Pink Flamingos*.

Centered on the great battle to secure the title "Filthiest People Alive," *Pink Flamingos* pitted Divine's "Babs Johnson" against Mink Stole and David Lochary's truly evil "Connie and Raymond Marble," while turning Waters into a cult celebrity. *Pink Flamingos* went on to become a smash success at midnight screenings in the U.S. and all over the world. *Pink Flamingos*, called "a paragon of bad taste" by the Museum of Modern art, was added to the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress, one of only 25 films earmarked in 2021 year for preservation "as works of enduring importance to American culture."

Waters followed the success of *Pink Flamingos* with three more pictures, spanning the remainder of the decade. In 1974 he created *Female Trouble*, the story of Dawn Davenport (Divine), a criminal who wanted to be famous so badly she committed murder. 1977 marked the premier of *Desperate Living*, a monstrous fairytale comedy starring the notorious Mafia moll turned stripper Liz Renay. In 1981 Waters completed *Polyester*, a wide-screen comic melodrama starring Divine and Tab Hunter. Filmed in glorious "Odorama," ticket buyers were given scratch 'n' sniff cards that allowed the audience to smell along with the characters in their fragrant search for romantic happiness.

In *Hairspray* (1988), Waters created "an almost big-budget comedy extravaganza about star-struck teenage celebrities in 1962, their stage mothers and their quest for mental health." The film was a box office and critical success and starred the then unknown Ricki Lake, Deborah Harry, the late Sonny Bono, Jerry Stiller, Pia Zadora, and Ric Ocasek. The U.S. Library of Congress added *Hairspray* to the National Film Registry in 2022, Librarian of Congress calling it ..."an irresistible look at Baltimore's teen dance scene in 1962, as well as a moving plea for racial integration."

The success of *Hairspray* brought Waters major Hollywood backing for his next feature, *Cry-Baby* (1990), a juvenile delinquent musical comedy satire, starring Johnny Depp. In 1994, Waters released *Serial Mom*, the well-reviewed, socially un-redeeming comedy starring Kathleen Turner and Sam Waterston, which was the closing night attraction at that year's Cannes Film Festival.

*Pecker*, a feel-good movie about lesbian strippers, pubic-hair harassment, and amateur photography, was released in 1998. It starred Edward Furlong and Christina Ricci. *The Japan Times* called it "a Disney film for perverts."

Cecil B. DeMented, a comedy action-thriller about a young lunatic film director (Stephen Dorff) and his gang of film cultists who kidnap a real-life Hollywood movie goddess (Melanie Griffith) and force her to act in their own Super 8 underground movie, was released in 2000. Kevin Thomas of The LA Times, called Cecil B. DeMented "a fast, furious and funny fusillade of a movie."

A Dirty Shame concerns head-injury sufferers who, after their concussion, experience a carnal lust they cannot control. It stars Tracey Ullman, Johnny Knoxville, Selma Blair, and Chris Isaak. Rated NC-17 by the Motion Picture Association of America, Peter Travers of Rolling Stone called the film "wicked, kinky fun."

September 2023 the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures opened "John Waters: Pope of Trash", the first comprehensive exhibition dedicated to John Waters' contributions to cinema. That same month he was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

In addition to writing and directing feature films, Waters is the author of ten books: Shock Value, Crackpot, Pink Flamingos and Other Filth, Hairspray, Female Trouble and Multiple Maniacs, and Art: A Sex Book (co-written with art critic Bruce Hainley). His book, Role Models, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in May 2010 and earned spots on the best seller lists for the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Carsick, John Waters' book chronicling his adventure hitchhiking from Baltimore to San Francisco in the Spring of 2012, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in June 2014 and debuted on the NY Times Bestseller list at #12 and on the Los Angeles Times Bestseller list in the #7 position. The Grammy nominated audiobook version of Carsick, as read by John Waters, was a featured pick by AudioFile Magazine, Publisher's Weekly, and the L.A. Times Summer Reading list, among others. The 2017 release of Make Trouble, published by Algonquin Books, features the text, with illustrations, of Waters' commencement speech delivered at the 2015 Rhode Island

School of Design graduation ceremony. The book was also released as an audio album in 7" single format by Third Man Records. May 21 2019, Farrar, Straus and Giroux published *Mr. Know-It-All, The Tarnished Wisdom of a Filth Elder in USA*. The audiobook version, read by John Waters, was also nominated for a Grammy award. Waters authored and recorded a spoken-word EP, *Prayer to Pasolini*, in 2021 on the Sub Pop label. His first novel, *Liarmouth: A Feel Bad Romance*, was published in May 2022 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux and optioned the same year by Village Roadshow Pictures for Waters to write and direct the movie.

Concurrent to his careers as a filmmaker and author, Waters is also a photographer whose work, first represented by American Fine Arts and presently, the Marianne Boesky Galley in New York and Sprüth Magers in Berlin and London, has been shown in galleries all over the world since 1992. Four art catalogs have been published on John Waters' photographs and sculpture beginning with "Director's Cut" in 1997 (Scalo Books). "John Waters: Change of Life" followed in 2004 (Harry N. Abrams) to accompany a Waters retrospective exhibition at The New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York. The exhibition traveled to the Fotomuseum Winterthur in Switzerland, the Orange County Museum of Art and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2006, the catalog, Unwatchable was published in conjunction with an exhibition of the same name that opened simultaneously at The Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York and de Pury & Luxembourg Gallery in Zurich. In January 2015, Waters' exhibition, "Beverly Hills John" opened at the Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York and Sprüth Magers Gallery in London. Waters was invited to guest curate an exhibition at The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis in 2011-2012 as part of their Event Horizon ongoing project and his "Absentee Landlord" exhibition was held over by popular demand. A retrospective of Waters' art, "Indecent Exposure", was exhibited at the Baltimore Museum of Art from October 2018 to January 2019, and travelled to The Wexner Center for the Arts from February 2 to April 28, 2019. University of California press published a catalog, "Indecent Exposure", in conjunction with this exhibition. From February to April 2021 his show "Hollywood's Greatest Hits" was on view at Sprüth Magers gallery in Los Angeles.

John Waters' one man spoken-word lectures entitled "The End of the World", "This Filthy World", "False Negative", "Devils' Advocate" or

"Make Trouble" and his annual Christmas show, "A John Waters Christmas", are performed at colleges, museums, film-festivals and comedy clubs around the world. He has played to sold out audiences at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, Bonnaroo, the Sydney Opera House, Volksbühne Berlin, and both Southbank Centre and Barbican Hall in London.

In 2004, the music compilation CD "A John Waters Christmas" was released by New Line Records and was followed up in 2007 by "A Date With John Waters". 2021 the vinyl single "Prayer to Pasolini" which was recorded outside Rome came out on Sub Pop Records and 2022 saw the Sub Pop 7" single "It's In The Book," Waters' cover of a 1952 hit comedy recording by Johnny Standley. Sub Pop released a new 7" single, "John Waters Covers 'The Singing Dogs' "Jingle Bells'" b/w "It's a Punk Rock Christmas," in November 2024.

As an actor, Waters has appeared in many motion pictures including Jonathan Demme's Something Wild, Woody Allen's Sweet and Lowdown, Herschell Gordon Lewis' Blood Feast 2: All You Can Eat, and Don Mancini's Seed of Chucky, and the 20th Century Fox film Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip. In February 2006, Waters hosted a 13episode television series on the Here! TV Network called John Waters Presents Movies That Will Corrupt You. He also appeared in an episode of NBC's hit show, My Name Is Earl, and played "The Groom Reaper" in the CourtTV series Til Death Do Us Part. John provided animation or narration voiceover for The Simpsons, Disney Channel's Fish Hooks and Mickey Mouse Shorts, Animal Planet and Turner Classic Movies. He also played William Castle in an episode of Ryan Murphy's HBO series Feud in 2017. His cameo in the season five finale of the NBC-TV series The Blacklist in 2018 was described as "every bit as fun and strange as you would hope." Law & Order Special Victims Unit now counts John among their recurring cast members as "Floyd Cougat". In 2021 The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel invited John to guest star in their fourth season. The series Search Party crafted the role of Sheffield for John in their fifth and final season in 2022. Waters returned to the Chucky domain in 2024 in the season three finale of the TV series Chucky.

Waters is a member of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Additionally, he is a past member of the boards of The Andy Warhol Foundation and Printed Matter, a former member of the Wexner Center International Arts Advisory Council and was selected as a juror for the 2011 Venice Biennale. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Maryland Film Festival, the Board of Trustees for the Baltimore Museum of Art, and has been a key participant in the Provincetown International Film Festival since it began in 1999, the same year Waters was honored as the first recipient of PIFF's "Filmmaker on the Edge" award. In September 2014, Film Society of Lincoln Center honored John Waters' fifty years in filmmaking with a 10-day celebration entitled "Fifty Years of John Waters: How Much Can You Take?" featuring a complete retrospective of his film work. In May 2015, Waters was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). During the month of September 2015, Waters' body of work as a filmmaker was again celebrated at the British Film Institute with a program called "The Complete Films of John Waters... Every Goddam One of Them." The French Minister of Culture bestowed the rank of Officer in the Order of Arts and Letters to Mr. Waters in 2015. In May 2016, John Waters received another Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Arts (MICA). In February 2017, Waters was presented the Writers Guild of America, East's Ian McLellan Hunter Award honoring his body of work as a writer in motion pictures. In 2019 Locarno Film Festival awarded him the Career Golden Leopard and the Thessaloniki International Film Festival recognized his contribution to the art of Cinema with the Golden Alexander. In May 2022 and June 2023, the School of Visual Arts in New York (SVA) awarded Waters his third and fourth Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts when he delivered a virtual commencement speech during lockdown of 2020 and later in person in 2022 at Radio City Music Hall. American Cinema Editors selected Waters to receive the AC Golden Eddie Filmmaker of the Year Award in 2024. John Waters was featured with Mink Stole in the 2022 Calvin Klein Pride campaign, he was a face of the Saint Laurent fall/winter 2020 menswear campaign, and the year before that he was featured along with Olympic gold medalist Megan Rapinoe in the Nike x Olivia Kim commercial.

#### **Director Filmography**

2004 A Dirty Shame
2000 Cecil B. Demented
1998 Pecker
1994 Serial Mom
1990 Cry-Baby
1988 Hairspray
1981 Polyester
1977 Desperate Living

1977 Desperate Living
1974 Female Trouble
1972 Pink Flamingos
1970 Multiple Maniacs

The Diane Linkletter Story

1969 Mondo Trasho1968 Eat Your Makeup1967 Roman Candles

1964 Hag in a Black Leather Jacket

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#### Volunteer at the MAC

We are always looking for enthusiastic, dedicated, reliable and customer service-oriented people to become Volunteers serving as ushers, greeters and docents at our events.

Volunteers provide invaluable



service by assisting guests to their seats, answering questions and most importantly creating a welcoming environment for our guests. Volunteers are unpaid, but that doesn't mean you won't be rewarded. The cultural perks you'll enjoy as a volunteer include vouchers for every shift worked offering discounts to use at the MAC Box Office and invitation to our annual volunteer appreciation dinner including prizes and gifts.

Visit AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer to fill out an online application and for more information on requirements and qualifications. Applications accepted year-round.

Questions or for more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Rob Nardini: email nardinir@cod.edu, phone (630) 942-3705.

#### **HOUSE NOTES**

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.

- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- For Americans With Disabilities Act accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- Infrared Assistive Listening Devices: For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.

India Flace

Amalia Barratt

#### MAC STAFF LISTING

D-.. Off:-- NA-----

MAC Administrative Stan	MAC Ac	dministrat	ive Staff
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WAC Administrative Staff		
Director of the McAninch Arts Center	Diana Martinez	
Business Manager	Molly Junokas	
Project Manager	Kari Schoettle	
Assistant Business Manager		
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art	Justin Witte	
Assistant Curator		
Gallery Assistant	Madelene Przybysz	
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator		
Graphic Designer	Wendy Melgar	
Director of Development for Cultural Arts		
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator		
Office Manager/Events Coordinator		
Student Clerical Assistants		
MACO - O'CO - A For a Maco - O'CO		

#### MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager	Julie Eiges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors	Daniel Arzola, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants	Patrick Garon, Joanne Hunt
Patron Services Manager	Tom Murray
Assistant Patron Services Supervisor	Deborah Kolek
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator	Rob Nardini
_	

#### MAC Resident Professional Ensembles Ruffale Theatra Ensemble, Interim Managing Artistic Director

Burraio Theatre Ensemble, interim Managing Artistic Director	Amena Barrett
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Interim Associate Artistic Director	Daniel Millhouse
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager	Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian	

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Technical Theater Supervisor	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE	Caitlyn Woods

Stage Hands ...... Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka











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