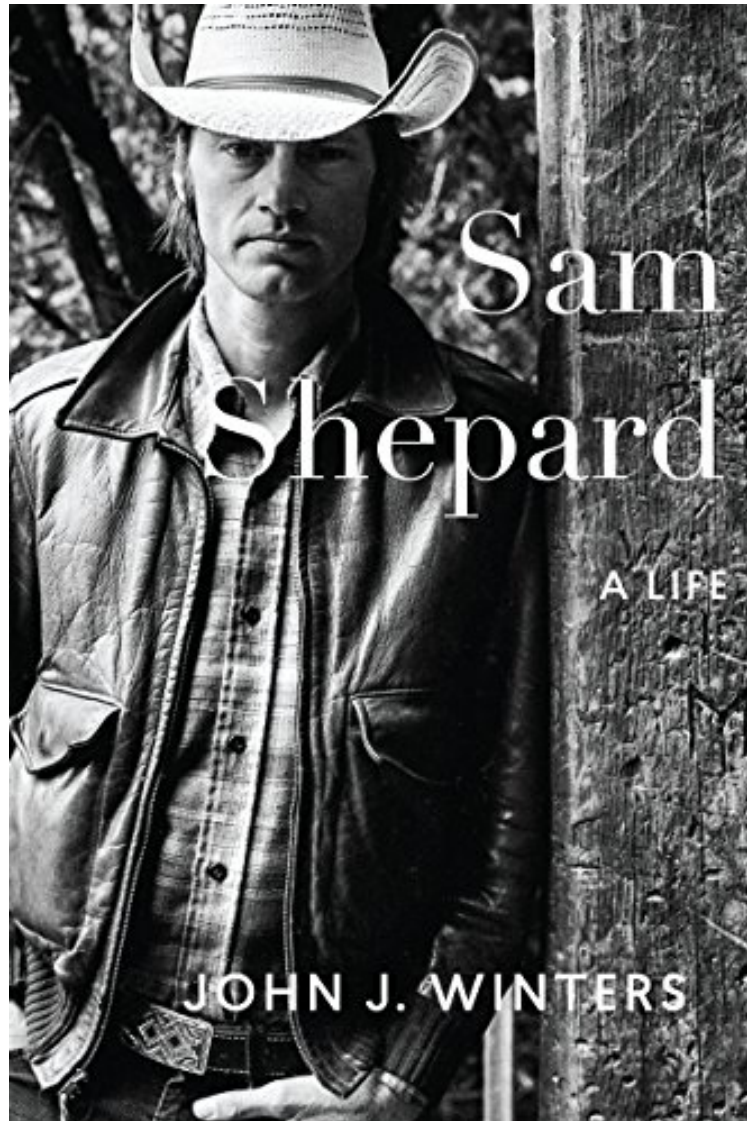


[Library ebook] Sam Shepard: A Life

Sam Shepard: A Life

John J. Winters

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John J. Winters : Sam Shepard: A Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sam Shepard: A Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A playwright fan would be in heavenBy JakeVery mixed feelings about this book. While I am interested in Shepard the playwright, I am more interested in the man and to some extent his movies. This book is drenched in the plays. Almost every play, every plot, every outcome, no matter how obscure.It dominates the book.To be fair, he really does reveal the man behind the plays, his demons and phases of his

life. I feel the author was somewhat less interested in dissecting his movies, although again to be fair, they are represented. I come close to offering a fourth star, it is so well researched and detailed. And someone massively interested in the playwright would be in heaven here. It just didn't fit the proportion of what I was looking for. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. WHAM! BAM! SORRY SAM By Sean A. Heaney Excellent Linear Narrative About An American Original. He Must Have Passed Away A Month After This Book Was Published; Expect A Revised Edition. I Bought The Shepard/Dark Letters At The Same Time, Mr. Winters Had Used It in The Biography, But Still Must Have Both For Admirers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Laura Ellen Good read.

With more than 55 plays to his credit, including the 1979 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Buried Child*, Sam Shepard's impact on American theater ranks with the greatest playwrights of the past half-century. Critics have enthused that he forged a whole new kind of American play, while younger playwrights venerate him. Suzan Lori Parks, herself a Pulitzer winner, calls Shepard her gorgeous north star. As an actor who's appeared in more than 50 feature films, Shepard possesses an onscreen persona that's been aptly summed up as Gary Cooper in denim. He earned an Oscar nod for his portrayal of Chuck Yeager in the 1983 film *The Right Stuff*, and his screenplay for *Paris, Texas* helped that now-classic film sweep the top prizes at the Cannes Film Festival. Despite these accomplishments and more five collections of prose, writing songs with Bob Dylan, making films with Robert Frank and Michelangelo Antonioni, as well as romantic relationships with rocker Patti Smith and actress Jessica Lange, Shepard seems anything but satisfied. *Sam Shepard: A Life* details his lifelong bouts of insecurity and anxiety, and delves deeply into his relationship with his alcoholic father and his own battle with the bottle. Also examined for the first time in-depth are Shepard's tumultuous relationship with Lange, and his decades-long adherence to the teachings of Russian spiritualist G.I. Gurdjieff. Throughout this new biography, John J. Winters gets to the heart of the enigma that is Sam Shepard, presenting an honest and comprehensive account of his life and work.

Praise for *Sam Shepard: A Life* "First-time biographer Winters, a journalist and critic, meticulously presents the facts of Shepard's complex life along with incisive descriptions and analyses of diverse productions of Shepard's demanding and innovative plays.... Ultimately, Winters portrays Shepard as a magnetic, enigmatic, and multitalented artist drawing on a deep well of loneliness and self-questioning, keen attunement to the zeitgeist, and penetrating insight into human nature." *Booklist*, Starred "[An] excellent biography . . . Mr. Winters is especially good on the backstage of one of Mr. Shepard's most frequently revived works, *True West* . . . Mr. Winters has an interesting story to tell, and he recounts it ably, bringing us close to a figure who, he admits, avoids intimacy." *The Wall Street Journal* "[A] new, thoroughly researched biography . . . Winters does indeed capture a personality more anxious and self-doubting than previous biographers have grasped." *The Washington Post* "[A] literary fact-finding mission... "Playbill" Highly recommended to theater and movie lovers." *Library Journal* "A journalist who has devoted years to Shepard's life and works debuts with a comprehensive account of the life of the prolific playwright, poet, fiction writer, musician, and more... [T]he book is unquestionably well-informed and -researched. A thorough, admiring work that is nonetheless honest about what the author views as Shepard's late-career decline." *Kirkus* "John J. Winters gives us an engrossing view of a quirkily remarkable guy . . . Winters does a superb job of re-creating Shepard's multi-faceted life, skillfully melding its professional and personal aspects in a continually interesting narrative. He offers useful synopses of nearly all Shepard's plays, but eschews deep literary analysis of said works, since, as he points out, such material is available elsewhere. Winters displays his expertise as a longtime Shepard scholar, yet never forgets to tell a good story, as well . . . Hand in hand with the sobering news of his passing, this excellent book should inspire readers to revisit the Sam Shepard canon, both in print and on celluloid." *Theater Jones* "Impeccably researched and beautifully written, author John Winters gives us an unflinching, deep dive into the psyche, imagination and soul of Sam Shepard. Packed with exclusive new details of Shepard's amazing and intriguing life, it's essential reading for fans of this enigmatic playwright, minstrel and actor." *Dave Wedge*, co-author of *Boston Strong: A City's Triumph Over Tragedy and Challenge: The Story of Pete Frates and the Ice Bucket Challenge* "John Winters offers a master class in literary sleuthing, untangling the many lives and unearthing the origin story of America's foremost Renaissance man of letters, Sam Shepard. One part literary detective story, one part un-put-downable page-turner, *Sam Shepard: A Life* will serve as the definitive account of one of the 20th century's most enigmatic, beguiling and beloved figures of the stage, screen and page." *Kelly Horan*, *WBUR* radio and co-author of *Devotion and Defiance: My Journey in Love, Faith and Politics*. "Winters has produced an engrossing examination of the enigmatic Sam Shepard in this first major (and unauthorized) biography. Drawing on widely scattered archival sources and dozens of interviews with Shepard's family, friends and colleagues, he has deftly sorted out the authentic ore of fact from the farrago of legends, rumors and canards surrounding one of the greatest playwrights and actors of our time. Along the way Winters has shrewdly delineated Shepard's relations with Bob Dylan, Patti Smith, Wim Wenders, and Jessica Lange, the love of his life." *Michael Lennon*, author of *Norman Mailer: A Double Life* About the Author John J. Winters is a veteran journalist, critic, and academic who has made Sam Shepard the focus of his scholarship. In addition to working for *The Boston*

Globe and countless newspapers, Winters's work has appeared in Playboy, Salon, The Providence Journal, Art New England, the Providence Phoenix, Runner's World and Rhode Island Monthly. He is a regular contributor of reviews and commentary to Boston's National Public Radio affiliate, WBUR. More at johnjwinters.com.