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The Many Hats of Robert Altman: A Life in Cinema

Daub, Peggy; Gomis, Melissa; Hallman, Phil

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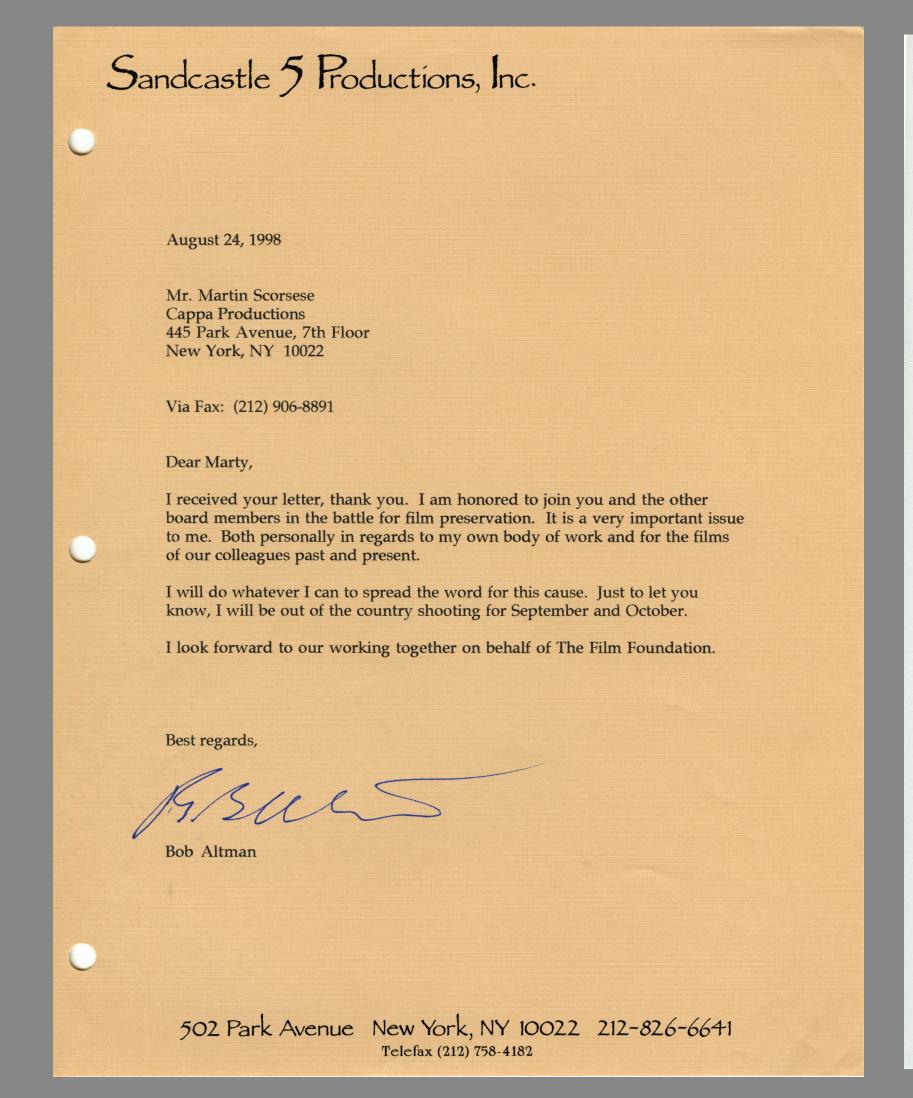
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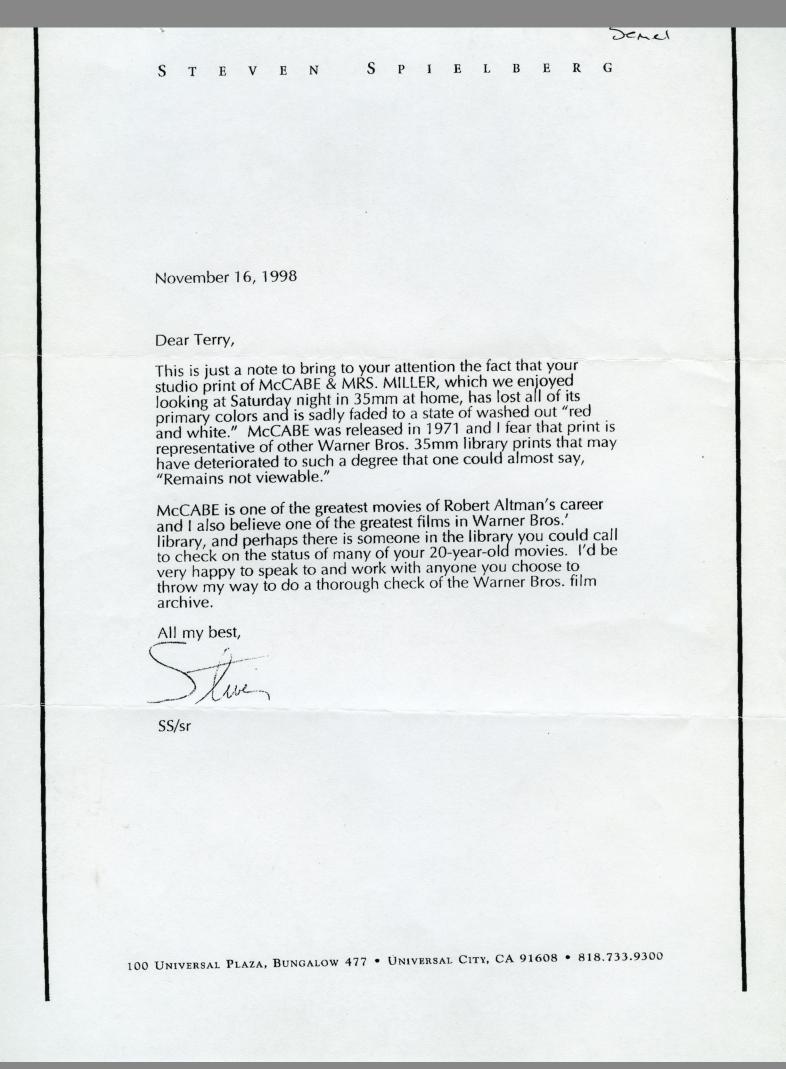
Inside Hollywood

Robert Altman had his problems with the major film studios and what is usually thought of as the "film industry." His unwillingness to change his creative ideas to make his films more commercial was well known. Yet, he lived in that culture for many years and the quality of his work made him well respected in wide Hollywood circles.

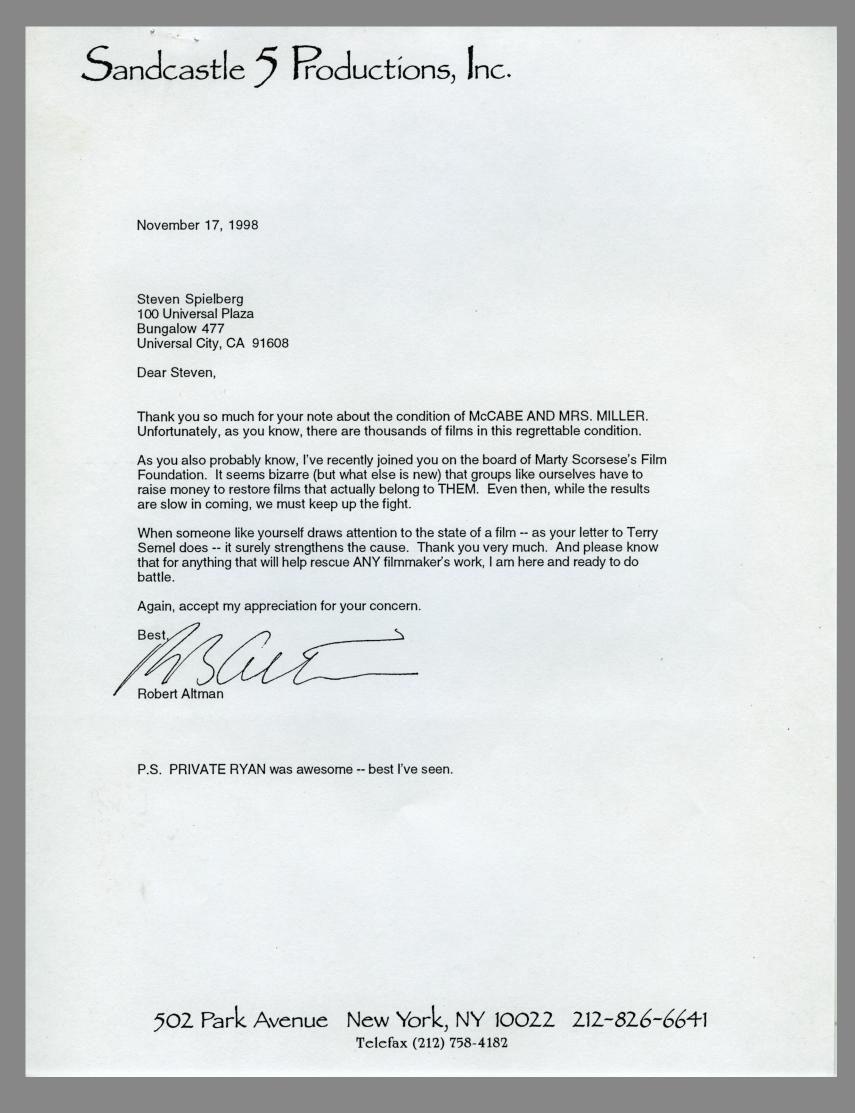
The preservation of films was a cause Altman was happy to support, and he joined with many other prominent Hollywood directors to do so through Martin Scorsese's Film Foundation. After Steven Spielberg viewed a damaged copy of *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* and asked Warner Brothers to check on the condition of their films in storage, Altman stated his support for preserving any filmmaker's work.



Robert Altman, typed letter to Martin Scorsese, August 24, 1998.

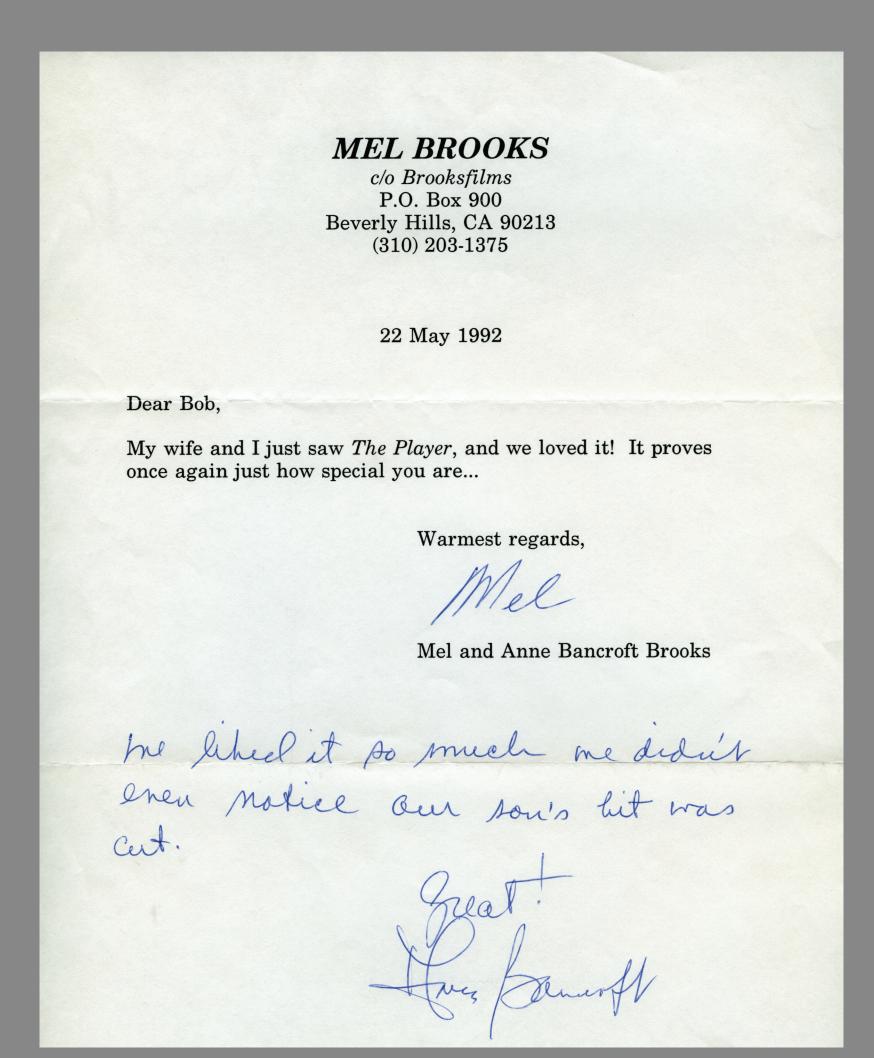


Steven Spielberg, typed letter to Terry [Semel], CEO of Warner Brothers, November 16, 1998.

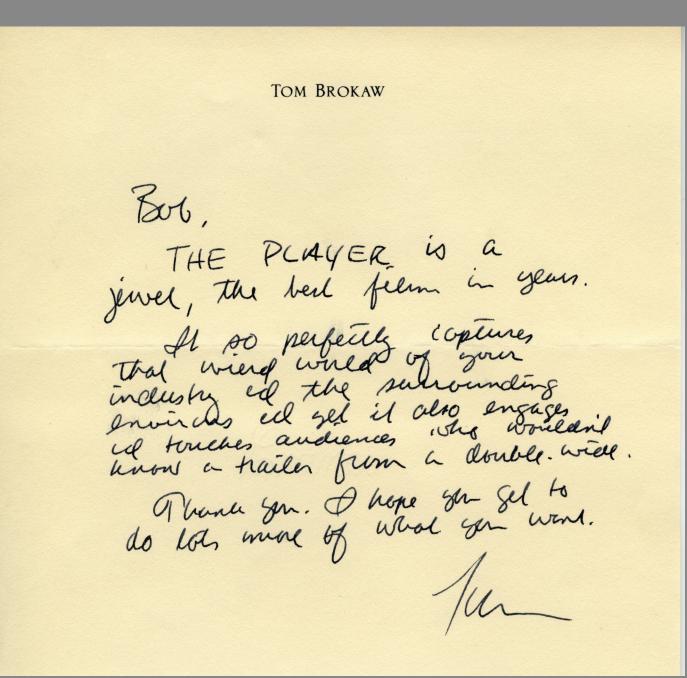


Robert Altman, typed letter to Steven Spielberg, November 17, 1998.

Altman's highly acclaimed film *The Player* (1992) is a biting satirical glimpse inside the often unscrupulous dealings that occur in Hollywood. It was a world Altman knew well, and his onscreen depiction of it was much appreciated by others, "on the inside."



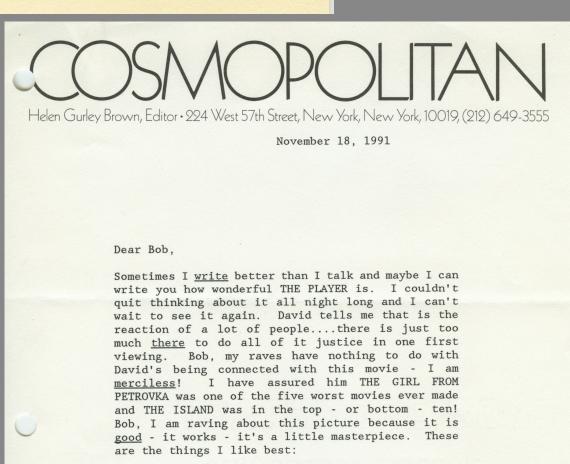
Mel Brooks & Anne Bancroft, typed and handwritten note to Robert Altman, May 22, 1992.



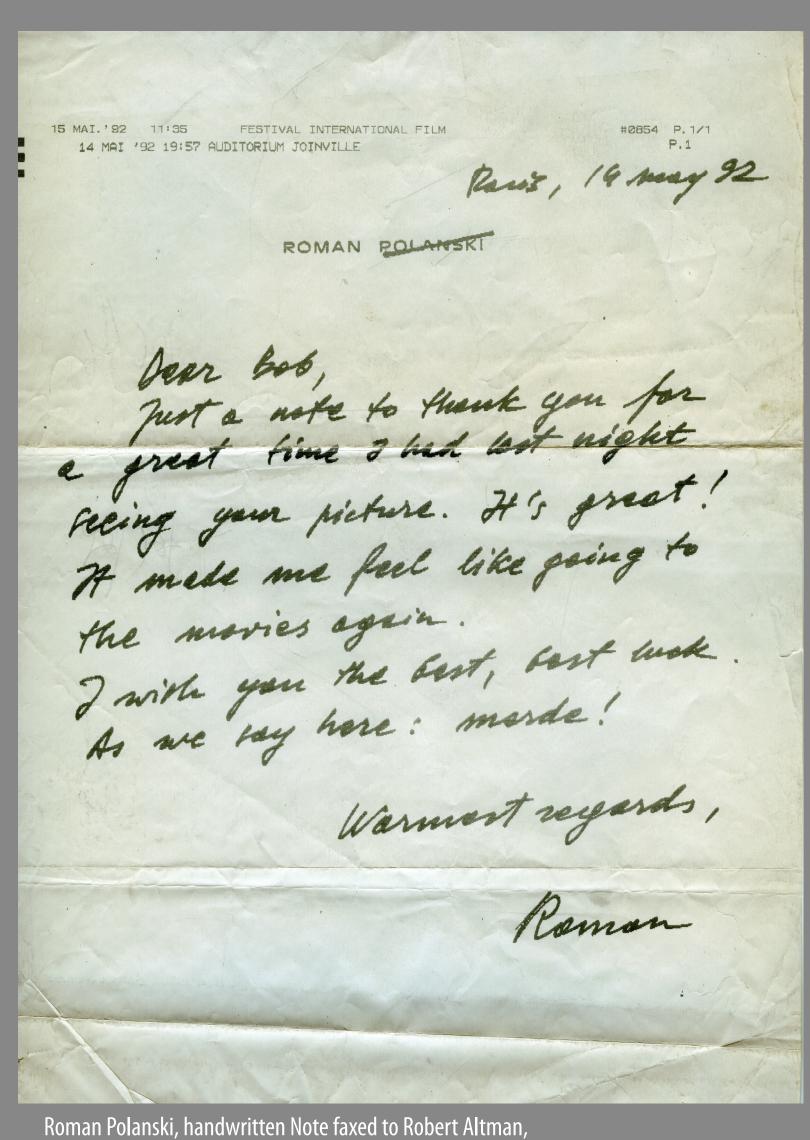
note to Robert Altman, not dated.

Bob, THE PLAYER is a jewel, the best film in years. It so perfectly captures that wierd (sic) world of your industry and the surrounding environs and yet it also engages and touches audiences who wouldn't know a trailer from a double wide. Thank you. I hope you get to do lots more of what you want. Tom

Tom Brokaw, handwritten



Helen Gurley Brown, editor of Cosmopolitan, typed Letter to Robert Altman, November 18, 1991.



Roman Polanski, handwritten Note faxed to Robert Altman, May 14, 1992.

Dear Bob, Just a note to thank you for a great time I had last night seeing your picture. It's great! It made me feel like going to the movies again. I wish you the best, best luck. As we say here: merde! Warmest regards, Roman