

# JOHNNY SUEDE



VEGA FILM PRESENTS A FILM BY TOM DICILLO

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*Johnny (Brad Pitt) might lose a face which is not his with Yvonne (Catherine Keener)*

*Johnny Suede* is a darkly comic fable set in the shadows of a modern American metropolis. The setting suggests the desperate fringes of New York's Lower East Side though it is never identified as such.

*Johnny* is the central character, an aspiring though mildly talented musician, infatuated with *Suede* and *Ricky Nelson*. He appears to be a loner by choice; his only friend is a young black man named *Deke* with whom *Johnny* shares his hopes and fears. Painting apartments with *Deke* provides *Johnny* with his only source of income.

Early in the film, *Johnny* falls in love with *Darlette*, a beautiful troubled girl who appears to be the girl of his dreams. During their intensely brief relationship, *Johnny* becomes obsessed with *Darlette* and is devastated when she abruptly leaves him to go back to her boyfriend who lives across the street from *Johnny*. The pain of *Darlette*'s rejection stiffens *Johnny*'s resolve to launch his musical career. He forms his band, *Johnny and the Persuaders*, an unlikely quartet of misfits drawn from the neighborhood. On his way to rehearsal one day he rushes to the assistance of *Yvonne* who is being threatened on the subway stairs by a voyeuristic midget.

Although intelligent and attractive, *Yvonne* is the opposite type of *Darlette* and *Johnny* is not immediately attracted. As their relationship develops, however, *Johnny* is surprised to find himself drawn by *Yvonne*'s humor, strength and sincerity. In spite of the learned advice of *Deke* and his own misgivings, *Johnny* moves in with *Yvonne*. It becomes obvious that their developing intimacy has started to threaten *Johnny*'s illusions about himself and the world. A progressively desperate series of events leads *Johnny* into an ugly and violent fight with *Yvonne*. He spends the night wandering alone and for the first time realizes that his carefully-crafted self image is a lie. One thing is evident however:

*Johnny* has learned something about himself.

The story is told primarily through an odd, often absurd humor.

35mm, colour, 93 minutes, 1991



*Deke's (Calvin Levels) & Johnny's paint enterprise*



*Johnny with Darlette (Alison Moir)*



*Desastrous dinner with Darlette's parents*

*Various positions at Yvonne's place*



**VEGA FILM** PRESENTS

**BRAD PITT**

**CATHERINE KEENER**

**CALVIN LEVELS**

**ALISON MOIR**

**NICK CAVE**

**PETER McROBBIE**

**ASHLEY GARDNER**

**DENIS PARLATO**

**RON VAWTER AND**

**TINA LOUISE**

IN **JOHNNY SUEDE**

CASTING BY

**MARCIA SCHULMANN**

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

**PATRICIA WOODBRIDGE**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**JOE DESALVO**

EDITED BY

**GERALDINE PERONI**

MUSIC BY

**JIM FARMER**

PRODUCED BY

**YORAM MANDEL AND**

**RUTH WALDBURGER**

CO-PRODUCED BY

**ALAIN KLARER**

**BRUNO PESERY AND**

**JANET JACOBSON**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

**TOM DICILLO**

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