

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix

INTRODUCTION. ACROSS THE SPECTRUM:
FROM IMPROVISATION TO PSYCHODRAMA 1

1. AND I HATE ACTORS:
THE NEW AMERICAN CINEMA 23

2. LET'S NOT PHONY IT UP ANYMORE:
THE FILMS OF JOHN CASSAVETES 47

3. PLACE-BASED REALISM:
MACKENZIE, LODEN, AND BURNETT 70

4. EXPERIMENTS IN PSYCHODRAMA:
MEKAS, WARHOL, CLARKE, AND MAILER 95

5. HUMAN LIFE ISN'T NECESSARILY WELL-WRITTEN:
WILLIAM GREAVES'S *SYMBIOPSYCHOTAXIPLASM*:
TAKE ONE AND TAKE 2½ 119

VIII CONTENTS

6. BEYOND THE METHOD:
ABEL FERRARA AND HARVEY KEITEL 144

7. TIED TO A MACHINE:
THE FILMS OF GUS VAN SANT 164

8. I LIKE HOW YOU TALK:
THE FILMS OF JOE SWANBERG 187

9. IMPROVISATION AND PLACE:
PUTTY HILL, STAND CLEAR OF THE CLOSING DOORS,
AND THE FILMS OF SEAN BAKER 211

10. REDISCOVERING PSYCHODRAMA:
FROWNLAND, HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT,
AND *STINKING HEAVEN* 234

11. THE LINE BETWEEN REALITY AND STAGING:
ACTOR MARTINEZ, ACTRESS,
AND *THE WITNESS* 260

CONCLUSION:
BLENDING FICTION AND DOCUMENTARY 281

Notes 293
Bibliography 319
Index 323