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| **About you** | **[Salutation]** | Nicholas | [Middle name] | Forster |
| [Enter your biography] | | | |
| Yale University | | | |

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| **Your article** |
| Ray, Nicholas (1911 — 1979) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Nicholas Ray was an American film director, most notable for directing *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955) and for his complex portraits of a variety of social issues including youth culture, addiction, and sexuality. Ray’s film career began in 1944 after working with Elia Kazan in the Theater of Action, an improvisatory acting company. Ray’s directorial debut feature, *They Live by Night* (1949), provided a template for a stylised aesthetic that depicted the lives and loves of young loners. Ray built on this aesthetic in his most famous work, *Rebel Without a Cause*, featuring James Dean, Sal Mineo, and Natalie Wood. The film’s modernist aesthetic foregrounded the emerging youth culture of the fifties with highly stylised sets and expressive camera movements set against subdued realist acting. Overcome by addiction Ray made eight more films, with few achieving success in America. However, French critics lauded Ray, with Jean-Luc Godard claiming in a review of *Bitter Victory* (1957) that ‘the cinema is Nicholas Ray.’ For Godard, Ray’s films presented a unique vision of American life, one that illustrated the complexity of an emerging post-war culture defined by alienation. Not only were Ray’s topics unique, but his use of camera movement provided cinema with a new form. |
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| Further reading:  (Chamberlin)  (Eisenschitz)  (Ray and Ray)  (Nicholas Ray: The Last Interview ) |