

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Sal Mineo, known as "The Switchblade Kid" for his many film roles as a teen-age tough, has been stabbed to death outside his Hollywood apartment house, authorities said.

Witnesses told police they heard screams and saw a man with long, blond hair running from the alley where Mineo was killed Thursday night.

Sheriff's Information Officer Anthony Silas said investigators were still searching for the murder weapon. He said there was no immediate indication of the motive for the attack.

Neighbors found the 37-year-

old actor lying face-up in a pool of blood about 20 feet from a parking area behind his apartment, police said. He had been stabbed in the chest.

Bill Jones, a neighbor in the moderately expensive apartments near the Sunset Strip, said, "We heard about three yells. The last yell was 'Help.' We rushed out and saw Sal lying face-up, breathing really hard.

"He was like in a daze, trying to breathe. He didn't say anything."

Another neighbor, Mary Chance, 21, said, "It was too quiet. Then all of a sudden those screams, we heard those screams."

Neighbors said Mineo was quiet and kept to himself.

Authorities said the actor ap-

parently lived alone and that his family resides in New York.

Mineo was in rehearsal for a starring role in "'P.S. Your Cat

Is Dead," a play scheduled to open next week at the Westwood Playhouse.

Recent television appearances by the baby-faced actor included roles in the Ellery Queen and Joe Forrester shows.

Highlights of his acting career included his portrayal of a juvenile delinquent along with James Dean in 'Rebel Without A Cause" and later as an Israeli terrorist in "Exodus." Both performances won him Academy Award nominations.