

JACK KEROUAC

KING OF THE BEATS

1 x 57



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Director John Antonelli spent over three years carefully blending bits and pieces to create this fascinating docudrama probing the influence that beat writer Jack Kerouac (*On the Road, Desolation Angels*) has had on American literature. Now digitally remastered, the film combines dramatizations of portions of Kerouac's life with footage of the author himself and of people who knew him, including Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and William Burroughs.

Actor Jack Coulter reenacts some of the key moments of Kerouac's eventful life from the time he emerged from Lowell, Massachusetts in the 50s to capture the beat of a social/spiritual awakening across the land with which his name, more than any other became associated. Whenever possible, the film was shot on location in Kerouac's hometowns and haunts from Lowell to Marin County, California. The film also includes footage of appearances Kerouac made on TV talk shows with Steve Allen and William Buckley—fascinating sequences which include readings from his work where his charismatic personality is readily apparent.

Jack Kerouac: King of the Beats had its genesis in the accidental coincidence that director Antonelli who also grew up in Lowell, discovered that when he moved to Marin County, he lived down the street from two Kerouac cronies. As these characters from Kerouac's books drove by almost daily, Antonelli became intrigued with the author and with the idea of doing a film on his life. The result is a fascinating portrait of America's patron saint of bohemia, an author whose mark on his generation is still strongly felt and whose message still gets a strong reaction from today's college students.

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CREDITS

Director, Producer: John Antonelli

Writers: John Tytell, John Antonelli, and Frank Cervarich

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