## Contents

**Acknowledgments**  |  xi

**John Sayles: Critical Realist**  |  1

- John Sayles: Independent  |  1
- John Sayles: Realist  |  6
- Beginnings: *Return of the Secaucus Seven*  |  14
- Establishing a Career: *Lianna* and *Baby It’s You*  |  24
- *The Brother from Another Planet* and Springsteen Videos  |  34
  - *Matewan*  |  44
  - *Eight Men Out*  |  59
- Place and Melodrama: *City of Hope* and *Passion Fish*  |  69
  - *Stories*  |  83
  - *Lone Star*  |  90
  - *Men with Guns*  |  105
  - *Limbo*  |  113
  - Millennial Sayles  |  121
  - *Casa de los babys*  |  127
  - *Silver City*  |  134
  - *Honeysdripper*  |  143