

FEMALE TROUBLE

SCREEN/SOCIETY

<https://ami.duke.edu/screensociety>

(John Waters, 1974, 97 min, USA, Color, 35mm)

Glamour has never been more grotesque than in *Female Trouble*, which injects the Hollywood melodrama with anarchic decadence. Divine, director John Waters' larger-than-life muse, engulfs the screen with charisma as Dawn Davenport, the living embodiment of the film's lurid mantra, "Crime is beauty," who progresses from a teenage nightmare hell-bent on getting cha-cha heels for Christmas to a fame monster whose egomaniacal impulses land her in the electric chair. Shot in Waters' native Baltimore on 16 mm, with a cast drawn from his beloved troupe of regulars, the Dreamlanders, this film—the director's favorite of his work with Divine—comes to life through the tinsel-toned vision of production designer Vincent Peranio and costume designer/makeup artist Van Smith. An endlessly quotable fan favorite, *Female Trouble* offers up perverse pleasures that never fail to satisfy. **Introduced by David D'Agostino (AMI).**

"A classic that must be seen to be disbelieved..."
— David Ehrenstein, *The New Times*

7PM FRIDAY, MAR 20

**RUBENSTEIN ARTS CENTER
FILM THEATER**



Sponsored by
the Program in
the Arts of the
Moving Image
(AMI)

