

Remembering Sidney Lumet

The vision behind *12 Angry Men*, *Serpico*, *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Network* and *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* passed away Saturday April 9th, 2011 in Manhattan at the age of 86. Sidney Lumet will be remembered not only for his illustrious career and his mastery of filmmaking, but also for being one of the warmest humanitarians the entertainment industry has ever offered. Admired and liked by his peers, Lumet was in a true sense a master, but always remained an endearing, approachable and big-hearted native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He provided cinema some of its most enduring gems, such as *12 Angry Men*, which solidified him as an artist, the set mainly consisting of a single room where men from all different backgrounds are asked to determine the fate of a young boy. The humanity brought to the screen in Lumet's work echoes forever graphing itself to the conscious of every filmmaker that's come after him.

Lumet's taught, edgy thrillers never took the easy route or lowered themselves by being immature. They never strayed from being anything less than thrilling, enveloping the audience and intriguing them long after they left the theater. He showed diversity and imagination in his work, tackling different stories and different characters, fascinated by the various kinds of people who made up the world which he participated in with the upmost respect and tenderness. His career rightfully ended with one of his finest films, 2007's *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* starring Ethan Hawke and Philip Seymour Hoffman, showing that he never lost his crisp method of storytelling, his control over the subject matter he chose to explore and his interest in human nature. His passing is a giant loss for the world of cinema and the world in general. We say a humble thank you and farewell, Mr. Lumet.