

## VANGUARD PRODUCTIONS

### **SOUL**

By Art Altounian

In small town Kentucky, CASEY FARRELL's mother dies due to complications involving his birth. His once-contented father ROY blames Casey for his wife's death, becomes a raging alcoholic, and abuses his son to the point that Casey develops a stutter.

Casey's aunt LEA is the one bright spot in his upbringing. She teaches him the joy of music, and acts as a tender counterpoint to Casey's vicious dad. Roy wants his son to be a football-playing, beer drinking, manly man. However, Lea's influence leads Casey to love music and singing. Casey spends more and more time with Lea, and Roy becomes jealous, as in his eyes, his son loves Lea more than him. In a fit of drunken rage, Roy accidentally kills Lea, and is able to pawn it off as a suicide.

A devastated Casey visits his favorite place, a music store, where he meets a black saxophonist named JAREN O'BRIEN. They rock out to "Johnny B. Goode," Casey on guitar and Jaren on saxophone. Outside the store, Casey helps Jaren fight off a group of racist hicks. They develop a friendship.

As a refuge from his bleak home life, Casey starts jamming with Jaren's band, which includes his sister DELISA, and her fiancé LAWRENCE, who becomes consumed with jealousy when Delisa and Casey seem to hit it off platonically.

The group scores a gig at blues club and they're a hit. Just before they're next show however, drummer Lawrence leaves the band and a fit of jealousy. The band, now named Jambalaya, scores a drummer at the last minute, rock out, and Casey impresses the hell out of his father who's in attendance. Right after the show, Roy dies. At the end, Casey and Delisa are happily married. . *Soul* can probably be best described as a cross between *Sling Blade* and *Shine* that has a huge soundtrack potential.