Elia Kazan, now 87 years old, was one of the most important American film directors during the 1950s and 1960s, having directed classic films such as *On the Waterfront*, *Viva Zapata*, *A streetcar Named Desire*, and *East of Eden*, which launched the careers of Marlon Brando and James Dean. This past year, Mr. Kazan was rejected, as he has been now for many years, for lifetime achievement awards by both the American Film Institute and the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. The reason for this rejection is that in 1952, Mr. Kazan appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), and informed on eight friends, all film writers and directors as having been, like Mr. Kazan, members of the American Communist Party in the 1930s. Mr. Kazan did not accuse the eight individuals of any specific actions injurious to the United States. Nonetheless, none of them were able to work in the film industry for many years, and in some cases, ever again, as a result of Mr. Kazan's testimony. Mr. Kazan's testimony took place at the height of the McCarthy era when the HUAC was zealously looking for evidence of Communist influence in Hollywood. Mr. Kazan was under pressure to testify, as were other former members of the American Communist Party in the film industry, because failure to cooperate with the HUAC had led to many writers and directors being blacklisted by film studios, which made it impossible to find work. Movie critics are deeply divided over the decision not to honor Mr. Kazan. Some believe that, in the words of a member of the American Film Institute, all that matters is the movies. "You're honoring a person's body of work." Other critics disagree. "What you're honoring is the totality of what he represents, and Kazan's career, post 1952, was built on the ruin of other persons' careers."