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"Signs of Life" — Werner Herzog

"Signs of Life" is Herzog's first feature film directed in 1968. The central character is a wounded German soldier named Stroszek sent to sit out the war in an isolated Mediterranean garrison, unhinged by the torpid circularity of island life, Stroszek is finally driven mad by an incredible vision of a valley filled with thousands of small warring windmills. This fascinating, hallucinatory tale is illuminated by Herzog's fascination for curiosa, odd jokes, and off beat lore, including a campaign against cockroaches, a Chopin recital in the middle of nowhere, a method for hypnotizing chickens, a tale about a caterpillar procession and a gypsy king in search of his lost kingdom.