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THE ISLAND



**"A MASTERPIECE.
EXTRAORDINARY."**

The New Yorker

**"FULL OF VISUAL
WONDERS!"**

Life Magazine



"IT IS AMONG THE BEST MOVIES OF THE YEAR."

McCall's Magazine

**"BEAUTIFULLY DONE...
TREMENDOUS!"**

*Bosley Crowther,
New York Times*

Written and Directed by **KANETO SHINDO** A ZENITH INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

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SYNOPSIS

"The Island" relates in simple and direct form the story of a man, his wife and their two young sons. They dwell on a rocky, mountainous island, barely a half-mile from the Japanese mainland. The parents toil daily to wrest a bare subsistence from the always thirsty, unyielding soil; and the symbol of this struggle lies in the daily, endless acquisition of fresh water. They must row a primitive boat to the mainland, fill their buckets from a roadside ditch and return; and every drop of this water becomes precious.

When the meager crop is harvested, it is bartered in the city for the necessities of life, an occasional luxury and an undershirt for one of the boys. A lucky catch — a large fish — affords the occasion for a family celebration in town — a hilarious, joyous outing that is swiftly followed by tragedy when the older child is suddenly stricken and dies. The steady rhythm of their daily life comes to a halt because the boy must be buried in accordance with deep-rooted tradition. After a heart-tugging burial, attended by the boy's classmates from the mainland school, the family continues its unending struggle, for this is their pattern of life, and life must go on.

Watching it unfold on the screen adds a new emotional dimension to the experience of the viewer. It is a primitive fragment of the never-ending struggle of man against nature but it is a struggle waged in a quiet, determined manner underscored by a wordless ferocity.

The story inscribes itself deeply in the hearts and minds of the viewers. It is written with unfaltering force, as strong and powerful as one's own emotional capacity. It can be interpreted in a thousand different ways. It digs deeply inside one to tap new and undiscovered feelings.

The quiet and tenacious battle for life by four unworldly people becomes a monumental study in the strength and dignity of the human being. It is a day-to-day fight of man against the earth and because the earth lacks the power of speech, speech was eliminated.

The island, only 500 meters in length, is all of life to its four inhabitants. It is a world surrounded by water where water is its most precious commodity. To obtain it, means rowing a crude craft to the mainland, scooping the water into buckets and bringing it back to the island. It means trudging carefully, laboriously, up the treacherous, hilly paths without spilling a single drop. Carefully, they must ration out the precious liquid to the barren soil and hopefully coax their crops to grow. Then, with hearts full of prayers, they barter the crop for bare necessities.

"The Island" is a microcosm of life. It encompasses the universality of all hopes, dreams, wishes and emotions. It depicts the enslavement of man to his needs. There are, of course, intermittent pleasures — brief and simple. There is tragedy when a child suddenly struck by illness, does not recover. But even tragedy has its allotted time. The ways of life cannot stop. While one lives, one must continue struggling.

Four people live and work together day in and day out. Sadness is captured in a fleeting glance. Fear is expressed by carefully picking one's footing among the treacherous island paths. The utter futility of escape from their existence is stamped on the faces of the simple people who never complain, never covet, never dare to hope.

"The Island" is a drama of fortitude and courage.

Produced by Kaneto Shindo and Eisaku Matura

CAST

Toyo (The Wife), Nobuko Otowa

Senta (The Husband), Taiji Tonoyama

Taro } (*The Children*) { Shinji Tanaka
Jiro } { Masanori Horimoto

CREDITS

Direction and Screenplay, Kaneto Shindo

Cameraman, Kiyoshi Kuroda

Music, Hikaru Hayashi

Lighting, Shunichi Nagai

Sound Recording, Kunie Maruyama

Editing, Toshi Enoki

A Kindai Eiga Kyokai Production

RUNNING TIME: 96 MINUTES

THE ISLAND

IN CINEMASCOPE

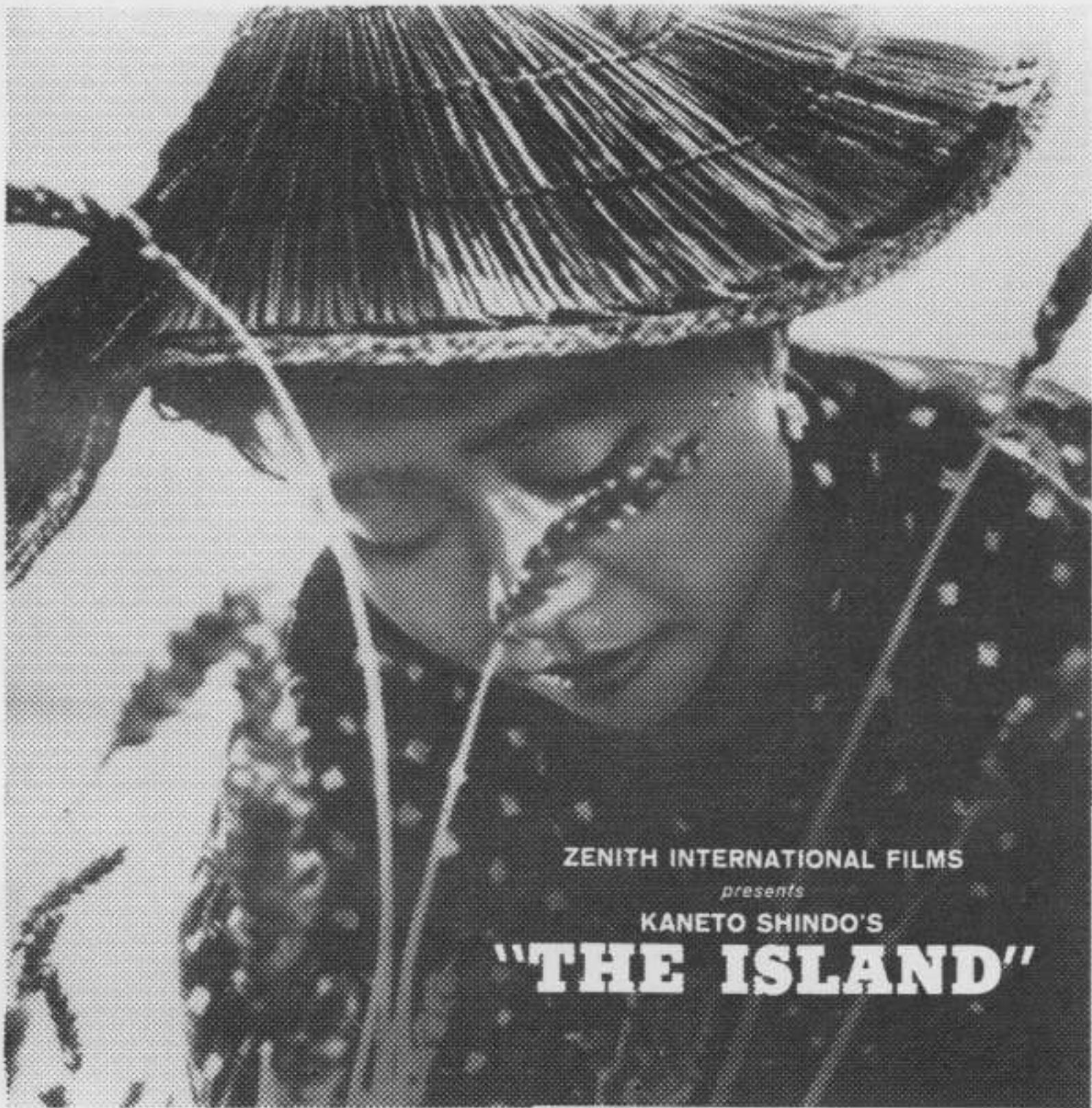
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REVIEW ADS

"A MASTERPIECE."

—GENET, NEW YORKER



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WINNER OF FRANCE'S
PRIX DE LA VICTOIRE.

BEST FOREIGN FILM
FEATURE OF THE YEAR.

★

"Full of visual wonders
that speak louder than
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"Tremendously powerful...
One of the most
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I can recall!"
—Jesse Zunsner, Cue Magazine

"Impeccable and beautiful.
The cast is astonishing...
merits highest praise."
—Saturday Review

"A masterpiece.
Deserves any award
that may come its way."
—Show Magazine

★

T H E A T R E

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—GENET, NEW YORKER



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OF ART SO PECULIARLY APPROPRIATE TO THE
GENIUS OF THE CINEMA MEDIUM THAT IT
SHOULD BECOME SOMETHING FOR THE BOOKS.
'THE ISLAND' IS ONE OF THOSE PERFECT FILMS."
—Archer Winsten, Post



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"A MASTERPIECE."
—GENET, NEW YORKER

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203 35 LINES X 2 COL.



NOBUKO OTOWA, starred in the Zenith International film, "The Island," the picture the New Yorker calls "A Masterpiece." MAT 1B

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205 53 LINES X 2 COL.

"A WONDERFUL WORK!"

—Paul V. Beckley, Herald Tribune

"ONE OF THE MEMORABLE FILMS!"

—Bosley Crowther, New York Times

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104 15 LINES X 1 COL.

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—Beckley, Herald Tribune

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IT IS ONE TO SEE!"
—Zunsner, Cue Magazine



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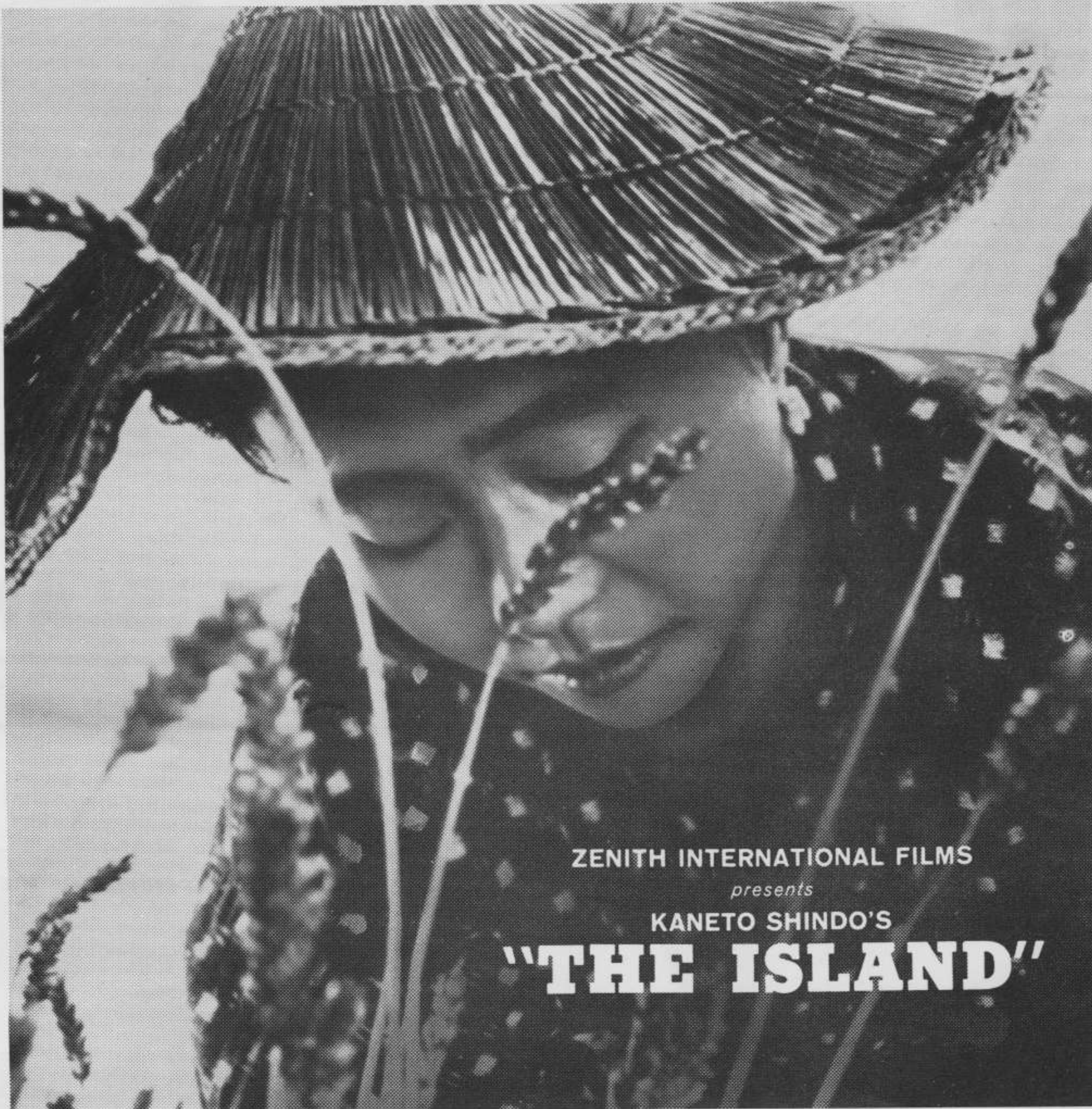
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"A MASTERPIECE."

—Genet, New Yorker



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—Archer Winsten, Post

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—Saturday Review



"**A RHAPSODY...**
Compellingly hypnotic."

—Alton Cook, World-Telegram

"Not to be missed!"

—Harper's Magazine

"An exceptional movie. It
speaks with eloquent force."

—Justin Gilbert, Mirror

"It is among the best movies of the year."

—McCall's Magazine

"One of the year's finest. So beautifully made
and acted, so genuine are its people and their
emotions, put it high on your 'must see' list."

—Rose Pelswick, Journal-American

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REALISM. ITS CHARM IS DEEP AND INEXTRICABLY ROOTED IN
REALITY. SHINDO'S FILM IS ONE TO SEE.**"

—Paul V. Beckley, Herald Tribune

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"**HIGHEST PRAISE!**"

—Saturday Review



"**YEAR'S FINEST!**"

—Pelswick, Journal-American



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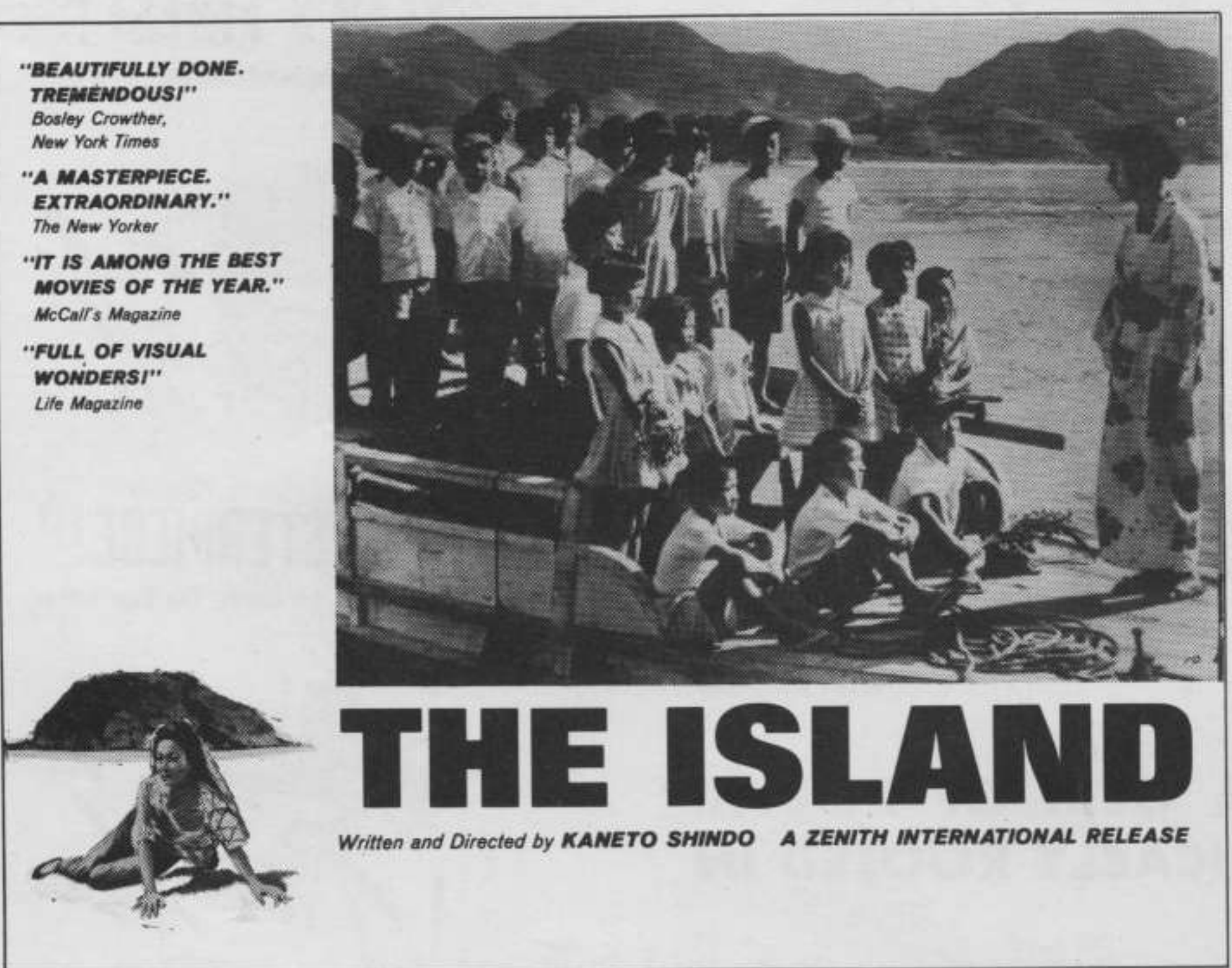
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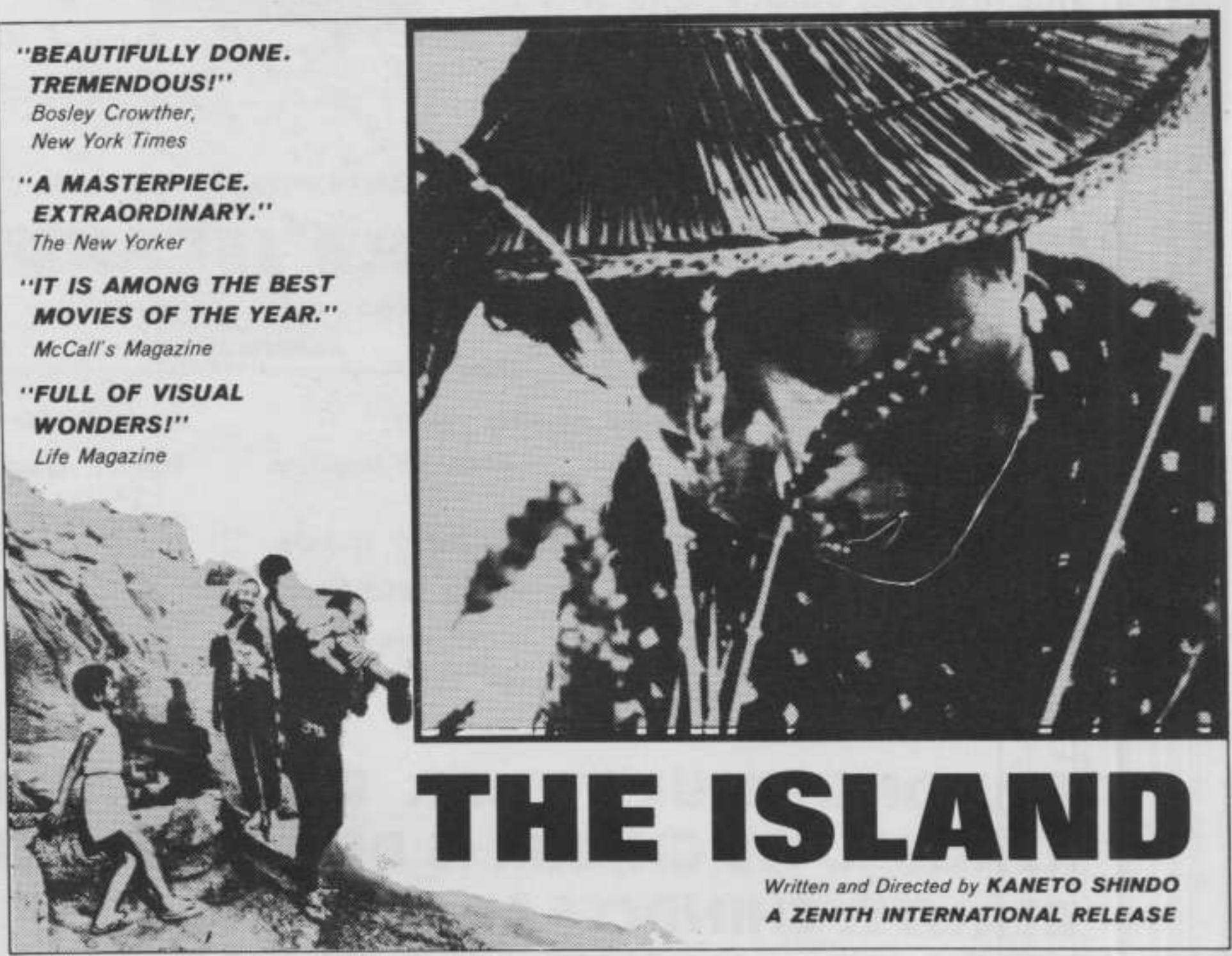
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