

Document Citation

Title	The rite
Author(s)	Roland Gelatt
Source	<i>Saturday Review</i>
Date	1969 Jun 21
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Riten (The rite), Bergman, Ingmar, 1969

SATURDAY REVIEW (June 21, 1969) by Roland Gelatt

While all this was unspooling at the Palais, other pictures were being screened full tilt in the smaller theaters of Cannes. Every day a reporter had to choose from a multiplicity of options and hope that he was not missing an unheralded masterpiece. Sometimes the choice was easy. Who would have ignored an advance look at Ingmar Bergman's latest film, for example? Never has there been a less cinematic picture. THE RITE is composed like a play in a series of individual scenes, with an almost stationary camera and without any music except for a few discordant notes from a twangy piano. The cast consists of four characters--a trio of itinerant performers and a judge who is conducting an investigation of their supposedly obscene act and whose defenses slowly crumble the deeper he delves. Like so many of Bergman's films, THE RITE speaks powerfully of alienation, of the barriers to human communication, of man's hidden lusts and insecurities and unacknowledged fears.