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THE INNOCENT SORCERERS

1960

86 min.

(Rental: C)

**Directed by Andrzej Wajda; photography by Krzysztof Winiewicz;
music by Krzysztof Komeda. With Tadeusz Lunnicki, Krystyna
Stypulkowska, Zbigniew Cybulski. Polish dialog with English subtitles.**

Representing a substantial departure in mood from his earlier "Ashes and Diamonds" and "Kanal," and from his later "Siberian Lady Macbeth and "Samson," Wajda treats the subject of a boy-girl encounter with considerable gaiety, mischief and exuberance. A young doctor picks up an attractive girl in a coffee house and offers her a bed for the night. The outward sophistication of both results in a classic game of seduction with moments of hilarity. Performances are excellent and the over-all effect is a warm and enchanting lightness rare in Polish films.

"His young doctor, with his motor-scooter, electric razor, tape-recorder and passion for jazz treats all these proud possessions as trophies; the emptiness and uncertainty begin where the status symbols left off. Polish directors find it easier to move further into the past than towards the shadowy present. This is what gives films like INNOCENT SORCERERS or Polanski's KNIFE IN THE WATER their exemplary value. They have absolutely nothing to do with the positive or the progressive; their standards are their own, their approach to life cool, sardonic and apprehensive." --- Penelope Houston, The Contemporary Cinema

"A sophisticated comedy of seduction. The film oozes with youth and director Wajda gives it an intoxicating sensual fizz." --- London Evening Standard

"It is a form exercise, not in love, but in the affair which may lead to love. It is composed in fluent lines of movement; I admire it." --- London Sunday Times

"Cool, smart and intellectually collected. A brilliant sample." --- London Telegraph