

Document Citation

Title	'Kanal' captures the stench, horror of war
Author(s)	Justin Gilbert
Source	<i>New York Daily Mirror</i>
Date	
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Kanal, Wajda, Andrzej, 1957

'Kanal' Captures the Stench, Horror of War

By JUSTIN GILBERT

The horror of war is usually expressed—at least on film—in terms of destruction and desolation. But in "Kanal," a prize-winning Polish import at the New Yorker, dirt is the denominator.

Not just mere dirt, but filth and excrement that line and choke the sewers of Warsaw, impeding the advance of Polish fighters moving through it, while the Nazi juggernaut above rolls into the city hours before its World War II surrender.

It is this offal, and the noxious waters carrying it, that invest "Kanal" with a graphic quality of fetidness unequalled by another movie. For, after the first few minutes in which the utter hopelessness of the Poles is tellingly communicated, the picture shows the exhausted fighters or-



dered into the sewers as the only possible means of moving about to harass the German advance.

The futility that awaits discovery by each victim including men and women from all walks of life, and the frightful muck and effluvium through which they wade, make "Kanal" a piece of realism troweled on the screen with fury and superb artistry by director Andrzej Wajda.

The acting is magnificent. Leading players include Teresa Izewska, Tadeusz Janczar, Wienczy-slaw Gliniski and Tadeusz Gwiazdowski.

The English sub-titles are about as graphic as anyone could hope them to be.