

## Document Citation

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## 'Adrift'

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN DIRECTOR JAN Kadar has brought us a beautifully filmed story steeped in Eastern European mysticism and shot on the awesome banks of the Danube with a photogenic cast in-



**Rade Markovic and Paula Pritchett in "Adrift."**

cluding Rade Markovic, Milena Dravic and the stunning new face of Paula Pritchett.

Kadar, whose fame has been based heavily on his Academy Award winning "The Shop on Mainstreet," ventures into folklore with this tale of a fisherman's fixation on a beautiful girl — Anada — played by Miss Pritchett — whom he saves from the river. The story is based on

the novel, "Something Is Adrift in the Water," by Lajos Zilahy, and it explores Yanos' (Markovic) tragic love for Anada and the consequential tragedy that befalls his wife, Zuzka (Miss Dravic).

The story line depends heavily on the structure of the movie itself, because the movie's beginning is, in fact, repeated near the end of the script. This double use of the scene where Yanos instinctively abandons his wife, who is dying from typhus, and attempts to rescue Anada who again disappears into the river, is pivotal to understanding Yanos' agonizing plight.

Yanos, in attempting to save Anada, is swept down river and comes ashore near a bonfire built by three river men. These men become Yanos' inquisitors and tormentors as he justifies his actions in flashbacks. These flashbacks serve as means for Yanos to expiate his guilt and offer us almost psychoanalytical insight into his obsession for this ideal and generally unknown girl.

Possession of Anada is impossible for Yanos, yet he cannot forget his responsibility to his wife. Following his encounter with the tormentors (one being the wonderful Czech actor, Josef Kroner), Yanos rushes home to feed his wife the medication to save her life. As he runs toward the house, the cottage moves away from him and disappears into the night, sealing Zuzka's death.

Kadar's message on the ideal and real properties of life are blended with degrees of mysticism . . . a simple statement on mankind is not forthcoming from the film. What is forthcoming is the beautiful direction, dazzling camera work and good acting.

— ALLAN G. MOTTUS