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TUESDAY

THE TRIAL (1962)

Directed and written by Orson Welles. Based on the Franz Kafka novel. With Anthony Perkins, Jeanne Moreau, Romy Schneider, and Akim Tamiroff. **Public Theater: 6 p.m.; also Thursday, May 5, at 6 p.m.** (Continuing "Welles by Welles" retrospective.)

The Trial, Welles on Kafka, proved to be superfluous, like Mondrian's white on white. At the beginning of the film, Welles presents a disclaimer, recited to some evocative pin-screen images by Alexandre Alexieff, claiming

that what follows has the logic of a dream. But *The Trial* is more a dream of a dream of something. The director converted the grand Parisian train station Gare d'Orsay into the starkly etched interrogation rooms, law archives, and courtroom waiting halls of Joseph K.'s legal nightmare, but he also made this Kafka adaptation a plunge down a dark rabbit hole: no sense of humor or display of metaphysical wit lightens the fall. *The Trial* is also populated by grotesque male caricatures and reigning European sex goddesses, who show a chilling lack of rapport. ■

Research: Jack Douglas



The Trial: A-maze-ing Welles at the Public Theater

From V. Voice

"Revival in Focus"

by Andrew Sarris & Tom Allen