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IL GRIDO (*The Cry*) *LINCOLN Ctr* ~~*L'Aventura*~~
Italy, 1957; 116 minutes *10/92*

Steve Cochran plays a skilled hand in a sugar refinery who is completely bereft of any sense of purpose or capacity for emotional connection when the woman he loves suddenly abandons him and their daughter. (Antonioni said that the open horizon of the film's Po Valley landscapes signifies Cochran's total loss of bearings.) When this uprooted man embarks on an aimless odyssey with his little girl, their every contact seems to confirm that human beings are indeed cruelly separated by Matthew Arnold's "salt, estranging sea." By this wintry film's end, Antonioni has subtly linked the fall of his Everyman with the demise of a whole way of proletarian life, as plans for an American airbase threaten to level the sustaining refinery.