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Film

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BY RICHARD COLMAN

Film Forum, the most exciting movie theater in New York City, is presenting the U.S. premiere of Imamura's *The Profound Desire of the Gods*. This award-winning Japanese film is in many ways strikingly

similar to *Chinatown* (there's a freshwater supply problem) but the difference is that *Profound Desire* is set against a mythic backdrop of epic proportions. The trouble begins on a remote island when the engineer from Tokyo arrives to set the natives straight about necessity of using the fresh water from the Sacred Source.

The film is gorgeous. Though very long (175 minutes), Imamura keeps us interested with a wide range of material—including live action footage of a shark devouring a pig overboard. On the mythic side, far stranger things are afoot; Sisyphean tasks, incest, primitive rituals. Really, it's fun.

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