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# FAMILY LIFE

KRZYSZTOF ZANUSSI 1971

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FAMILY LIFE has been described as a "Socialist Cherry Orchard," as good a capsule description for this masterwork as any, though the adjective "Socialist" could only refer to the film's country of origin. In theme and execution, FAMILY LIFE resembles a sophisticated Western study of decaying aristocracy and cross generation conflict. In attention to decor and mis-en-scene, the film looks like a Joseph Losey picture: as a psychological chamber play, in which manipulations of guilt play a large part in the screenplay, FAMILY LIFE is heavily Bergmanesque. Coming from Poland, however, it is a unique and original picture, confirming the talent of Poland's most promising new director. Daniel Olbrychski stars as a young engineer tricked into visiting his sick father, a former factory owner from whom he had been estranged for years. The whole film consists of the night the son and a friend of peasant origin spend in the crumbling family mansion, which is also inhabited by the engineer's neurotic sister, played sensationally by Grotowski alumna Maja Komorowska. Color. 90 min.

Short: GAMES, a 30-minute ballet based on the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice. Directed by Grzegorz Lasota.