

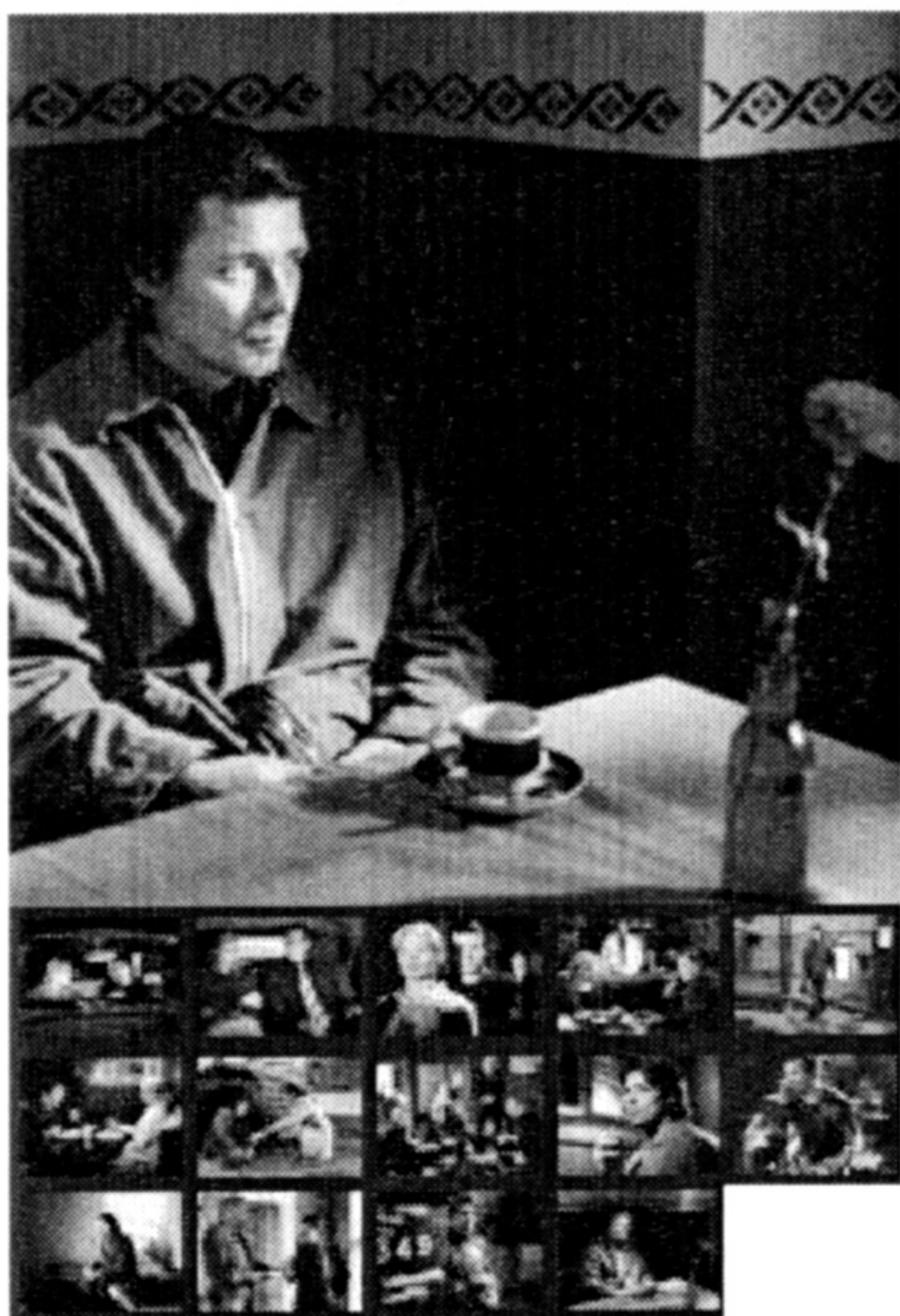
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Lights in the Dusk (Lautakaipungin valot)

BOOK

Oct 27 - 18:00 Odeon West End / Screen 2 [[map](#)] [[add to my planner](#)] [[BOOK TICKETS](#)]



The predictably rewarding final instalment of Aki Kaurismäki's Loser Trilogy follows its predecessors' themes of unemployment and homelessness with that of loneliness. Shy nightwatchman Koistinen (Janne Hyytiäinen) is virtually ostracised by his fellow security guards and lives alone in a modest apartment... until he meets Mirja (Maria Järvenhelmi), who seems to respond sympathetically to his slightly old-fashioned, even gentlemanly manner. Sadly, Koistinen's sense of honour is no longer the norm in a world brutishly devoted to the advancement of social standing, political power and material wealth... Kaurismäki's delightfully delicate cautionary fable charts his unassuming hero's descent into an unforeseen nightmare of deceit and violence with a characteristically low-key blend of humane compassion and deadpan mordant humour. The distinctively bittersweet tone is deftly maintained not only by the laconic performances but by cinematographer Timo Salminen's superb-as-ever evocation of nocturnal Helsinki and by a beautifully judged music track that juxtaposes Puccini with the tangos of both Carlos Gardel (Volver) and Finland's own Olavi Virta. A poignant reminder of the lot of the emotional 'have-nots' in our world, this dark jewel of a film glows with genuine warmth and a small but enriching glimmer of hope.

Geoff Andrew

Cast and Credits:

Directed by Aki Kaurismäki
Written by Aki Kaurismäki
With Janne Hyytiäinen, Maria Järvenhelmi, Maria Heiskanen
Country Finland-Germany-France

Year of Production 2006

Running Time 80 minutes

Distributor Artificial Eye

Your reviews

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2006-10-31 - Posted by **Philip**

Believe it or not, this is the first Kaurismäki I've managed to see – something always seemed to go wrong, before. So I can spare you any odious comparisons.