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Imperativ (Imperative), Zanussi, Krzysztof, 1982

Wed., Thurs., Oct. 20, 21 (Willey 125) 7:30 p.m.

Polish Director-in-Exile Krzysztof Zanussi

in person

His Two Latest Films

The Imperative

A tale of exorcism about a man in crisis trying to find himself, film stars British thesp (to quote Variety) Robert Powell (Gustav Mahler in the Ken Russell film) as a mathematics professor who is up against adjusting to life, with too many things plaguing him about conventions, ideas and religion. Insisting his science had discovered nothing, he sees his old university mentor, talks to a theologian, meets an old Orthodox Bulgarian priest, steals an icon at a sacred altar, alienates his girlfriend by strange behavior and suffers temptations like St. Augustine, his namesake. "Fascinating tale full ideas," commented Variety's Ron Holloway. "Powell has a sort of illuminated quality that fits the role. The realm of ideas is given a visual force by Zanussi's observation." Made for Saar tv, though not a telefilm, film won special jury prize and acting prize for Powell at last month's Venice Film Fest and is due for Chicago Fest showing in Nov. W. Germany 1982/ dir. Krzysztof Zanussi b&w/color 96 min. In English. With Brigitte Fossey and Leslie Caron.

The Unapproachable

With her housemaid the only contact with the outside world, a former star of stage and screen (Leslie Caron) lives as a recluse in a luxurious villa lodging a private art collection and a rare Canaletto painting. Under guise as a student of art history, a friend of an old acquaintance seeks to gain entrance to the forbidden villa in order to get a rare interview and photos of the Canaletto hung in the bedroom of Madame. Before fulfilling his scheme, however, the young intruder needs to seduce the maid, spend the night with Caron. In this "kammerspiel" drama, full of surprise twists and "one-upmanship" dialog, Zanussi and his Polish team, working for German-Austrian tv, have adapted two one-act plays Zanussi first tried out in his student theater days in Warsaw. Germany 1982/ dir. Krzysztof Zanussi color 92 min. (co-scripted by writer-filmmaker Edward Zebrowski.) Set for London Film Fest '82 presentation.





Zanussi