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Ulysses ~~ADD~~

Translating James Joyce's Ulysses to the screen was a project that apparently ~~tempted~~ ^{but intimidated most,} many filmmakers, including Sergei Eisenstein, who wrote several treatments and then abandoned the project. If the verbal and structural complexity ^{ies} of the novel ~~was~~ ^{were} not ~~enough intimidating~~ ^{obstacle} enough, ~~for most~~ ~~its~~ ~~notorious~~ sexual candor promised a film that might itself become a censorship test case. Joseph Strick's Ulysses meets both challenges in an interesting way. Making no ~~attempt to find a~~ ^{claims to having found a} cinematic equivalent for Joyce's encyclopedic "eye," Strick creates ~~a~~ ~~relatively~~ ~~mundane~~ ~~evocation~~ ~~of~~ ~~Dublin~~ ~~that~~ ~~is~~ ~~atmospheric~~ ~~and~~ ~~highly~~ ~~intelligent~~ ~~if~~ ~~not~~ ~~particularly~~ ~~Joycean~~. Where Strick makes his reverent attempt at fidelity to his source ~~source~~ is in the soundtrack, for which the film is indeed notable. ^{He offers} ~~offering~~ his excellent, mostly Irish cast ~~with~~ ~~Joyce's~~ ~~own~~ ~~dialogues~~ ~~and~~ ~~commentaries~~ ^{, soliloquies and} (though obviously abridged) with which to work. ^{Thus, ~~the~~} ~~he~~ ~~maintains~~ ~~the~~ ~~explicit~~ ~~eroticism~~ ^{through} ~~the~~ ~~soundtrack~~ ~~the~~ ~~explicit~~ ~~eroticism~~ and uniqueness of Joyce's language, as well as the fullness of his very human characters. ~~And it is thus~~ ~~the~~ ~~film~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~even~~ And, thus the film sailed through U.S. customs. (SB)

Directed and Produced by Joseph Strick. Written by Strick and Fred Haines from the novel by James Joyce. Photographed by Wolfgang Suschitzky. With Barbara Jefford, Milo O'Shea, Maurice Rooves, T. P. McKenna. (1967, 140 mins, 35mm, Print from The Goethe Institute, San Francisco)