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THE INDEPENDENT FILM JOURNAL

"The Savage Eye"

(TRANS-LUX KINGSLEY)

67 Min.

Cast: Barbara Baxley, the voice of Gary Merrill, Herschel Bernardi, Jean Hidey, Elizabeth Zemach.

Credits: Written, produced and directed by Ben Maddow, Sidney Meyers and Joseph Strick.

Art and specialty house patron should be captivated by this off-beat presentation which won the Edinburgh Film Festival. Newcomer Baxley is on screen practically all of the time and is fine as the girl who faces the hardships of life, gives up and then carries on again. Direction, production and editing are unusual and unique. It is certainly a film that will be talked about.

Baxley, divorced after nine years of marriage, arrives in Los Angeles to begin a new life. Bewildered, bitter and alone, she finds it hard living from day to day with nothing to look forward to but her alimony checks. She forgets her pride and decides to call her husband to seek a reconciliation but he tells her he is about to be married again. She picks up a boy friend, Herschel Bernardi, a married man, and gets what enjoyment she can but evades his advances until New York's Eve when she finally succumbs. The next day, feeling sick and unclean, she turns to religion and a faith-healing temple. Suddenly fed up, she rushes to her car and races into an accident. She lingers in a hospital between life and death and finally recovers. She seems cured of her physical and emotional ills and though still alone, she has hope.