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Los Angeles International Film Exposition NEWS

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Finland, 1983, 93 mins.

To be presented by the
1984 Los Angeles International Film Exposition
Picwood Theatre
5:00 pm, Tuesday, July 17

Director	Aki Kaurismäki
Screenplay	Aki Kaurismäki and Pauli Pentti based on F.M. Dostoevsky's novel
Cinematography	Timo Salminen
Sound	Mikael Sievers
Editor	Veikko Aaltonen
Set design	Matti Jaaranen
Music	Shostakovich, Schubert
Cast	Markku Toikka, Aino Seppo, Esko Nikkari
Producer	Mika Kaurismäki

Crime and Punishment is based on the classic by F.M Dostoevsky. In this version we are in modern day Helsinki and the protagonist Raskolnikov is now a slaughterhouse worker. Despite a jump of over 100 years the film is as faithful to the spirit of the original novel as any dwarf can be in relation to a giant.

The film tells of a lonely murderer around whom the net of the police is drawn ever tighter without seeming to bother him at all. In addition to the struggle between the criminal and the police, it also describes the desperate love between the murderer and a girl who happens to stumble on the scene of the crime. *Crime and Punishment* radiates the loneliness and dangers of the nocturnal concrete jungle, the total alienation of a murderer who cuts himself off from society, the story of a young man who wants to kill a principle but manages only to kill a person. The number of lice remains constant; it is the murderer's fate to bear his victim's burden, to become a louse himself. Perhaps we are all guilty. Of what? This is the mocking question that confronts us everywhere. It doesn't matter. We'll die anyway.

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