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Cinematheque

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MACAO *Spring 2000 P.7*

Directors: Josef von Sternberg & Nicholas Ray

USA 1952 80 minutes

Cast: Robert Mitchum, Jane Russell, Gloria Grahame

"A delightful bit of RKO exotica" (*Time Out*). Producer Howard Hughes hired Nicholas Ray to reshoot extensive sections of *MACAO*, earning Hughes von Sternberg's enduring contempt. On board a ship sailing from Hong Kong to the Portuguese protectorate of Macao we find Nick Cochran (Robert Mitchum), an ex-army man wanted for a shooting, Lawrence Trumble (William Bendix), a private detective disguised as a travelling salesman, and Julie Benson (Jane Russell), a nightclub singer (what else?). Trumble's mission in Macao is to lure a notorious crime boss outside the three mile limit, where he can be arrested, and Cochran and Benson are soon mixed up in the plot when Cochran is mistaken for a detective. The innuendo-laced dialogue traded by Mitchum and Russell as a hard-boiled couple is priceless. "Glorious, hallucinatory images of the lattice of fake moonlight swimming over cardboard sets" (David Thomson).

Thursday, March 16 8:45 p.m.