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FILM CENTER
GAZETTE

Sexuality in Cinema

DORIAN GRAY IN THE MIRROR
OF THE BOULEVARD PRESS

SEPT. /
OCT.
1984

1984, Ulrike Ottinger, West Germany,
150 min.

6:30 only

Ulrike Ottinger posits sexuality as a tool which the characters in her films astutely use to mold and manipulate each other. The world of DORIAN GRAY... is ruled by Frau Dr. Mabuse (Delphine Seyrig), fairy godmother mogul of an international press empire, who chooses a callow youth, Dorian Gray, to direct in creating juicy scandals for her press to report. By taking advantage of Dorian's narcissism, Mabuse will manipulate the handsome boy into doing her will.

Ultimately, the creature has the potential for becoming a monster as Dorian develops from an indolent innocent to a magnetic personality and realizes the uses of sexual power.

DORIAN GRAY... is one long visual seduction, carefully composed of images that combine poetic juxtaposition of the disparate with the hard-edged clarity of superb photography, particularly in Dorian's descent to the underworld with Mabuse as guide, where he is to experience the most extreme decadence in the final stage of his initiation as a media creature for mass consumption.