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Hamlet

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Critic Robin Wood recently cited this stunning 1964 Russian version of Shakespeare's tragedy as the only one that "could be claimed as having the stature, as film, that the play has as theatre," and it's easy to see what he means. Shot in black-and-white 'Scope, in dank interiors and seaside exteriors every bit as atmospheric as those in Orson Welles's *Othello*, this runs 140 minutes but feels more stripped-down for brisk action than such vanity productions as Laurence Olivier's and Kenneth Branagh's, and consequently

may be more compelling as narrative. Director Grigori Kozintsev (*The New Babylon*, *The Youth of Maxim*) adapted a translation by Boris Pasternak, and Dmitri Shostakovich contributed the score. Playing the title role, Innokenti Smoktunovsky isn't as likable as some other Hamlets, but his struggles seem more evenly matched with those of the other characters. Facets Multimedia Center, 1517 W. Fullerton, Thursday, August 23, 6:30, 773-281-4114.

—Jonathan Rosenbaum