KINONIK

THE SERVANT (1963)

Directed by Joseph Losey

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23rd 7pm



"I'll tell you what I am. I'm a gentleman's gentleman, and you're no bloody GENTLEMAN!" So snaps Hugo Barrett, the manservant at the center of the psychosexual class drama **The Servant** (1963), at his supposed "master" Tony. Based on the 1948 novella by the same name, **The Servant** is a noirish, creeping thriller that plunges into the class anxieties of 1960s Britain.

Director Joseph Losey moved his film career to London after being blacklisted from Hollywood by the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee. Working closely with Harold Pinter on the screenplay (the project started a lifelong friendship between the two that would result in several more films) they shifted the setting from the 40s to the 60s, streamlined the plot, and amped up the tension. With brilliant Dirk Bogarde (later knighted) as Barrett and James Fox as Tony – cast because he seemed "corruptible" – the two characters spiral around each other, intensifying their codependency and obsession with each beat. Enmeshed in their mess are the men's fiancees, played by Sarah Miles and Wendy Craig, both pawns and victims of Barrett's plot.

A tight cast, stellar writing, and stunning, moody cinematography all come together to answer the question: what if everyone in Downton Abbey had been out of their minds? Continuously off-putting and enthralling, claustrophobic and obsessive, **The Servant** is ready to deliver a movie night of corruption and delight.