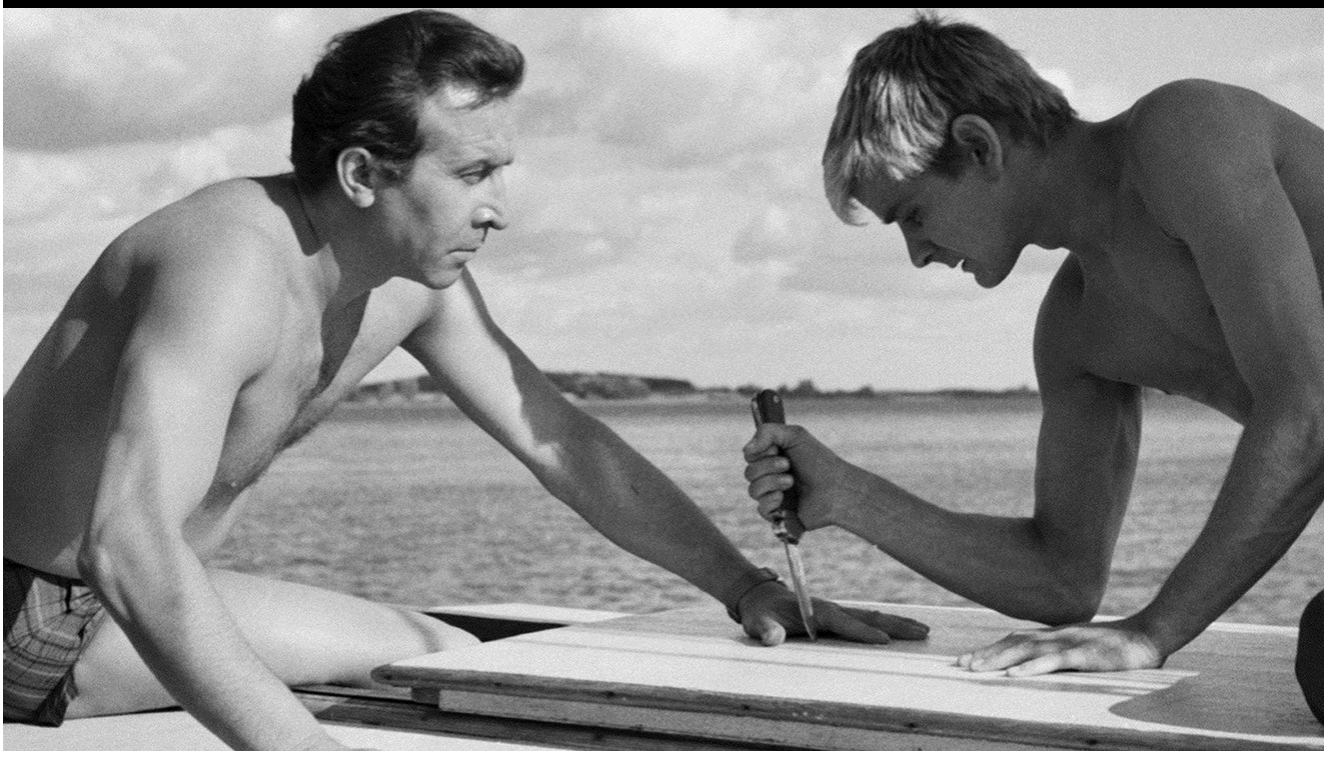
KINONIK

KNIFE IN THE WATER (1962)

Directed by Roman Polanski

WEDNESDAY MAY 14th 7PM



It's the *implication*...of two men, one intimately known, one a stranger, vying for the same woman's affections on a lonely sailboat in a frigid Polish lake. Violence, as the ***Knife in the Water***'s (1962) summary states, is inevitable. But in a thriller where "the weapons are glances, words," the exact nature of this inevitability—and its outcome—cannot be easily predicted.

Roman Polanski's first feature film, and only Polish film, ***Knife in the Water*** is part of his loosely connected ménage-à-trois trilogy (alongside ***Cul-de-Sac*** (1966) and ***Death and the Maiden*** (1994)). In each, a couple's life is disrupted by the intrusion of a third, often mysterious figure who stands as a foil to the man and a temptation to the woman. The dynamic which emerges between the three gradually strips away social niceties to reveal the barbarity of desire and possession driving each. Constrained as it is to twenty-four hours, and almost all taking place within the claustrophobia of a car and a sailboat, Knife pushes the tension to the absolute breaking point...and is more than willing to let the audience decide its end.

Combining accomplished scriptwriting, professional and amateur actors (Leon Niemczyk, Zygmunt Malanowicz, and Jolanta Umecka) and innovative filmmaking techniques, Knife in the Water is one of the best directorial debuts in modern cinema. Still considered one of his best films, its psychological viscerality thrums in the original 16mm. What do we want—and what reality do we choose to believe? Set sail and find out.