KINONIK

HEAVENS ABOVE! (1963)

Directed by the John & Roy Boulting

WEDNESDAY MAY 28th 7PM



“What was it that he said that got everyone so upset?"

"Be kind to each other."

"Oh yeah, that'll do it." – Good Omens

When a clerical error puts an earnest prison vicar in charge of a wealthy English parish, he immediately tries to better the community. Defying racist norms, housing the unhoused, feeding the hungry – basically, getting on everyone's nerves. **Heavens Above!** (1963) satirizes small-town 1960s Britain, religion, and capitalism, a quieter hit among the Boulting Brothers' ouvre of "friendly jabs".

Twins and collaborators, the Boulting Brothers typically alternated roles, with one producing and the other directing. **Heavens Above!** is one of three of the films they co-directed, and their socialist beliefs and wry take on human nature is on full display. Both believing that humans are good enough to look out for each other and that humans are fantastic at getting in their own way, Heavens Above! jokes its way through solutions to our worst problems and then throws up its hands when we insist on having the problems again.

Peter Sellers stars as the kindly Reverend Smallwood, supported by a cast absolutely stacked with British character actors of the era (including Cecil Parker, Isabel Jeans, Eric Sykes, Miriam Karlin, and Ian Carmichael) and a quippy script by BAFTA-winning screenwriter Frank Harvey. **Heavens Above!** is a delightful dark comedy that might not know how to fix us, but sure does know how to give us a good time.