KINONIK

HERE IS YOUR LIFE (1966)

Directed by Jan Troell

WEDNESDAY July 23rd 7PM



Made in a time of both national and individual self-realization, Jan Troell's debut film **Here is Your Life** (1966) parallels the restlessness of coming-of-age against a Sweden in active debate about its structure as a country and its role in the world. An adaptation of a series of semi-autobiographical novels by Eyvind Johnson, which themselves reflect back on the impact of Sweden's neutrality in WWI, Troell interweaves the present and the past as 14-year-old Olof is thrust out into the adult world and seeks anchor points to navigate forward.

Troell was directly involved in nearly every aspect of production and what results is a poetic unity of elements, each choice nodding towards its thematic whole. Some scenes pass without dialogue, stunning moments of color break through the predominantly black-and-white film, flashbacks question and inform the present, and each character Olof comes in contact with alters his path through their own experiences or philosophy.

Olof cannot choose his country of origin, the time in which he lives, cannot cure the disease that renders his father unable to work and changes his family's life. But as he moves between logging camps, cinemas, the circus, sawmills, reads philosophy and joins political meetings, falls in and out of love, he begins to understand what he can choose, what he can change, alone and with others. Here is Your Life beautifully balances the tension between the world as it is and the world as we want it to be, and the beautifully and terribly mundane ways that dichotomy shapes each of our lives.