KINONIK

NORTH BY NORTHWEST (1959)

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock

WEDNESDAY September 24th 7PM

SATURDAY September 27th 7PM



Considered "the first James Bond film" and intended to be the "Hitchcock picture to end all Hitchcock pictures," ***North by Northwest*** (1959) barely needs introduction. It was immediately iconic, its creation standing as testament to Hitchcock's finely-tuned creative sensibilities. Initially, he and scriptwriter Ernest Lehman were tasked to adapt *The Wreck of the Mary Deare*. Lehman confessed to getting nowhere and offered to remove himself. But Hitchcock pointed out that the two enjoyed working together and Lehman's track record, suggesting they simply develop an original piece based on a few concepts they enjoyed: a spy who never existed, mistaken identity, a chase across Mount Rushmore.

Throughout production, Hitchcock stuck by his guns and his team. MGM wanted Gregory Peck, Hitchcock insisted on Cary Grant (even delaying filming to secure him); MGM wanted Cyd Charisse, Hitchcock cast Eva Marie Saint despite her typecasting as a "dowdy housewife" (Hitchcock assured her, "You don't cry in this one. There's no sink.") When the costuming supplied for Saint felt off, he took her shopping and they purchased a whole new wardrobe. When Cary Grant saw the train car set and told Hitchcock it was a shoddy job, Hitchcock took his word and ordered it rebuilt sight unseen. Martin Landau wanted to portray Leonard as a gay man; Hitchcock added a line to the script to support the character interpretation. After MGM demanded fifteen minutes be cut for runtime, Hitchcock reminded them his contract gave him editorial control and declined.

Again and again, Hitchcock trusted his vision, and surrounded himself with people whose collaborative and artistic abilities he could similarly trust. Nearly forty years of experience in the industry culminated in a project that was (by all accounts) a blast to film and a joy to screen. Audiences, critics, and the awards circuit agreed: ***North by Northwest*** was top of the box office for seven weeks straight, stacking multiple nominations and wins. A must-see in 16mm, whether this would be your first time on this wild ride or your tenth, join us at Kinonik on 9/24 or 9/27 at 7 PM.