KINONIK

WITHNAIL AND I (1987)

Directed by Bruce Robinson

WEDNESDAY October 15th 7PM

SATURDAY October 18th 7PM



After the claustrophobic paranoia of Polanski's *Cul-de-Sac*, we turn to Bruce Robinson's darkly comic masterpiece about two unemployed actors fleeing London for a disastrous "holiday" in the countryside. What begins as escape becomes its own kind of entrapment.

Withnail and I is a film about the end of things: the end of the 1960s, the end of youth, the end of bohemian delusions. Richard E. Grant's Withnail is one of cinema's great tragic clowns: a failed actor drowning in drink and self-mythologizing, unable to admit that the party is over. His desperate, quotable rage ("We want the finest wines available to humanity!") masks a deeper terror about irrelevance and the future.

Sound familiar? In an America grappling with its own anxious transitions— a schizoid economy, the decay of certain dreams, the sense that we're living in the aftermath of something — Withnail's combination of dark humor and melancholy feels startlingly current. These are characters stuck between worlds, performing confidence they don't feel, postponing the inevitable reckoning with reality.

Our series traces a trajectory from isolation to urban alienation. After *Withnail*'s pastoral disaster, we'll close with *Taxi Driver*'s full descent into violent disconnection. But Robinson's film finds something *Taxi Driver* doesn't: a bittersweet tenderness, a recognition that growing up means leaving people behind.

Plus, you'll get to see it the way it was meant to be seen — grain, flicker, and all. There's something about watching beautiful losers on film that feels just right.