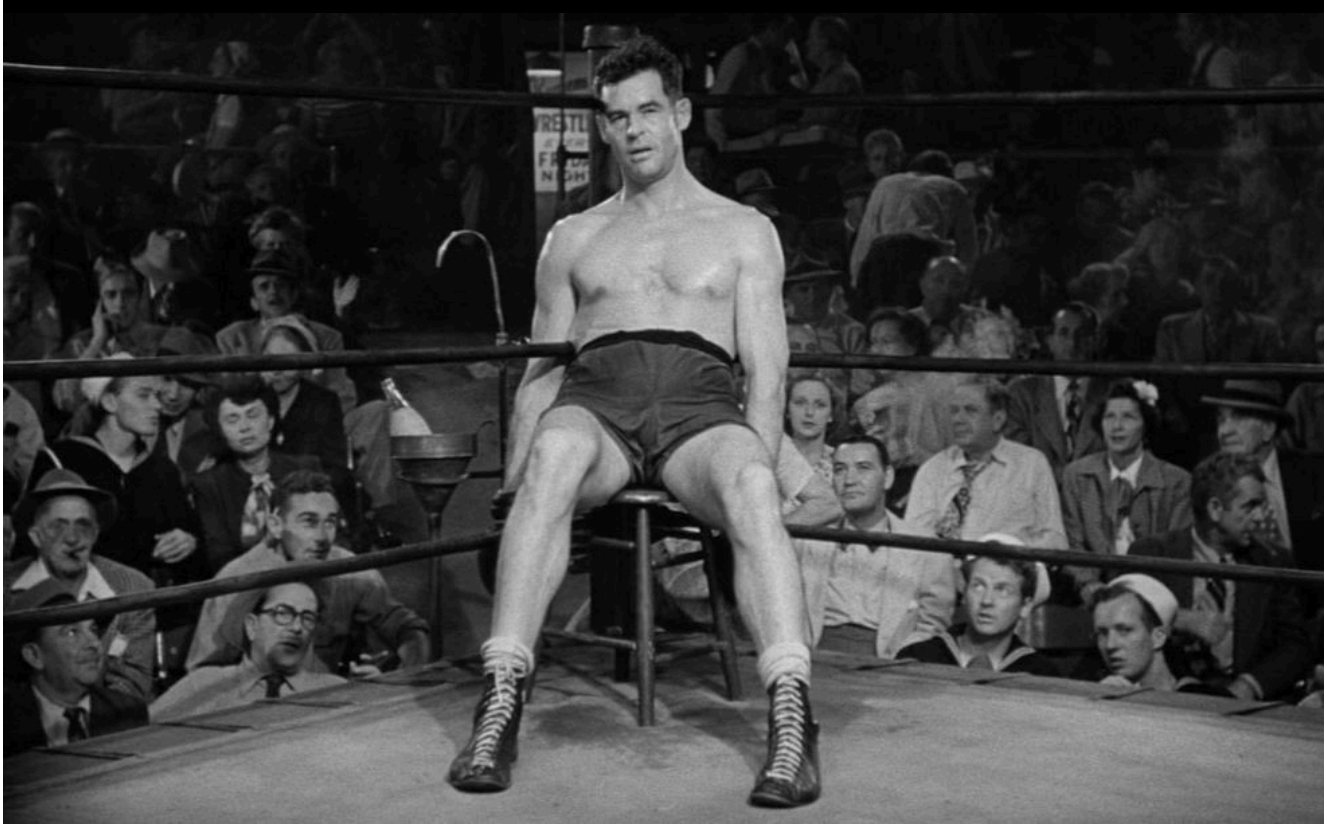
KINONIK

THE SET-UP (1949)

Directed by Robert Wise

WEDNESDAY November 12th 7PM

SATURDAY November 15th 7PM



The first rule of a rigged fight: everybody's in on it.

The second rule: if you're not in on it, you're the mark.

Robert Wise's **The Set-Up** (1949) unfolds in real time over 72 brutal minutes. Stoker Thompson is an aging boxer who doesn't know his manager has already sold him out - taken money for him to take a dive. But Stoker still thinks he can win. Still thinks the fight is real. Sound familiar? Think of Butch's gambit in Pulp Fiction.

Boxing has long served as American cinema's preferred metaphor for examining systemic corruption, reaching its apex decades later in Scorsese's Raging Bull. But where Jake LaMotta destroys himself through paranoia and rage— currents we navigated in last season's penultimate screening of Taxi Driver — Stoker's tragedy is one of misplaced trust: he believes in a framework that no longer exists, and he's the last one to recognize its erosion.

The question isn't whether Stoker's getting beaten. It's who gets to decide what counts as crime: the gangsters running the fix, the manager who sold his fighter, or the boxer who refuses to stay down when he's been paid to lose?

This Wednesday's screening opens a new series exploring how we define crime, how we recognize it, and how we respond to it - especially when the legal frameworks we've relied on start coming apart.