KINONIK

WHISKY GALORE! (1949)

Directed by Alexander Mackendrick

WEDNESDAY December 10th 7PM

SATURDAY December 13th 7PM



It's 1943 on a tiny Scottish island. Wartime rationing has cut off the whisky supply.

Then a cargo ship carrying 50,000 cases runs aground in the fog.

Is it theft to salvage what would otherwise sink into the sea? Is it illegal if the entire community agrees it's justified? And when distant authorities insist the law applies but everyone on the island knows it doesn't - who's right?

Alexander Mackendrick's **Whisky Galore!** (1949) is based on a true event: the SS Politician wrecked off Eriskay in 1941 with 250,000 bottles of whisky, most of which the islanders salvaged before authorities arrived. The film follows the residents of Todday as they orchestrate an elaborate mass larceny operation, hiding their haul from Captain Waggett - an officious English Home Guard commander convinced that rules must be followed regardless of circumstances.

Throughout this series, we've watched individuals struggle against corrupt systems. **Whisky Galore!** shows us something different: an entire community that simply opts out of the legal framework and gets away with it. Not because the law is broken, but because they've collectively decided it's wrong.

Released alongside **Passport to Pimlico** and **Kind Hearts and Coronets**, this Ealing Studios classic established the genre: small communities resisting powerful external forces through wit, solidarity, and cheerful lawbreaking. American censors forced the filmmakers to add a coda claiming the stolen whisky brought unhappiness - completely fabricated. In reality, the people of Eriskay enjoyed their salvage for years.

It's a comedy. It's delightful. And it celebrates crime as heroic community action.