KINONIK

PAPER MOON (1973)

Directed by Peter Bogdanovich

WEDNESDAY February 25th 7PM

SATURDAY February 28th 7PM



The sound of silver coins on wood. A nine-year-old orphan counting change with the precision of an accountant. László Kovács making Kansas dust look like Walker Evans photographs come to life. Moze Pray and Addie Loggins running Bible cons on widows — small grifts, survival money, nothing grand. She's probably not his daughter. She has no one else. Nor does he.

Bogdanovich developed this film through 1972 as the Watergate investigation built — Nixon's presidency slowly revealed as pure con game, American democracy exposed as hustle. Hunter S. Thompson read that moment and wrote the autopsy in real time while Bogdanovich had dinner with John Ford. He looked at 1972 America and reached back to the Depression not for charm but for clarity: same economic violence, same choice between starving or running the scam yourself.

In today’s news we get names, transactions, redactions. Fire sales on Bibles hawked by the President while he tells journalists they owe him a smile. Addie can see perfectly well there's nothing to smile about.

Tatum O'Neal was eight, had never acted, won the Oscar at ten. Bogdanovich cast real father and daughter to play characters who might be father and daughter — he needed that specific chemistry of trust and tension, blood and hustle, family constructed from necessity.

Watch her face. Listen for the coins.