KINONIK

THE VIRGIN SPRING (1960)

Directed by Ingmar Bergman

WEDNESDAY April 8th 7PM

SATURDAY April 11th 2PM / 7PM



The morning after a dance, wealthy Töre sends his richly dressed daughter on a minor pilgrimage across the medieval landscape with only God and her jealous maidservant for protection. She is to deliver candles to a distant church as a sign of piety. Betrayed by her servant and forsaken by God, she never arrives. Faced with the consequences of his faith and vengeance, Töre vows to build a monument to God on the site of tragedy.

Bergman's austere and harrowing first collaboration with cinematographer Sven Nykvist takes place during Sweden's protracted and miserable transition to Christianity; a centuries-long upheaval which inverted deeply held beliefs about the laws of nature and humanity. A new morality was emerging, in which purity, submission, and faith became the prerequisites of prosperity.

The Virgin Spring won an Academy award in 1961 despite accusations of obscenity. Today, in a society motivated by the principle that profit is next to Godliness, the film reminds us of the dictum: never let a crisis go to waste.