# AGUIRRE, THE WRATH OF GOD (1972)

**Directed by Werner Herzog**

**WEDNESDAY June 24th 7PM**

**SATURDAY June 27th 2PM / 7PM**



In search of untold power and riches, a treacherous conquistador discovers that cruelty is its own special kind of rocket fuel. Man will not stop him. Nature will not stop him. Even God will not... well, maybe God will stop him. Eventually.

But enough about Elon Musk. This is about Lope de Aguirre and his fanatic search for El Dorado which ultimately lead to his execution for the crime of lèse-majesté.

The first of Herzog and Kinski's legendary collaborations, Aguirre, The Wrath of God endures as a masterpiece of New German cinema. Stark, minimal, ineffable, Aguirre does with the Peruvian jungle what Teshigehara did with arid dunes. Few films have such potent physicality.

It was a hellishly difficult production. In Herzog on Herzog, Paul Cronin asked the director if it was true that he had threatened to kill Kinski if he walked off the set.

*"Yes. For Kinski to have left the set meant he would have violated a duty I felt was beyond and more important than each of us. I only told him very quietly that I would shoot him, but I had no rifle in my hand. He had enough instinct to understand this was no joke or hollow threat, and screamed for the police, even though the next outpost was 300 miles away. The press later wrote that I directed Kinski from behind the camera with a loaded gun, a beautiful image. I love the press for its ability to be so lyrical."*

We're thrilled to present this powerhouse on 16mm as the last film of this quarter, after which we'll be taking a short break in order to finish the projection booth. Thanks to all of you for your enthusiasm and support!