

WORKSHOP FILM GROUP  
66 Laurel Street, Willoughby.

P R O G R A M M E N O T E S

FRIDAY - JULY 4th-

"RED PSALM"

88' Col.

Hungary, 1972

Dir: Miklos Jancso.

Awarded Best Director, Cannes 1972.

Also called "The People Still Ask", which is a correct translation of the Hungarian title "Meg Ker A Nep", this is in the highly original styling of a master who has reached perfection with the kind of film he enjoys making so much. His story is set at the end of the 19th century, and using the vastness of the Great Hungarian Plain, he relates an incident in the lives of a stubborn group of peasants struggling for recognition of their rights and a better deal from their landlord.

The film is rich in colour, the characters carefully choreographed. The busy camera captures the turmoil of the people - depicting beautiful girls, who strip naked, violence which erupts suddenly in apparently meaningless spurts, horses which gallop in circles and soldiers who appear then disappear. To all this is added a new surreal quality typified by the ending in which a solitary peasant girl provides her own solution...

FRIDAY - JULY 18th-

"THRONE OF BLOOD"

110' B/W.

Japan, 1957

Dir: Akira Kurosawa.

Maker of 'Rashomon' and 'Seven Samurai'

Japan's most esteemed director, Kurosawa, had long considered making a Japanese version of "Macbeth". This is the result, and he has perfectly placed the original plot in a thirteenth century Japanese setting.

Beyond adding a few original incidents the director has not attempted to change the Shakespearean original. He has created a film of unique texture, magnificent in its scenes of the old Japanese battles with their individual close combat action; evocative in its portrayal of the guilty couple with their sense of sinister intimacy.

SUNDAY - JULY 20th-

"BAD COMPANY"

92' Col.

U.S.A., 1972

Dir: Robert Benton.

Players: Jeff Bridges, Jim Davis.

"Bad Company" is the latest film from Benton and David Newman, the writers of "Bonnie and Clyde" and "There was a Crooked Man." It fits snugly in the "likeable losers" tradition of their earlier films. The characters Jake and Drew lead a group of ragtail youths across the American plains of the Civil War years armed only with a big dream in their heads and petty larceny in their hearts.

Classically shot by Gordon Willis (no zooms, no long lenses used), "Bad Company" shows that Newman and Benton are able to demythologize a genre without debundung it.