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The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl / Die Macht der Bilder: Leni Riefenstahl

Ray Müller, Germany, 1993; 180m

While it is accepted that Riefenstahl sold her soul to the devil and her talent to Hitler, we've only had evidence of *Triumph of the Will* and *Olympiad* to go on, along with her curious African picture books. In this stunning, exhaustive documentary, Müller grills the 99-year-old Überfräulein on her politics and gets denials and contradictions that form a disturbing counterpoint to the film's extraordinary revelations. This was a dancer who scaled wintry mountains barefoot in Alpine melodrama, this was Dietrich's rival at UFA. This is the woman who taught Hitler how to present himself, who gave the Reich its titanic look. A treasure of technical information, the film shows the frightful consequences of aesthetic obsession without consequence.

Fri Aug 9: 4

The Match Factory Girl

Aki Kaurismäki, Finland, 1990; 70m

A poker-faced black comedy about a young woman's exploitation and revenge, pared to 70 minutes of perfection by the Finnish director. With searing economy, he lays bare the dead-

ened existence of his wallflower heroine, who finds a temporary escape from her tedious job and her loutish parents in the arms of an affluent but dubious Prince Charming. The mortified heroine may remind you of a Bresson martyr, but when she's dumped by her man, she's anything but passive in her revenge. Kaurismäki mixes deadpan wit with depth charges of feeling.

preceded by

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari / Das Kabinett des Doktor Caligari (new 35mm print)

Robert Wiene, Germany, 1919; 57m

The streets and buildings warp and tilt like broken toys, the jagged light and shadows are mostly painted in place, and the demented geometry of the town's rooftops would teach you the art of the nightmare if you were incapable of having your own. *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* was, is, and will remain one of the strangest films ever made: A traveling mountebank named Caligari sends sonambulist Cesare out to do evil deeds...or perhaps Caligari is just the kindly keeper of an insane asylum. A landmark of cinema, now restored to its full unnerving splendor.

Fri Aug 9: 7:30



The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl



The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari