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The Match Factory Girl

Tulitikkutehtaan Tyttö

Finland, 1990, 70 min.

West Coast Premiere

Showtimes: Sun., 1/13, 4:00 p.m., Courtyard 3

Director: Aki Kaurismäki **Producer:** Aki Kaurismäki, Klas Olofsson, Katinka Farago **Screenwriter:** Aki Kaurismäki **Cinematographer:** Timo Salminen **Editor:** Aki Kaurismäki **Cast:** Kati Outinen, Elina Salo, Esko Nikkari, Vesa Vierikko, Reijo Taipole **Print Source:** Finnish Film Foundation

THE MATCH FACTORY GIRL, a film about the troubles of the Finnish working class, is the last installment in Kaurismäki's **PROLETARIAN TRILOGY**. By stripping the cinematic elements to a stark minimum, Kaurismäki proves himself a true master of simplicity. Iris is a match factory worker in search of love and happiness, bored with the monotony of her days, and forced to face insurmountable obstacles in her quest for the most basic of human rewards. Her mother and stepfather are cold, callous, and exploitative, and Iris finds little pleasure in her home life. Thus, she seeks solace elsewhere and mistakes the sexual advances of a flirtatious man for something deeper. She is left with the burden of an unwanted pregnancy, and her problems suddenly become even greater. Kaurismäki's striking black comedy conveys a blunt cynicism laced with eccentric humor, and Kati Outinen brings to the character of Iris an ironically melancholy yet spirited manner of dealing with life's harsh blows.

