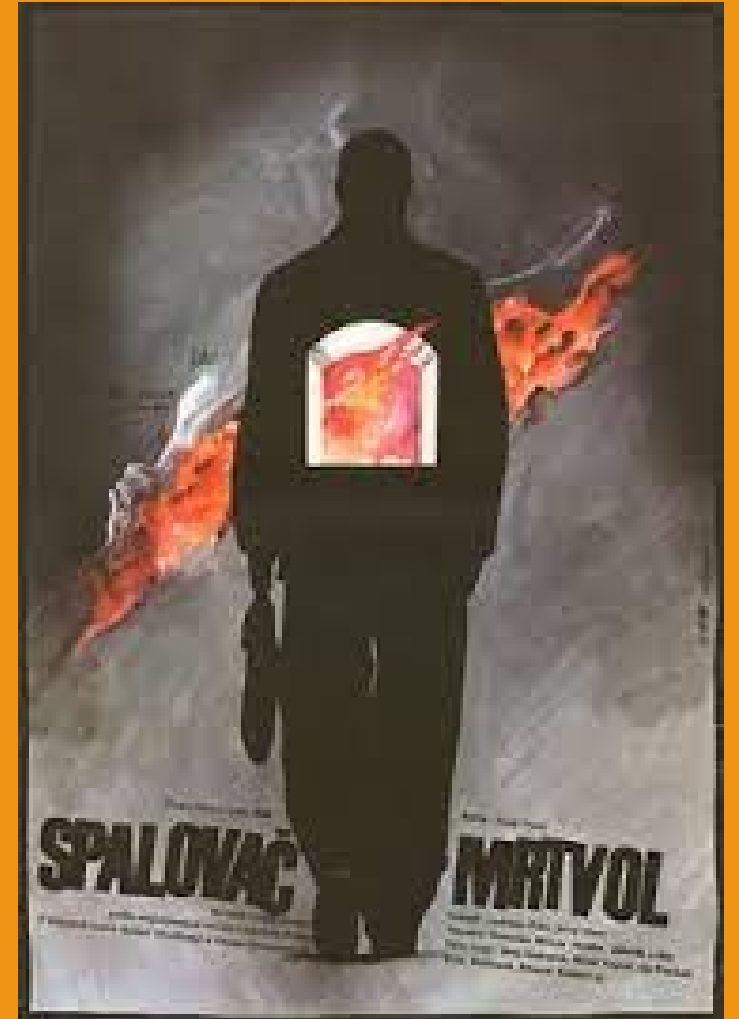


THE CREMATOR

Juraj Herz

What kind of people are used by Dictatorial Regimes



Cinematic Style and Format

- Distorted perception of the world conveyed by erratic filming techniques
- First person point of view provides unsettling personal connection
- Quick and jarring cuts and sudden zoom ins
- In many ways a horror film
- Incredibly inventive techniques and style



The 'type' of person susceptible to Nazism

- Patriarchal, masculine values prioritized - emphasis on strength
- Attracts men who feel they are owed something
- Men who feel a desire to be special or noticed
- In this case clearly already slightly unhinged
- 'Effeminate' characteristics must be removed



Ironic Inherent weakness of Nazi Characters

- Insecurities both physically and mentally
- Sexism - all the Nazi characters are shown to treat women as both inferior and as sexual objects
- Kopfrkingl harasses his young staff, his wife and frequents the brothel
- Women's role in the film is limited to that of a victim - no real voice
- Fear acts as a catalyst to push people into certain behaviours
- German army on the doorstep motivates many into self preservation



Concepts of Purity

- Kopyrkingl becomes obsessed with concept of purity
- Insistent on maintaining his good German blood
- Removes the 'taint' from his name and bloodline by eliminating all members of his Jewish family one by one
- Once again insecurities present
- Insistence on tee totalism - reflection of his obsession with purity



Betrayal and Denunciations

- Kopfrkingl betrays every Jew he knows in order to win the Nazis favor
- Key element of Dictatorial regimes is fear and mistrust
- Reliance on informants
- Omnipresence ensures suppression of opposition and facilitates cleansing of undesirables



Illusion of the perfect Middle Class

- Kopfrkingl constantly maintains that he has a perfect, content family
- Strict adherence to societal norms and roles
- So caught up in presenting his family as perfect that he lacks real connection, he is completely alienated
- Nazi emphasis on family morals
- A dangerous concept as it encourages submission and suppresses individualism
- Ideal conditions for dictatorial regimes

