

THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA (2006)

DIR: SOPHIE FIENNES

AVAILABLE: NOW

Analysing an impressively wide range of films, from *Duck Soup* to *Fight Club*, *City Lights* to *The Matrix*, philosopher and psychoanalyst Slavoj Žižek exposes the bubbling cauldron of primeval urges beneath every flickering frame. His thesis is that cinema's escapist fantasies are about as filthy as it gets or, as he puts it, that when sitting in the cinema we are "staring into a toilet bowl and waiting for things to reappear".

Sophie Fiennes' (Ralph's sister) masterstroke is to put Žižek *in* the very films he's analysing, making the documentary visually arresting and the man himself even more excitable. When getting into Tippi Hedren's 'motivation' in *The Birds*, he exclaims, "My God, I'm thinking like Melanie! You know what I'm thinking now? I want to fuck Mitch!" It's a fascinating journey, full of glimpses into psychoanalytical speculation, and a great excuse to revisit many brilliant, mainly familiar pieces of classic cinema. While there are few revelatory moments, this is fascinating stuff nonetheless. *James Bramble*

