...with feeling and visual intelligence, and there are good performances by Howard da Silva, Janet Margolin, and Keto Dullea. "To Kill a Mockingbird" (at the L S C Entertainment Series) is at its best in the children's scenes, but, even in their case, the film has not been completely successful in recreating the spirit of childhood. The rest of the picture is colorless, predictable, and somewhat dull.

FILMS OF UNUSUAL INTEREST

"The Last Laugh" Friedrich Murnau's epoch-making masterpiece. (At the Visual Arts Center, Harvard, Sunday at 7 p.m.)

"Rooce and His Brothers" For the first time in Boston, the uncensored version of V��zy's study of farm workers in a big city. (At the BU Student Union, Friday at 8 p.m.)

"The Passion of Joan of Arc" Carl Dreyer's great classic, of an emotional intensity approaching the level of a mystical experience. (At the Trimark House Movie Club, 22 Marlborough St., Sunday at 3:30 p.m.)

Within the context of the film, the characters and settings are too picturesque to be moving. Apparently Mr. Kazan has an American (and of a Hollywood director) trait: to treat his ancestors as human beings, to treat their customs and problems without trite, facile solutions. All the characters in the film, including the central one, are cliches - they could never sympathize with Mr. Kazan's grand-coule and his un-Americanism.

The reputation that Elia Kazan has enjoyed as a director, here and abroad, seems to me largely undeserved. I don't think he has ever done anything first-rate, and this film, whose virtues reduce to two reasons, is as uninspired and boring, chiefly for its subject is presumably close to Mr. Kazan, but it has not been completely successful in recreating the spirit of childhood. The rest of the picture is colorless, predictable, and somewhat dull.

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