

The Séance

(1965)

1. Lotte Kopitsky & Dr. **Zorach** Kalischer
 - adopts opposite tactic
 - begins w/mock myth, mock-romance, mock-occult
 - decrepitude; contradiction
 - she's a medium like he's a professor!
 - comical medium & has-been professor
 - parodic descriptions
 - Kopitsky: semi-literate dentist's wife
 - petit bourgeois + otherworldly pretensions
 - her** feverish imaginings
 - his anti-rationalist philo. + extreme hedonism vs. his impotence
 - pursued by the past
 - but also elective affinities?
2. The séance itself
 - conjuring the Surrogate Lover
 - flashback: 1942-Holocaust
 - Lotte's prophecies come true
 - now Nella's spirit appears in the flesh
 - his rebellion: no more lies
 - sees her behavior as self-deception + swindle [202]
 - the accident
 - exposes the "ghost" in the bathroom
 - wets himself
3. Moments of truth
 - has reached rock bottom
 - dressed in late husband's clothes = early childhood
 - realizes failure of Philosophy
 - DREAMs of new philo
 - ambiguous ending
 - does he believe in Nella's presence? power of memory?
 - are life/love eternal?