

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

No. 24
For Release:
Saturday, March 12, 1966

Nine silent films made in Russia between 1917 and 1928, including three never before shown in this country, will be presented at The Museum of Modern Art on March 17-19, March 24-26, and March 31-April 2.

Six of the films, from the Russian archives Gosfilmofund, were obtained by the Museum through the courtesy of the Cinematheque Belge and the Cinematheque Canadienne. The three other films are from the Museum's Film Library archive. The program is presented in cooperation with the International Federation of Film Archives.

The famous works of Eisenstein and Pudovkin have made familiar the theme of the Russian Revolution. With this program the Museum makes available the entertainment films -- delightful comedies, melodramas, and science fiction -- by Soviet filmmakers during Russia's most creative period of filmmaking, who discovered at an early date the techniques of today's cinema vérité.

Since it is not anticipated, for the time being, that the six films from the Russian archives will be shown again in this country, this is a unique opportunity to see these little-known films of an extraordinary period in the Soviet cinema.

PROGRAM ATTACHED.

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.

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NINE RUSSIAN FILMS 1917-1928

- Thursday
March 17 THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF MR. WEST IN THE LAND OF THE BOLSHEVIKS (1924), directed by Lev Kulechov. NO ENGLISH TITLES.
- 2,5:30
& 8 PM Mr. West, a naive American, along with numerous relatives, embarks upon a trip to the Soviet Union, but not before securing a bodyguard, a cowboy named Teddy, imagining the enormous risks one would encounter in the remote country. His security measures prove unsatisfactory; his bodyguard mysteriously disappears and Mr. West finds himself in all sorts of strange predicaments.
- Friday
March 18 THE STATION MASTER (1925), directed by Juri Zhelyabuzhsky and Ivan Moskvin. Russian commentary, French and Flemish titles. NO ENGLISH TITLES.
- 2 & 5:30 PM Zhelyabuzhsky's best-known film is a product of the Moscow Art Theatre and its Stanislavsky-trained actors. A version of Pushkin's famous story about the petty official in the time of Nikolai I, whose beloved daughter is abducted by a handsome hussar.
- Saturday
March 19 KINO-EYE (1924), directed by Dziga Vertov, photographed by Mikhail Kaufman. NO ENGLISH TITLES.
- 11:30 AM,
3 & 5:30 PM A forerunner of cinema-vérité.
- Thursday
March 24 BED AND SOFA (1927), directed by Abram Room.
- 2,5:30
& 8 PM One of the first films on the new society's effect on the ordinary person and the ordinary family. A comedy.
- Friday
March 25 ARSENAL (1928), directed by Alexander Dovzhenko.
- 2 & 5:30 PM A tale of the heroic efforts of the Ukrainian workers, symbolized by the indestructible Bolshevik worker, Tomoch, in rebellion against the overpowering forces of the cossacks following the February Revolution.
- Saturday
March 26 FATHER SERGIUS (1917), directed by Yakov Protazanov.
- 11:30 AM,
3 & 5:30 PM Based on a short story by Tolstoy. Father Sergius enters the monastery after discovering that the girl he loves is the mistress of the tsar. The story of his temptations on his way to becoming a holy man.

(more)

NINE RUSSIAN FILMS 1917-1928 (cont'd) -2-

Thursday
March 31 FORWARD, SOVIET! (1926), directed by Dziga Vertov. NO ENGLISH TITLES.

2,5:30 & 8 PM An early "City Symphony" film showing the efforts made to modernize Moscow, to renovate the public services, transportation and the cultural institutions.

Friday
April 1 THE TRIAL OF THE THREE MILLION (1926), directed by Yakov Protazanov. NO ENGLISH TITLES.

2 & 5:30 PM A banker named Ornano, trying to profit from the famine which has raged for years in northern Italy, undertakes a speculation for which he needs a large sum of money. He sells his house for 3 million rubels to a religious community, after bribing the "holy fathers" who direct it. The banker's wife sends her lover Guido a note telling him that he will find the money in their house. The note falls into the hands of the adventurous Cascarilia, who enters the house during the night. Here he unexpectedly meets his friend the thief Tapioca, but the banker arrives. Tapioca escapes and Cascarilia enters the wife's bedroom. Fearing that the note will get into the hands of Ornano, Cascarilia demands that Noris keep her husband with her until a given signal. Noris has to submit, and Cascarilia flees with the money. The police arrest Tapioca, taking him for the thief, and put him in prison. On the day of his trial Cascarilia appears in the courtroom and announces himself as the thief. In response to the doubt in the room, Cascarilia throws packets of counterfeit money into the room. Everybody scrambles to gather up the money and, taking advantage of the chaos, Cascarilia and Tapioca escape.

In the epilogue, a street urchin tries to steal Tapioca's gloves. Tapioca surprises him, telling the unfortunate thief that it is not the gloves that are important but the "sacred law" of property.

Saturday
April 2 THE YOUNG GIRL AND THE HATBOX (1927), directed by Boris Barnet. NO ENGLISH TITLES.

11:30 AM,
3 & 5:30 PM Not far from Moscow, Natacha Korosteleva lives in the country with her father making hats at home and taking them to Moscow to Mme. Irène's millinery shop. On a trip to Moscow Natacha meets Ilia Snegirev, a young man arriving from the country, trying to find lodgings. On the proposition of Natacha, Ilia agrees with her to a fictitious marriage and in this manner obtains the right to stay in one of the rooms of the millinery shop. After more frequent meetings, Ilia is no longer content with the fictitious marriage; he wants a real one, but does not get any agreement from Natacha. One day Mme. Irène pays Natacha, not with money, but with a lottery ticket. At the drawing, the ticket wins her 25,000 rubels. Mme. Irène and her husband try in vain to get back the ticket. And now Natacha becomes aware of Ilia's love as he is not interested in her lottery ticket, and she decides to become his wife.

Silent films with music arranged and played by Arthur Kleiner.

Program subject to change without notice.