

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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for immediate release

TEN IMPORTANT SOVIET FILMS FROM THE 1920'S ARE ACQUIRED BY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FILM ARCHIVES: TO BE SCREENED BEGINNING AUGUST 30, 1979

The Museum of Modern Art's Film Archives have acquired ten important Soviet films of the silent era from GOSFILMOFOND, the major film archive in the U.S.S.R., and will screen the films in their original versions without English intertitles beginning Thursday, August 30 through Tuesday, September 11, 1979. Extensive program notes will be available at each screening and at most screenings there will be piano accompaniment. The new acquisitions are shown as part of SOVIET CINEMA, a series-in-progress organized upon the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of Soviet cinema. The series, which began August 6, contains 17 programs including Soviet films already in the Archives. Each program will be screened twice.

The new acquisitions include key works by VERTOV, PROTAZANOV, KULESHOV, SHUB and DOVZHENKO, made in the years 1923 through 1927, part of a period during which the U.S.S.R. made significant contributions to the development of international cinema. The films balance out The Museum's already outstanding collection of Soviet films, according to Eileen Bowser, Curator of the Film Archives, who selected the films in the series with Larry Kardish, Associate Curator of Film.

Protazanov's AELITA (1926), based on a novel by Alexei Tolstoy and a precursor of modern science-fiction, is the first of the new acquisitions to be screened (Thursday, August 30 at 2:30 PM and Saturday, September 1 at 5 PM).

Three films by Vertov are among the acquisitions: A SIXTH OF (ONE SIXTH OF/A PART OF) THE WORLD (1926), FORWARD, SOVIET! (1926) and KINO-EYE (1924), a film which demonstrates "Kino-eye", his revolutionary approach to documentary filmmaking which involved his "search for truth in documentary through the use of editing and other

(more)

means of cinematic expression," explains Eileen Bowser. Vertov was a prophet of cinéma-vérité. A fourth Vertov film from the Archives, ENTHUSIASM (SYMPHONY OF THE DONBAS) (1931), will be shown in the series.

The other acquisitions are Perestiani's RED IMPS (RED DEMONS) (1923), the first Soviet film to compete successfully with all foreign films on Russian screens; DEATH RAY (1925) by Kuleshov who has been called the first aesthetic theoretician/filmmaker; A KISS FOR MARY PICKFORD (1927), a comedy made by Kuleshov's pupil Komarov, who combined, in this film, fiction footage with newsreel footage of Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks' Moscow visit; SVENIGORA (1927), Dovzhenko's haunting 'cinema-poem' of the Ukraine which the filmmaker termed "a catalogue of all my creative possibilities"; THE GREAT ROAD (compiled from Soviet newsreels, 1917-1927) by Shub; and THE CIGARETTE GIRL FROM MOSSELPROM (1924) by Zheliabuzshky.

In the 1920's, a decade which saw some of the greatest achievements in film, the U.S.S.R. set new standards for filmmaking and influenced the world of cinema through the work and theories of such directors as EISENSTEIN, PUDOVKIN, KULESHOV and VERTOV. Although the Russian film industry had already produced some 2000 films before 1917, it was not until the nationalization of the cinema in 1919 that film began to emerge in that country as a major art form and political force within a rich climate of artistic activity.

The Museum of Modern Art's film showings are free to the public with Museum admission or membership. The film program is made possible in part by public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts and by a grant from The National Endowment for the Arts.

SOVIET CINEMA schedule attached.

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SOVIET CINEMA

August 6 - September 11, 1979

Monday, August 6 at Noon	
Tuesday, August 7 at Noon	POTEMKIN (BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN)* 1925 S. Eisenstein (e)
Monday, August 13 at Noon	CHESS FEVER* 1925 V. Pudovkin and excerpts from
Tuesday, August 14 at Noon	KINO PRAVDA* 1922 D. Vertov (e)
Monday, August 20 at Noon	
Tuesday, August 21 at Noon	SALT FOR SVANETIA* 1930 M. Kalatozov (e)
Monday, August 27 at Noon	
Tuesday, August 28 at Noon	THE CLOAK* 1926 G. Kozintzev and L. Trauberg (e)
Thursday, August 30 at 2:30	
NA Saturday, September 1 at 5:00	AELITA* 1926 Y. Protazanov
Thursday, August 30 at 6:00	THE CIGARETTE GIRL FROM MOSSELPROM* 1924
NA Friday, August 31 at 2:30	Y. Zheliabuzshky
Thursday, August 30 at 8:30	
NA Tuesday, September 4 at 6:00	RED IMPS (RED DEMONS)* 1923 I. Perestiani
Saturday, September 1 at 2:30	
NA Monday, September 3 at 6:00	DEATH RAY* 1925 L. Kuleshov
Sunday, September 2 at 2:30	
NA Monday, September 3 at 2:30	A KISS FOR MARY PICKFORD* 1927 S. Komarov
Monday, September 3 at Noon	
Tuesday, September 4 at Noon	A BALLAD OF LOVE (TWO PEOPLE) 1965 M. Bogin
Thursday, September 6 at 2:30	
NA Sunday, September 9 at 2:30	KINO-EYE** 1924 D. Vertov
Thursday, September 6 at 6:00	A SIXTH OF (ONE SIXTH OF/A PART OF)
NA Saturday, September 8 at 2:30	THE WORLD** 1926 D. Vertov
Thursday, September 6 at 8:30	
NA Saturday, September 8 at 5:00	FORWARD, SOVIET!** 1926 D. Vertov
Friday, September 7 at 2:30	
NA Monday, September 10 at 6:00	ZVENIGORA** 1927 A. Dovzhenko
Saturday, September 8 at Noon	A SUMMER TO REMEMBER 1960 G. Danelia and
Sunday, September 9 at Noon	and I. Talankin (e)
Monday, September 10 at Noon	
Tuesday, September 11 at Noon	ENTHUSIASM (SYMPHONY OF THE DONBAS) 1931 D. Vertov
Monday, September 10 at 2:30	THE GREAT ROAD** E. Shub - Compiled from
NA Tuesday, September 11 at 6:00	Soviet newsreels, 1917-1927

* Silent film, original piano accompaniment by William Perry

** Silent film, no piano accompaniment

(e) Some English intertitles or subtitles

NA new acquisition

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