

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
August 1986

A SALUTE TO THE SOVIET REPUBLICS

October 10 - November 3, 1986

Special guests: Elem Klimov, Albert Mkrtchian, and Dilorom Egamberdieva

A SALUTE TO THE SOVIET REPUBLICS, an exhibition comprising seventeen films representing all fifteen Soviet republics, opens on Friday, October 10. Elem Klimov, who was elected president of the Soviet Filmmakers Union at its congress in May, will introduce his film Come and See/Idi i Smotri (1985) at 6:00 p.m. Armenian director Albert Mkrtchian will appear with his film Tango of Our Childhood/Tango Nashego Detstva (1985) at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Klimov will also introduce Farewell/Proschanie (1982), which he completed after the death of his wife, director Larissa Shepitko, who had begun directing the film and had written the screenplay. Farewell will be screened on Saturday, October 11, at 2:00 p.m. Melis Abzalov's film The Revolt of the Daughters-in-Law/Bunt Nevestok (1985), from Uzbekistan, will be screened at 5:00 p.m. and will be introduced by its costar, actress Dilorom Egamberdieva.

The exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art has been organized by Jytte Jensen, Curatorial Assistant in the Museum's Department of Film, in collaboration with International Film Exchange, New York; Sovexportfilm, Moscow; and Adrienne Mancia, Curator in the Museum's Department of Film.

The establishment of film studios in each of the fifteen Soviet republics has enabled the Soviet cinema to exhibit the nation's remarkable cultural and ethnic diversity, which until now has been little recognized abroad. A SALUTE TO THE SOVIET REPUBLICS marks the American premiere of most of the films in the exhibition. While Soviet films, regardless of their linguistic origins, are generally presented abroad in the Russian language, this series is the first in which the films will be shown in original language versions.

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Each production center in the Soviet republics has a distinct identity, from the oldest studios, such as Mosfilm, Lenfilm, and Gruziafilm, to the most recently founded, the Moldavian Film Studio, inaugurated in 1954. This is reflected in the thematic and esthetic range of the films selected for A SALUTE TO THE SOVIET REPUBLICS. The exhibition displays the variety of regional experience in the Soviet Union and provides a rare glimpse of the many currents at work in contemporary Soviet cinema. Included are new works by such established directors as Sergei Paradjanov and Elem Klimov, as well as by newcomers to the American audience.

Comedy is the salient feature of both Eldar Shengelaya's Blue Mountains/Golubye Gory (1984-Georgia) and Melis Abzalov's The Revolt of the Daughters-in-Law/Bunt Nevestok (1985-Uzbekistan). The anti-bureaucratic Blue Mountains displays the Georgian gift for satiric comedy in its depiction of the characters in a publishing house where a creative manuscript and a crack in the ceiling receive equally scant attention. The Revolt of the Daughters-in-Law is a humorous look at contemporary life in Uzbekistan, where several generations still live together and families average seven or eight children.

Recent history provides the setting for four of the films. Come and See/Idi i Smotri (1985-Byelorussia), directed by Elem Klimov, is based on the testimonies of survivors of Nazi antipartisan units and adapted from the works of the Byelorussian writer Ales Adamovich. A teenager is the focus of a fiction grounded in the historical reality of occupied Byelorussia in 1943, where 100,000 persons were killed and 620 villages wiped out. Set in Nazi-occupied northwest Russia in 1942, Alexei German's Trial on the Road, or Checkpoint/Proverka na Dorogakh (1985-Russia) is based on the war novels of Yury German, the director's father. The plot hinges on whether or not an officer's trust in a reformed traitor will endanger a partisan attempt to drive away a food train. The point-of-view of Ian Streitch's wide-screen Meeting in the Milky Way/Svidanie na Mlechnom Puti (1985-Latvia) is that of a woman soldier, a Latvian interpreter who encounters war's victims and perpetrators en route to her new post.

Albert Mkrtchian faithfully renders the early postwar period in Tango of Our Childhood/ Tango Nashego Detstva (1985-Armenia), which blends both comic and tragic situations in a small Armenian town. The plot revolves around a woman who finds strength after her husband leaves her for the nurse who saved his life during the war.

Several films are rooted in regional folk legends and fairy tales. Sergei Paradjanov, who created Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors (1964) and The Color of Pomegranates/Sayat Nova (1969), codirected with Dodo Abashidze the surreal The Legend of Suram Fortress/Legenda o Suramskoy Kreposki (1985-Georgia), based on an old Georgian legend. In order for a fortress to be successfully erected, a handsome young man must submit to being buried alive in its walls. Takhir Sabirov's Sheherazade's 1002nd Night/ I Yescho Odna Noch (1984-Tadjikstan) is a wide-screen extravaganza for both adults and children. Sheherazade recites to the caliph the story of the youth Azamat, who proves his courage and receives a beautiful princess as his reward. Fraggi Deprived of Happiness/ Fraggi- Razluchenny so Schastiyem (1985-Turkmenia), directed by Hodjakuli Narliyev and based on K. Kulijev's novel Makhtumkuli, is a historical drama about the youth of Fraggi, a Turkmenian poet and philosopher. At a time when Turkmenian tribes fought foreign invaders and lacked trust in one another, Fraggi wrote poems condemning injustice and calling for freedom. Tofik Ismailov directed Here You Won't See Paradise/ Zdes Tebja ne Vstretit Rai (1982-Azerbaijan), a costume drama with lavish sets and based on a fairy tale. The Lautars/Lautary (1972-Moldavia), directed by Emil Lotyanu, is an epic film about Moldavian folk musicians.

Two films in the exhibition explore the tenuous balance among man, nature, and technology. In Tolomush Okeev's wide-screen Descendant of the Snow Leopard/Potomok Belogo Barza (1984-Kirghizia), the hunter Kozhazhash, hero of Kurguiz folk legends and tales, leads his people. After a year of hardship, during which they slaughter animals unnecessarily, the people suffer the consequences of their acts against nature. The message of Elem Klimov's Farewell/Proschanie (1982-Russia), from a script by the late director Larissa Shepitko, is that technology is taking over the world and depersonalizing

man's relationship to nature. The plot revolves around the placement of a hydroelectric station on an island whose inhabitants have an intrinsic link with nature.

Intelligent studies of society that telescope on a few individuals characterize two films, Assya Suliyeva's My Home in the Green Hills/Moi Dam na Zelenykh Kholmakh (1986-Kazakstan) and Olev Neuland's The Bullfight, or Corrida/Korrida (1982-Estonia). Ms. Suliyeva's first feature, My Home in the Green Hills explores the dichotomy between urban and rural life through the comic misadventures of a young shepherd, who is forced to go to school in the city. The Bullfight, or Corrida, is an analysis of society in microcosm. A writer, his young wife, and a young male photographer form a love triangle on a small Estonian island. After bulls attack the couple's house, the men reveal their essential natures and the woman is able to choose her priorities.

Following the opening at The Museum of Modern Art, the exhibition will be seen at several other American institutions. The Soviet delegation will also attend the openings at The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; the Pacific Film Archive at the University Art Museum, Berkeley; and the UCLA Film, Television, and Radio Archives, Los Angeles. In addition, the exhibition will be seen in 1987 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and The Art Institute of Chicago.

A list of films to be screened at The Museum of Modern Art is attached. A complete schedule will be sent out in the near future.

Press screenings will be held from Monday, September 29, through Friday, October 3, at 1:00 p.m., at The Museum of Modern Art, Warners Screening Room, fifth floor. The press screening schedule will accompany the exhibition schedule.

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For further press information or photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

A SALUTE TO THE SOVIET REPUBLICS

October 10 - November 3, 1986

Films in exhibition

- Come and See/Idi i Smotri. 1985. Byelorussia. Elem Klimov. In Russian, English subtitles.
- Tango of our Childhood/Tango Nashego Detstva. 1985. Armenia. Albert Mkrtchian. In Armenian, English subtitles.
- Farewell/Proshchanie. 1982. Russia. Elem Klimov. In Russian, English subtitles.
- The Revolt of the Daughters-in-Law/Bunt Nevestok. 1985. Uzbekistan. Melis Abzalov. With Dilorom Egamberdieva. In Uzbek, English subtitles.
- Descendant of the Snow Leopard/Potomok Belogo Barza. 1984. Kirghizia. Tolomush Okeev. In Kirghiz, English subtitles.
- Trial on the Road/Checkpoint/Proverka na Dorogakh. 1985. Russia. Alexei German. In Russian, English subtitles.
- The Bullfight/Corrida/Korrida. 1982. Estonia. Olev Neuland. In Estonian, English subtitles.
- Sheherazade's 1002nd Night/I Yescho Noch Shakherezady. 1984. Tadjikistan. Takhir Sabirov. In Tadjik, English subtitles.
- The Legend of Suram Fortress/Legenda o Suramskoy Kreposki. 1985. Georgia. Sergei Paradjanov and Dodo Abashidze. In Georgian, English subtitles.
- Meeting in the Milky Way/Svidanie na Mlechnom Puti. 1985. Latvia. In Latvian, English subtitles.
- The Nut-Bread/Orekhovy Khleb. 1984. Lithuania. Bykhodjadurdy Narliyev. In Lithuanian, English subtitles.
- My Home in the Green Hills/Moi Dom na Zelenykh Kholmakh. 1986. Kazakstan. Assya Suliyeva. In Kazakh, English subtitles.
- Fraggi Deprived of Happiness/Fraggi - Razluchenny so Schastiyem. 1985. Turkmenia. Hodjakuli Narliyev. In Turkmen, English subtitles.
- The Lautars/Lautary. 1972. Moldavia. Emil Lotyanu. In Moldavian, English subtitles.
- Here You Won't See Paradise/Zdes Tebja ne Vstretit Rai. 1982. Azerbaidjan. Tofik Ismailov. In Azerbaidjan, English subtitles.
- Blue Mountains/Golubye Gory. 1984. Georgia. Eldar Shengelaya. In Georgian, English subtitles.
- The Unmarked Load. 1985. Ukraine. Vladimir Popkov. In Ukrainian, English subtitles.

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October 10 - November 4, 1986

Schedule (all films in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1)

Friday, October 10

- 2:30 p.m.: Tango of our Childhood/Tango Nashego Detstva. 1985. Armenia. Albert Mkrtchian. In Armenian, English subtitles. 91 min. Albert Mkrtchian will introduce the screening.
- 6:00 p.m.: Come and See/Idi i Smotri. 1985. Byelorussia. Elem Klimov. In Russian, English subtitles. 142 min. Elem Klimov will introduce the screening.

Saturday, October 11

- 2:00 p.m.: Farewell/Proshchanie. 1982. Russia. Elem Klimov. In Russian, English subtitles. 128 min. Elem Klimov will introduce the screening.
- 5:00 p.m.: The Revolt of the Daughters-in-Law/Bunt Nevestok. 1985. Uzbekistan. Melis Abzalov. With Dilorom Egamberdieva, Tursuna Djafarova. In Uzbek, English subtitles. 77 min. Dilorom Egamberdieva will introduce the screening.

Sunday, October 12

- 2:00 p.m.: The Revolt of the Daughters-in-Law/Bunt Nevestok. See Saturday, October 11, at 5:00 p.m.
- 5:00 p.m.: The Unmarked Load/Gruz Bez Markirovki. 1985. Ukraine. Vladimir Popkov. In Ukrainian, English subtitles. 92 min.

Monday, October 13

- 2:00 p.m.: Come and See/Idi i Smotri. See Friday, October 10, at 6:00 p.m.
- 5:00 p.m.: Descendant of the Snow Leopard/Potomok Belogo Barza. 1984. Kirghizia. Tolomush Okeev. In Kirghiz, English subtitles. 137 min.

Tuesday, October 14

- 2:30 p.m.: Trial on the Road/Checkpoint/Proverka na Dorogakh. 1985. Russia. Alexei German. In Russian, English subtitles. 99 min.
- 6:00 p.m.: The Bullfight/Corrida/Korrida. 1982. Estonia. Olev Neuland. In Estonian, English subtitles. 81 min.

Thursday, October 16

- 2:30 p.m.: Descendant of the Snow Leopard/Potomok Belogo Barza. See Monday, October 13, at 5:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m.: Trial on the Road/Checkpoint/Proverka na Dorogakh. See Tuesday, October 14, at 2:30 p.m.

Friday, October 17

- 2:30 p.m.: The Bullfight/Corrida/Korrida. See Tuesday, October 14, at 6:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m.: Sheherazade's 1002nd Night/I Yescho Odna Noch Shakherezady. 1984. Tadjikstan. Takhir Sabirov. In Tadjik, English subtitles. 82 min.

Saturday, October 18

- 2:00 p.m.: Sheherazade's 1002nd Night/I Yescho Odna Noch Shakherezady. See Friday, October 17, at 6:00 p.m.
- 5:00 p.m.: The Legend of Suram Fortress/Legenda o Suramskoy Kreposki. 1985. Georgia. Sergei Paradjanov and Dodo Abashidze. In Georgian, English subtitles. 89 min.

Monday, October 20

- 2:30 p.m.: The Legend of Suram Fortress/Legenda o Suramskoy Kreposki. See Saturday, October 18, at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 21

- 2:30 p.m.: Farewell/Proshchanie. See Saturday, October 11, at 2:00 p.m.

Friday, October 24

- 2:30 p.m.: Meeting in the Milky Way/Svidanie na Mlechnom Puti. 1985. Latvia. Ian Streitch. In Latvian, English subtitles. 91 min.
- 6:00 p.m.: The Nut-Bread/Orekhovy Khleb. 1977. Lithuania. Arunas Zhebrunas. In Lithuanian, English subtitles. 70 min.

Saturday, October 25

2:00 p.m.: My Home in the Green Hills/Moi Dom na Zelenykh Kholmakh. 1986. Kazakstan. Assya Suliyeva. In Kazakh, English subtitles. 67 min.

5:00 p.m.: Fraggi Deprived of Happiness/Fraggi-Razluchenny so Schastiyem. 1985. Turkmenia. Hodjakuli Narliyev. In Turkmen, English subtitles. 138 min.

Sunday, October 26

2:00 p.m.: The Nut-Bread/Orekhovy Khleb. See Friday, October 24, at 6:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.: Meeting in the Milky Way/Svidanie na Mlechnom Puti. See Friday, October 24, at 2:30 p.m.

Monday, October 27

2:30 p.m.: Fraggi Deprived of Happiness/Fraggi-Razluchenny so Schastiyem. See Saturday, October 25, at 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.: My Home in the Green Hills/Moi Dom na Zelenykh Kholmakh. See Saturday, October 25, at 2:00 p.m.

Friday, October 31

2:30 p.m.: The Lautars/Lautary. 1972. Moldavia. Emil Lotyanu. In Moldavian, English subtitles. 140 min.

6:00 p.m.: Here You Won't See Paradise/Zdes Tebja ne Vstretit Rai. 1982. Azerbaidjan. Tofik Ismailov. In Azerbaidjan, English subtitles. 77 min.

Saturday, November 1

2:00 p.m.: Here You Won't See Paradise/Zdes Tebja ne Vstretit Rai. See Friday, October 31, at 6:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.: Blue Mountains/Golubye Gory. 1984. Georgia. Eldar Shengelaya. In Georgian, English subtitles. 97 min.

Sunday, November 2

2:00 p.m.: The Lautars/Lautary. See Friday, October 31, at 2:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m.: The Unmarked Load/Gruz Bez Markirovki. See Sunday, October 12, at 5:00 p.m.

Monday, November 3

2:30 p.m.: Blue Mountains/Golubye Gory. See Saturday, November 1, at 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.: Tango of our Childhood/Tango Nashego Detstva. See Friday, October 10, at 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4

2:30 p.m.: Tango of Our Childhood/Tango Nashego Detstva. See Friday, October 10, at 2:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m.: Blue Mountains/Golubye Gory. See Saturday, November 1, at 5:00 p.m.