

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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Press Screening Announcement

DIRECTORS NANA DJORDJADZE AND MIKHAIL BELIKOV INAUGURATE
NEW VOICES FROM THE SOVIET CINEMA
AT MoMA NOVEMBER 10

Films by young directors with a fresh perspective on Soviet society, as well as works by more experienced filmmakers unknown in the West, comprise NEW VOICES FROM THE SOVIET CINEMA. The exhibition of seven programs by ten directors opens at The Museum of Modern Art on Tuesday, November 10, 1987. Georgian director Nana Djordjadze presents Robinsonada; or, My English Grandfather (1986), winner of the Camera d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival, as well as her 1981 short Journey to Sopot, at 6:00 p.m. On the same day at 2:30 p.m., Ukrainian director Mikhail Belikov presents his 1981 feature The Night Is Short.

Reflecting the Georgian penchant for wit and humor, Robinsonada; or, My English Grandfather recounts the tragicomic tale of a British subject working on a telegraph line in Soviet Georgia during the turbulent twenties. The Night Is Short, set in the postwar Soviet Union, tells the story of a soldier's search for self and national identity in his war-ravaged country.

The current range of artistic expression in the Soviet Union is reflected in both the latest and earliest films in the series. Two recent works candidly treat the problems of disillusioned and alienated Soviet youth. Yuri Podniek's documentary Is It Easy to Be Young? (1986) shocked the older generation and packed audiences into stadiums for continuous all-day screenings. Its fictionalized equivalent, Viktor Ogorodnikov's The Burglar (1987), is set in Leningrad's punk music and teen subcultures, which have their own moral values and exist on the fringe of Soviet society. Aleksandr Sokurov's Lonely Man's

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Voice (1978), dedicated to Andrei Tarkovsky, owes its aesthetic sensibility to that late filmmaker's irrational, lyrical, and emotional imagery.

A program of short films includes newcomer Yuri Mamin's Neptune's Holiday (1986), a satire on bureaucracy set among winter swimming enthusiasts in the snowy Russian North; Central Asian director Bako Sadikov's shelved Adonis XIV (1977), a political allegory using natural sounds to enhance the story of a goat leading other animals to slaughter; and Vladimir Tumaev's A Visit to a Son (1986), the tale of a mother's incident-filled journey to seek advice from her faraway son.

NEW VOICES FROM THE SOVIET CINEMA, which continues in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1 through November 17, has been organized by Jytte Jensen, curatorial assistant, in consultation with Adrienne Mancia, curator, Department of Film. The exhibition has been made possible through the cooperation of Sovexportfilm, Moscow, and the International Film Exchange Ltd., a Heritage Entertainment Company, New York.

Press Screenings

Tuesday, November 3

11:00 a.m.

Robinsonada; or, My English Grandfather. 1986. Nana Djordjadze. In Georgian, English subtitles. 76 min.

1:30 p.m.

Is It Easy to Be Young? 1986. Yuri Podniek. English voice-over. 80 min.

Press screenings will be held in the Museum's Warner Communications Screening Room, fifth floor.
RSVP: 212/708-9750

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For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752; or, for the International Film Exchange Ltd., Suzanne Salter, 212/819-1919.