

The Museum of Modern Art

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

No. 51

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 27, 1966

The current series of RUSSIAN FILMS at The Museum of Modern Art will continue from May 1 through June 28 with fifteen Soviet films made between 1919 and 1938. The films are from the Museum's film archives and the Russian archives Gosfilmofond, obtained by the Museum through the courtesy of the Cinematheque Belgique and the Cinematheque Canadienne. Many of them have never before been shown in this country. All of the Russian films, are silent, except for two, and have English or French subtitles.

Screenings are Sundays through Tuesdays at 2:00 and 5:30 p.m.; unless otherwise noted.

- May 1 THE ROAD TO LIFE (1931). Directed by Nikolai Ekk. With Nikolai Batalov. This, one of the first Soviet sound films, dramatizes, in a mixture of realism and sentimentality, the plight and rehabilitation of the homeless Russian youths orphaned during World War I and the subsequent revolution. ENGLISH TITLES. 105 minutes.
- May 2-3 *FRAGMENT OF AN EMPIRE (1929). Directed by Friedrich Ermler. With Fyodor Nikitkin. Through the parable of a man who loses his memory in World War I and regains it ten years later in the new world of Soviet Russia, this film dramatizes the social problems and conflicts arising from the imposition of the new order on the old Czarist culture. ENGLISH TITLES. 75 minutes.
- May 8-9 *POLIKUSHKA (1919). Directed by Alexander Sanin. With Ivan Moskvina, Vera Pashonnaya. A film version of Tolstoy's classic story about an ignorant peasant who is entrusted with an important mission, but, failing to carry it out, hangs himself. ENGLISH TITLES. 60 minutes.
- *CHESS FEVER (1925). Directed by Pudovkin. Pudovkin's first film, a topical comedy of the International Chess Tournament. ENGLISH TITLES. 20 minutes.
- May 10 & PROFESSOR MAMLOCK (1938). Directed by Adolf Minkin and Herbert Rappaport. Made by two refugees from Hitler's Germany. The earliest and still the strongest indictment of Nazi anti-Jewish persecution. ENGLISH TITLES. 105 minutes.
- May 16-17 *A SIXTH OF THE WORLD (1926). Directed by Dziga Vertov. Commissioned by the government trade agency as an advertisement of Soviet resources and possibilities. Vertov's most poetic and exotic film. FRENCH TITLES.
May 17: 2:00 p.m. ONLY.
- May 22-23 *THE FALL OF THE ROMANOV DYNASTY (1927). Script and editing by Esther Shub. Newsreel footage, giving a new dimension to material previously felt to be limited to historical value. FRENCH TITLES.

(more)

- May 24 &
May 29 *ZVENIGORA (1927). Directed by Alexander Dovzhenko. An anthology of legends, bound together by the theme of hidden treasure, ranging in time from the Viking invasion to post-revolutionary Ukraine. FRENCH TITLES.
- May 30-31 *PARISIAN COBBLER (1928). Directed by Friedrich Ermler. The heroine of the film, pregnant and abandoned, finds no aid from Party representatives, but eventually is helped by a non-Party deaf-mute. FRENCH TITLES.
- June 5-6 *THE HOUSE ON TRUBNAYA SQUARE (1927). Directed by Boris Barnet. With Vladimir Fogel. A satiric comedy about the confused relationships of the inhabitants of one house. FRENCH TITLES.
- June 7 &
June 12 *NEW BABYLON (1929). Directed by Grigori Kozintsev and Leonard Trauberg. With Pudovkin. Musical score by Dmitri Shostakovich. The story of the Paris Commune of 1871 drawing parallels with the Russian Revolution. FRENCH TITLES.
- June 13-14 *TURKSIB (1929). Directed by Victor Turin. The building of the Turkestan-Siberia railway. The film is a landmark in documentary. FRENCH TITLES.
- June 19-20 *SALT FOR SVANETIA (1930). Directed by M. Kalatozov. A study of the struggle for existence of the inhabitants of an almost totally isolated village in the Caucasus. FRENCH TITLES. June 20: 2:00 p.m. ONLY.
- June 21 &
June 26 *A SIMPLE CASE (1930). Directed by V. Pudovkin. The story of the off-and-on marital relations of two comrades told with visual and editorial virtuosity. FRENCH TITLES.
- June 27-28 *SNATCHERS (BONHEUR) (1934). Directed by A. Medvodkin. The story of a peasant who searches the world for happiness. Highly experimental, employing farce, vaudeville and surrealism. Regarded as one of the most original of Soviet films. FRENCH TITLES.

* silent films with music arranged and played by Arthur Kleiner.

Program subject to change without notice.