

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO SCREEN NEW ACQUISITIONS IN ITS COLLECTION OF INTERNATIONAL FILM

In its ongoing effort to acquire and exhibit representative films from around the world, the Department of Film has taken advantage of an exchange program of the Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film (FIAF) to add to its collection of postwar Eastern European cinema. With the co-operation of the Bulgarska Nacionalna Filmoteka, the Museum has now acquired eleven Bulgarian feature films from the years 1958 through 1979, which will be screened in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 from October 6 through October 20.

Eileen Bowser, Curator of the Film Archive and a member of FIAF's Executive Committee since 1969, explains that the Museum already has acquired representative films from the Polish and Czech film revivals of the 1960s, as well as collections from the national cinemas of China, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy, Germany, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain, as well as many other countries. With the acquisition of these eleven films from Bulgaria--all of them newly struck, 35mm prints with English subtitles--the Museum will present the first in a projected series of exhibitions of its collection of international cinema.

FIAF was founded in 1938 by archivists from The Museum of Modern Art, the British Film Institute, the Cinémathèque Française, and the Reichsfilmarchiv. The organization now has 46 member archives on all continents, with another 26 on observer status. "It's an organization that crosses all political boundaries," Bowser says. "FIAF brings together working archivists in their common goal of preserving our film heritage." In 1985, on the 50th anniversary of the founding of its Film Library, The Museum of Modern Art will be the host for the FIAF Annual Congress.

Among the new acquisitions to be shown are Hristo Hristov's The Barrier, starring the great Soviet actor Inokentiy Smoktunovsky as a burnt-out composer who becomes involved with an other-worldly young woman;

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Metodi Andonov's The Goat Horn, an almost wordless, black-and-white morality tale of revenge and redemption set in feudal times (and a selection in the 1973 New Directors/New Films series); Georgi Dyulgerov's Advantage, a tragicomic portrait of a petty thief, based on the career of a real-life master pickpocket; and The Unknown Soldier's Patent Leather Shoes, directed by Rangel Vulchanov, who presents a warm and funny re-creation of the peasant village in which he grew up, as seen through the eyes of a small boy. Three of the films--Binka Zhelyazkova's We Were Young, Vulo Radev's The Peach Thief, and Grisha Ostrovski and Todor Stoyanov's Detour--share the theme of a love affair played out during time of war; a more explicitly political treatment of war and revolution occurs in Vulo Radev's Tsar and General and Rangel Vulchanov's On the Little Island. In Iconostasis, directed by Todor Dinov and Hristo Hristov, we have a highly charged drama set in a past epoch of Bulgarian history; and in Hristov's A Tree Without Roots, we see an aging villager from a traditional peasant culture who finds himself adrift in the modern city.

Through an arrangement with the Bulgarska Nacionalna Filmoteka, these eleven films will be available to qualified non-profit organizations without any loan fee. George Eastman House already has taken advantage of this loan policy, and further showings are now being planned.

A complete schedule is attached. For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500.

September 1983

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For further PRESS information, please contact Stuart Klawans, Film Press Representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019 (212) 708-9752.

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RECENT ACQUISITION: BULGARIAN FILMS

October 6 - October 20, 1983

- Thu. 10/6 2:30 THE GOAT HORN (Koziyat Rog). 1972. Metodi Andonov.
With Anton Gorchev, Katya Paskaleva. 99 min.
- 6:00 ADVANTAGE, OR THE REINCARNATION OF THE ROOSTER (Avantazh). 1977. Georgi Dyulgerov. With Roussi Chanev. 138 min.
- Fri. 10/7 2:30 THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER'S PATENT LEATHER SHOES (Lachenite Obuvki na Neznainiya Voin). 1979. Rangel Vulchanov.
With Borislav Tsankov, Slavka Ankova, Ivan Stoichkov. 84 min.
- 6:00 (THE) ICONOSTASIS (Ikonostasut). 1969. Todor Dinov, Hristo Hristov. With Dimiter Tashev, Emilia Radeva. 94 min.
- Sat. 10/8 2:30 ADVANTAGE.
- 5:00 THE GOAT HORN.
- Sun. 10/9 2:30 (THE) ICONOSTASIS.
- 5:00 THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER'S PATENT LEATHER SHOES.
- Mon. 10/10 2:30 THE PEACH THIEF (Kradetzut na Praskovi). 1964. Vulo Radev. With Nevena Kokanova, Rade Markovich. 84 min.
- 5:00 A TREE WITHOUT ROOTS (Durvo bez Koreni). 1975. Hristo Hristov. With Nikola Dadov, Nevena Kokanova. 85 min.
- Tue. 10/11 2:30 ON THE LITTLE ISLAND (ON A SMALL ISLAND) (Na Malenkom Ostrove). 1958. Rangel Vulchanov. With Ivan Kondov, Stefan Peichev. 94 min.
- Thu. 10/13 2:30 A TREE WITHOUT ROOTS.
- 6:00 DETOUR (A SIDE TRACK) (Otklonenie). 1967. Grisha Ostrovski, Todor Stoyanov. With Nevena Kokanova, Ivan Andonov. 80 min.
- Fri. 10/14 2:30 DETOUR.
- 6:00 THE PEACH THIEF.
- Sat. 10/15 2:30 WE WERE YOUNG (A Biyahme Mladi). 1961. Binka Zhelyazkova. With Dimiter Bouinozov, Roumanya Karabelova. 110 min.
- 5:00 ON THE LITTLE ISLAND.

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SCHEDULE, continued

Sun. 10/16 2:30 THE BARRIER (Barrierata). 1979. Hristo Hristov. With
Inokentiy Smoktunovsky, Vanya Tsvetkova, Maria Dimcheva. 109 min.
5:00 TSAR AND GENERAL (Tzar i General). 1965. Vulo Radev.
With Peter Slabakov, Naoum Shopov. 77 min.

Mon. 10/17 2:30 THE BARRIER.

Tue. 10/18 2:30 WE WERE YOUNG.

Thu. 10/20 2:30 TSAR AND GENERAL.

All screenings are held in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2
The Museum of Modern Art
18 West 54 Street
New York, New York 10019

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