

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

No. 2

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, January 8, 1969

## BULGARIAN FILMS OF THE SIXTIES

Bulgarian Films of the Sixties will be shown at The Museum of Modern Art on four consecutive Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m., starting January 9, it was announced today.

There is a resurgence in Bulgarian film studios today largely brought about by the efforts of a new generation of dedicated film-makers who are determined to compete for international cinema honors.

The Bulgarian film industry had a late start. It was established by one family with only its own limited financial resources to draw upon. In 1910 Vassil Gendov and his actress wife, Jana Gendov, made the first Bulgarian movies. Between 1910 and 1937 the Gendovs produced eleven films. Altogether only 55 films were produced in a period of 40 years.

Following World War II and a reappraisal in social and moral values, the new cinema movement took root. The new films at first dealt with social themes, the struggle for liberation, the resistance movement, and the role of youth in reconstruction; there was a strong trend toward reality and away from entertainment.

In the 50's and in the 60's a more aesthetic approach emerged, together with philosophic overtones, and a tendency to experiment. Bulgarian cartoons, in particular, have shown evidence of humor and ingenuity.

The features include "Detour," directed by Grisha Ostrovski, a theatre producer, and Todor Stroyanov, a cameraman. "Detour" received a Gold Prize at the Moscow Film Festival of 1967; the Firpresci Prize at the same festival, and the Prize for the Best Feminine Role by Nevena Kokanova, in the Varna Festival of that year. The film, in the genre of the French film-maker, Alain Renais, is a love story that shifts from reality to memory. Ivan Andónov plays the male lead in

(more)

the cast of two.

"The Longest Night," another feature, directed by Vulo Radev, falls into the thrills category but it touches on the nature of heroism, and while concerned with the escape of a prisoner, it provides insight into passengers in conflict between passion and cruelty, benevolence and fear.

"The Peach Thief" was made by Radev, who was once a cameraman. He has filmed with exacting detail what The Spectator in London calls "small moments of truth" in a film "tightly packed with feelings about war, love, prison and pain." The story has been compared to Chekov's "The Lady With a Dog." It tells of two lovers, a young married woman and a prisoner of war, and is essentially a study in depth of a human relationship.

"Iconostasis," the final film in the series, is the most recent Bulgarian film. Completed only a few months ago, the film, adapted from a modern classic of Bulgarian literature, tells in epic-style of a master woodcarver and his bourgeois contemporaries becoming revolutionaries during the latter days of the Ottoman Empire.

The Bulgarian program follows:-

- Jan. 9  
8:00 p.m. "Esperanza," (1967) - directed by Ivan Andonov, script by Ranghel Vulchanov. Color animation. (9 min.)
- "Detour," (1967) - directed by Grisha Ostrovski and Todor Stoyanov. Music by Milko Leviev. With Ivan Andonov and Nevena Kokanova. (90 min.)
- Jan. 16  
8:00 p.m. "Sharpshooter," (1967) - directed by Donyo Donev, script by Hristo Iliev. Color animation. (7 min.)
- "The Longest Night," (1966) - directed by Vulo Radev, screen play by Vesselin Braneev - photography by Borislav Pouchnev. Music by Simeon Pironkov. With Nevena Kokanova, Georgi Georgiev, Victor Rebenchuk, Ivan Bratanov. (102 min.)
- Jan. 23  
8:00 p.m. "Jealousy" (1964) - directed by Todor Dinov, script by Dimitar Chelkash. Color animation. (7 min.)

(more)

Jan. 23 "The Peach Thief," (1964) - directed by Vulo Radev, screenplay by Radev,  
(cont.) based on a story by Emilian Stanev. Music by Simeon Pironkov. With  
Nevena Kokanova, Rade Markovich, Mikhail Mikhailov. (84 min.)

Jan. 30 "Gravitation," (1966) Directed by Zdenka Doycheva, script by Miron  
8:00 p.m. Ivonov. Color animation. (8 min.)

"Iconostasis," (1968) - directed and written by Todor Dinav and Hristo  
Hristov, music by Milcho Leviev. With Dimiter Tashev, Emilia Radevo,  
Violetta Gindeva, Nikolai Ouzounov. (90 min.)

Entire program is being presented in association with Brandon Films, Incorporated.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lillian Gerard,  
Film Coordinator, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art,  
11 West 53rd Street, New York, New York. 10019. 245-3200.