

The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RUSSIAN VERSION OF "KING LEAR" INITIATES SOVIET FILM SERIES

A Russian version of "King Lear" will have its first New York showing Thursday, December 28, at 8:00 p.m., when a month-long program of 23 films made in the Soviet Union during the past five years will begin at The Museum of Modern Art. "King Lear," whose director, Grigori Kozintsev, also made the Soviet "Hamlet" which was shown at the 1964 New York Festival, stars Juri Jarvet, one of the Soviet Union's most celebrated actors, and has music by Dimitri Shostakovich. Nigel Andrews, writing in the British film magazine Sight and Sound, has observed: "Kozintsev's 'Lear' is 'Russian' not only in its style--the strong pictorial sense, the studied nobility of the acting, the lavish scale of the crowd scenes and of Evgeni Enei's castle interiors--but in its political consciousness...." Kozintsev, Andrews notes, focuses on the social and political aspects of Lear's Britain as well as on Lear himself.

Most of the films in the Soviet series are historical dramas and/or adaptations of literary classics. Included are cinematic versions of Chekov's "Uncle Vanya," "Belated Flowers" and "The Seagull"; Dostoyevsky's "Brothers Karamazov" and "Crime and Punishment"; Gorky's short horror story "Viy"; and Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina." These adaptations utilize recognized Soviet talent. "Anna Karenina," for example, stars Tatiana Samilova, who received international acclaim in "The Cranes are Flying." Lyudmilia Savelyeva, who was cast as Natasha in the Soviet "War and Peace," appears as Nina in "The Seagull," while Sergei Bondarchuk, director and star of "War and Peace," plays Astrov in "Uncle Vanya." Andrei Mikhailkov-Konchalovsky, one of the best known and most respected of the younger Soviet filmmakers, is the director of "Uncle Vanya," for which he also wrote the screen adaptation.

Among the films of historical interest is "Flight," a 1971 picture about the defeat of the White Army in the Crimea in 1920 by the Red Army. The film offers a surprisingly sympathetic portrayal of the defeated White Army and civilian refugees who fled to Constantinople.

(more)

- THROUGH FIRE AND WATER. 1967. By Alexander Rau. English titles. 88 min. (Artkino)
Sunday, January 7, 12:30 and 3:00
- LISTOPAD. 1968. By Otar Yoseliany. No English titles. 90 min.
Sunday, January 7, 5:30 and Monday, January 8, 2:00
- JAMILYA. 1971. By Irina Poplavskaia. English titles. 78 min. (Artkino)
Monday, January 8, 5:30 and Saturday, January 20, 3:00
- THE SEAGULL. 1970. By Yuli Karasik. English titles. 100 min. (Artkino)
Thursday, January 11, 8:00
- THE DEBUT. 1971. By Gleb Paniflov. No English titles. 96 min.
Friday, January 12, 2:00 and Saturday, January 13, 3:00
- WHITE BIRD WITH BLACK MARK. 1971. By Yuri Ilyenko. English titles. 110 min. (Artkino)
Saturday, January 13, 5:30 and Friday, January 26, 2:00
- THE HUMPBACKED HORSE. 1961. Performed by the Bolshoi Ballet. English narration.
ca. 80 min. (Artkino)
Sunday, January 14, 12:30
- KING OF THE CIRCUS. 1970. English narration. ca. 80 min. (Artkino)
Sunday, January 14, 3:00
- BYELORUSSIAN STATION. 1970. By Andrei Smirnov. English titles. 96 min.
Sunday, January 14, 5:30 and Monday, January 22, 5:30
- VIY. 1970. By A. Ptushko. English titles. 66 min. (Artkino)
Monday, January 15, 2:00 and Tuesday, January 16, 5:30
- KATERINA IZMAILOVA. 1967. By Mikhail Shapiro. The Shostakovich opera. English titles.
120 min. (Artkino)
Monday, January 15, 5:30 and Saturday, January 20, 5:30
- ANNA KARENINA. 1969. By Alexander Zarkhi. English titles. ca. 160 min. (Satra Films)
Sunday, January 21, 5:30 and Monday, January 22, 2:00
- FLIGHT. 1971. By A. Alov and V. Naumov. No English titles. ca. 200 min.
Thursday, January 25, 6:00 and Sunday, January 28, 5:30
- BROTHERS KARAMAZOV. 1969. By Ivan Piriev. English titles. ca. 130 min. (Columbia)
Saturday, January 27, 3:00 and 5:30
- BELATED FLOWERS. 1969. By Abram Room. English titles. 100 min. (Artkino)
Monday, January 29, 2:00 and 5:30.
- ANDREI ROUBLEV (1968) or SOLARIS (1972) One of these two films by Andrei Tarkovski
will be shown Tuesday, January 30, at 5:30.

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Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator,
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One modern-day film, "Byelorussian Station," a first film by Andrei Smirnov, is a poignant story of four friends, comrades in World War II, who are reunited 25 years later at the funeral of their former commander. Their personalities, relationships, and the distance between their youthful hopes and subsequent lives are the focus of this compassionate film.

A film which deals with a current social question is "Listopad," filmed in Georgia by Otar Yoseliany. This story portrays the conflict between authorities who insist on meeting a production quota for wine in spite of the fact that some of the wine is bad and a rebellious young vintner who opposes them. This picture indicates a concern with the problem of over-bureaucratization.

Three children's films are included in the series, all scheduled to be shown in the Museum's weekly "Films for Children" series on Sunday afternoons. "Through Fire and Water" is a film adapted by Alexander Rau from a Russian fairy tale; "The Humpbacked Horse" is a ballet performed by the Bolshoi Ballet; and "King of the Circus" stars Goshan, the famous bear of the Moscow Circus.

The schedule of Recent Films from the Soviet Union follows. Detailed plot synopses will be provided at all showings of films without English subtitles. This schedule is subject to change.

KING LEAR. 1971. By Grigori Kozintsev. English titles. 124 min. (Artkino)
Thursday, December 28, 8:00

TILL MONDAY. 1969. By Stanislav Rostotsky. English titles. 110 min. (Artkino)
Friday, December 29, 2:00 and Saturday, December 30, 3:00

UNCLE VANYA. 1971. By A. Mikhailov-Konchalovsky. English titles. 100 min. (Artkino)
Saturday, December 30, 5:30 and Monday, January 1, 2:00

ADAM AND HEVA. 1970. By Alexei Korenev. English titles. 70 min. (Artkino)
Monday, January 1, 5:30 and Saturday, January 6, 3:00

DON'T GRIEVE! 1970. By Georgi Danelia. No English titles. 100 min.
Tuesday, January 2, 5:30 and Friday, January 5, 2:00

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT. 1970. By Lev Kulijanov. English titles. 200 min. (Artkino)
Thursday, January 4, 6:00

NEST OF GENTRY. 1969. By A. Mikhailov-Konchalovsky. No English titles. 110 min.
Saturday, January 6, 5:30 and Thursday, January 11, 5:30

Please Turn Over for
Continuation of Schedule