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VARIETY

Solaris (RUSSIAN-COLOR)

Cannes, May 23.

Sovexport release of Mosfilm production. Features entire cast. Written and directed by Andrei Tarkovsky, from book by Stanislas Lemm. Camera (Sovcolor), Vadim Youssov. No other credits. Reviewed at Cannes Film Fest (competing), May 13, '72. Running Time, 165 MINS.

Harey	Nathalie Bondarchouk
Snaut	Youri Yarvet
Kris	Donatas Banionys
Sartorius	Anatoli Solinitzin
Burton	Vladislav Dvorjetzki
Father	Nikolai Grinko
Gibarian	Sos Sarkissian

Andrei Tarkovsky is undoubtedly a greatly gifted filmmaker. He won the grand prize at the Venice Fest some years ago for his "The Youth

of Ivan" and made the controversial "Andrei Roublev" (which was held up for distrib for several years in Russia but finally released). His current effort took the July prize at this event.

He spins a strange, slow but absorbing parable on life and love in the guise of a sci-fi theme. Its length, philosophical asides and measured pace will limit it abroad though it may find a place in archive and school usage.

It seems to take place in a near future when there is a space station around a strange planet called Solaris, made up of viscous swirling waters, like an ocean but lensed to suggest an oozing mixture of sea and sky, which leads to apparent hallucinations by those up there.

Film is a flashback by one astronaut who finds the place run-down. A videotape shows him a man who killed himself due to an apparition that had come from Solaris.

Solaris, in fact, may be a thinking mass which creates humans from a man's secret needs or desires.

Space effects are not in spectacular vein but efficacious, and playing is intense and effective, as are the moral statements about love, life and humanity.

Mosk.