

Document Citation

Title	Mother
Author(s)	Tom Luddy Yvette Bíró
Source	<i>Audio Brandon Films</i>
Date	
Type	distributor materials
Language	English
Pagination	466
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Mat (Mother), Pudovkin, Vsevolod Illarionovich, 1926

Mother

1926 73 min. Silent
B&W Rental: \$37.50

Directed by Vsevolod I. Pudovkin; original title: "Mat;" screenplay by Nathan Zarkhi, based on the novel by Maxim Gorky; photography by Anatoli Golovnya. With Vera Baranovskaya, Nikolai Batalov, A. Chistyakov. English titles.

Also available: Sound (music) version, 87 min. Please specify version desired.

Mother is probably V. I. Pudovkin's (*Storm Over Asia*) greatest work. It is the best illustration of his mastery of film technique, as well as a moving drama of revolution. Like *Potemkin*, *Mother* depicts an aspect of the abortive 1905 revolt. Pudovkin, like Eisenstein, sought to dramatize the injustice of Czarist life; in *Mother*, however, the concentration is on individuals rather than on masses. Pudovkin is interested, not in abstract heroes, but in specific human problems with universal meanings. His three protagonists, all members of the same family, personify in a very poignant way the forces in Russia in 1905. The father is a drunk, a reactionary and a strike-breaker; the mother is patient and long-suffering; the son, Pavel, symbolizes the new Communist youth. Pudovkin gives Gorki's drama every possible overtone; in the final episode he used the now famous simile of the ice-floe breaking against the great bridge with a movement parallel to that of the procession scattered and broken by the cavalry. The ice floe intensifies the action by its strong forward movement far more than by its obvious symbolism. Pudovkin's purpose is to raise the commonplace to the level of a kind of epic poem, and it is this poetic quality, this quality of silent music, which makes the film so exciting as well as so moving to watch. (TL, YB)

Please note: The "Prison Visit" sequence from *Mother* is also available separately as a Film Study Extract. See Index for page describing our Film Study Extracts series.

