

Document Citation

Title	Mournful indifference
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Harvard Film Archive</i>
Date	2001 May 23
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	15
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Skorbnoye beschuvstviye (Mournful indifference), Sokurov, Aleksandr, 1987

♦ May 23 (Wednesday) 8 pm

♦ May 24 (Thursday) 8 pm

Mournful Indifference

(*Skorbnoye beschuvstviye*)

Directed by Aleksandr Sokurov

USSR 1987, 35mm, color, 110 min.

With Ramaz Chkhikvadze, Alla Osipenko,
Irina Sokolova

Russian with English subtitles

THIS EARLY WORK by one of the leading figures of contemporary Russian cinema (and protégé of legendary director Andrei Tarkovsky) is a highly imaginative adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's *Heartbreak House*, a play that invokes the calamitous events of World War I as an oblique backdrop to its biting satire of the leisure class. Incorporating documentary footage from the Second World War and readings from Shaw's diaries and letters, Sokurov focuses on the senselessness of war and the consequences of an individualist ideology. These measures effectively distance the characters of Shaw's house from the monumental social changes occurring all around them. For those who saw *Mournful Indifference* on video in February, we are pleased to offer this reprise screening of a pristine 35mm print with English subtitles.