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Monday March 1

Silent Film Classics

Arsenal 5:00

Alexander Dovzhenko (Russia, 1929)

Bruce Loeb on Piano

Preceded by short:

Fruits of Love (Love's Berries/*Yahidha Kokhannya*) (Dovzhenko, Russia, 1926).

Dovzhenko's first film is a charming slapstick comedy of errors about love and marriage, filmed in three days in an Odessa park. Written by Dovzhenko. Photographed by Danylo Demutsky, Joseph Rona. (34 mins, Silent with Russian intertitles and live English translation, B&W, 35mm, From PFA Collection)

Arsenal is a tribute to the workers of the Ukraine, tracing their struggles from World War I, through the February and October Revolutions, to the suppression of a workers' revolt in 1918. "The first masterpiece of the Ukrainian cinema broke entirely with traditional film structure and subject, depending solely on a flow of ideas and emotions rather than upon conflicts between individual characters....[The] extraordinary dependence on image and symbolism in *Arsenal* can no more be fully translated into concrete meanings than the imagery and rhythm and color of a poem...." (Jay Leyda, *Kino*). In the film's most famous sequence, Czar Nicholas writes in his diary, "Today I shot a crow"; cut to an old peasant collapsing from exhaustion in a field. In another powerful image, a Ukrainian lights a candle before a portrait of the national poet; the picture suddenly comes alive and the face in it blows out the candle.

- Written by Dovzhenko. Photographed by Danylo Demutsky. With Semyon Svashenko, Mikola Nademsky, Ambrose Buchma. (85 mins, Silent with Russian and English intertitles, B&W, 35mm, From PFA Collection)