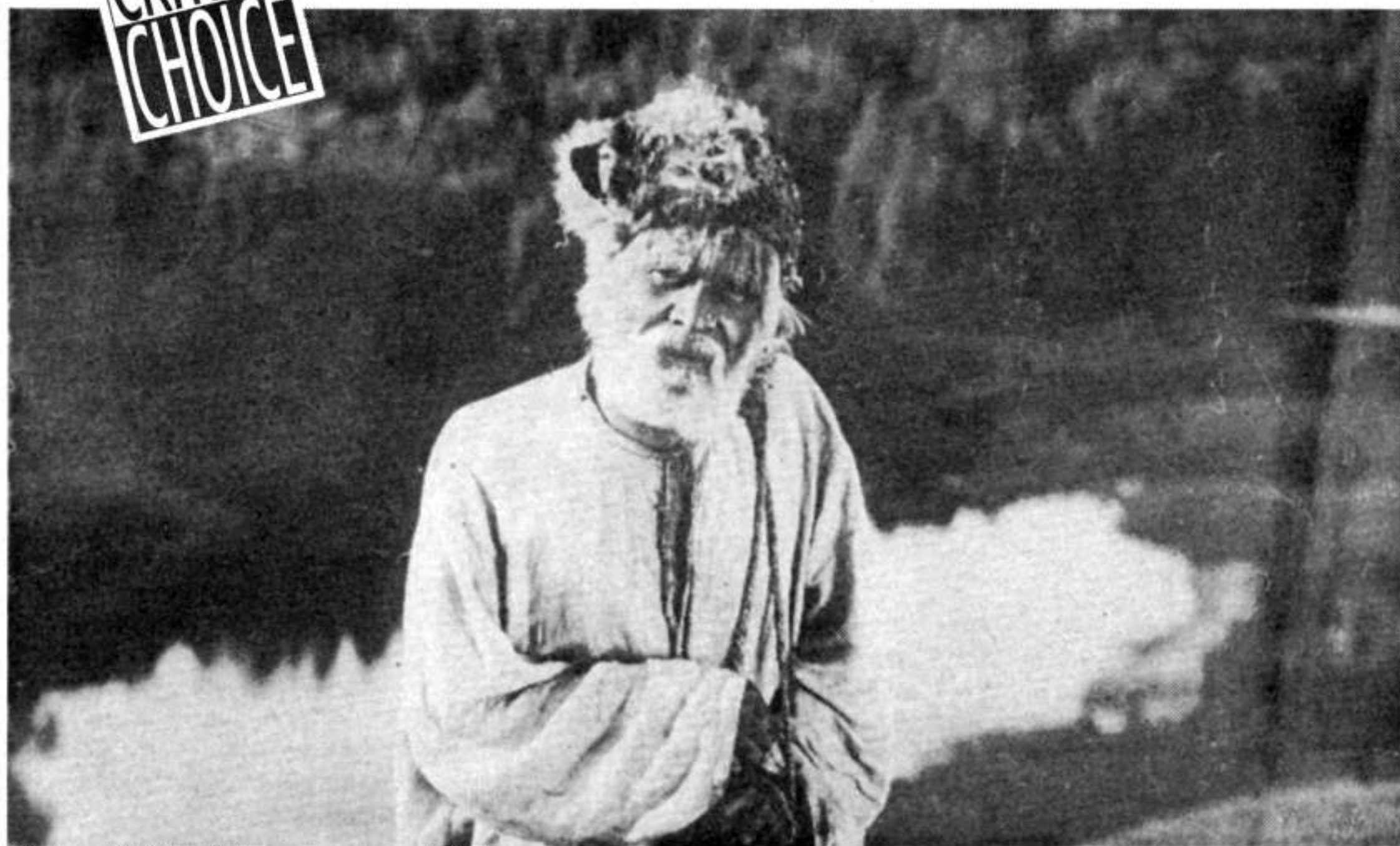


Document Citation

Title	Zvenigora
Author(s)	Fred Camper
Source	<i>Reader (Chicago, Ill.)</i>
Date	2002 Jun 21
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	Section 2, p.14
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Zvenigora, Dovzhenko, Alexander Petrovich, 1927

CRITIC'S
CHOICE



Zvenigora

Chicago Reader, 6/21/02, p. 14

Hailed by Sergei Eisenstein for its originality, this 1927 silent feature by Soviet director Alexander Dovzhenko is both a folktale and a paean to industrialization, its multiple stories and meanings turning propaganda into poetry. Dovzhenko weaves together several different periods of Ukrainian history with a narrative involving an old man who wants to protect a fabulous treasure that's buried in a mountain. The various stories suggest that machines are beneficent, workers should throw off their chains, and invaders should be repelled, yet the mystical, quasi-religious framing device cele-

brates the Ukrainian nation in a way that seems to contradict Soviet ideology. As always, Dovzhenko's brilliant montages are full of double meanings, with each shot undercut by the next: in one spectacular presentation of mining, agriculture, and metal work, the images seem to fuse together and tear apart, suggesting both the glory of man-made structures and the destruction necessary for their creation. 73 min. A 35-millimeter print will be shown, and David Drazin will provide live piano accompaniment. Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State, Friday, June 21, 6:30, 312-846-2800.

—Fred Camper