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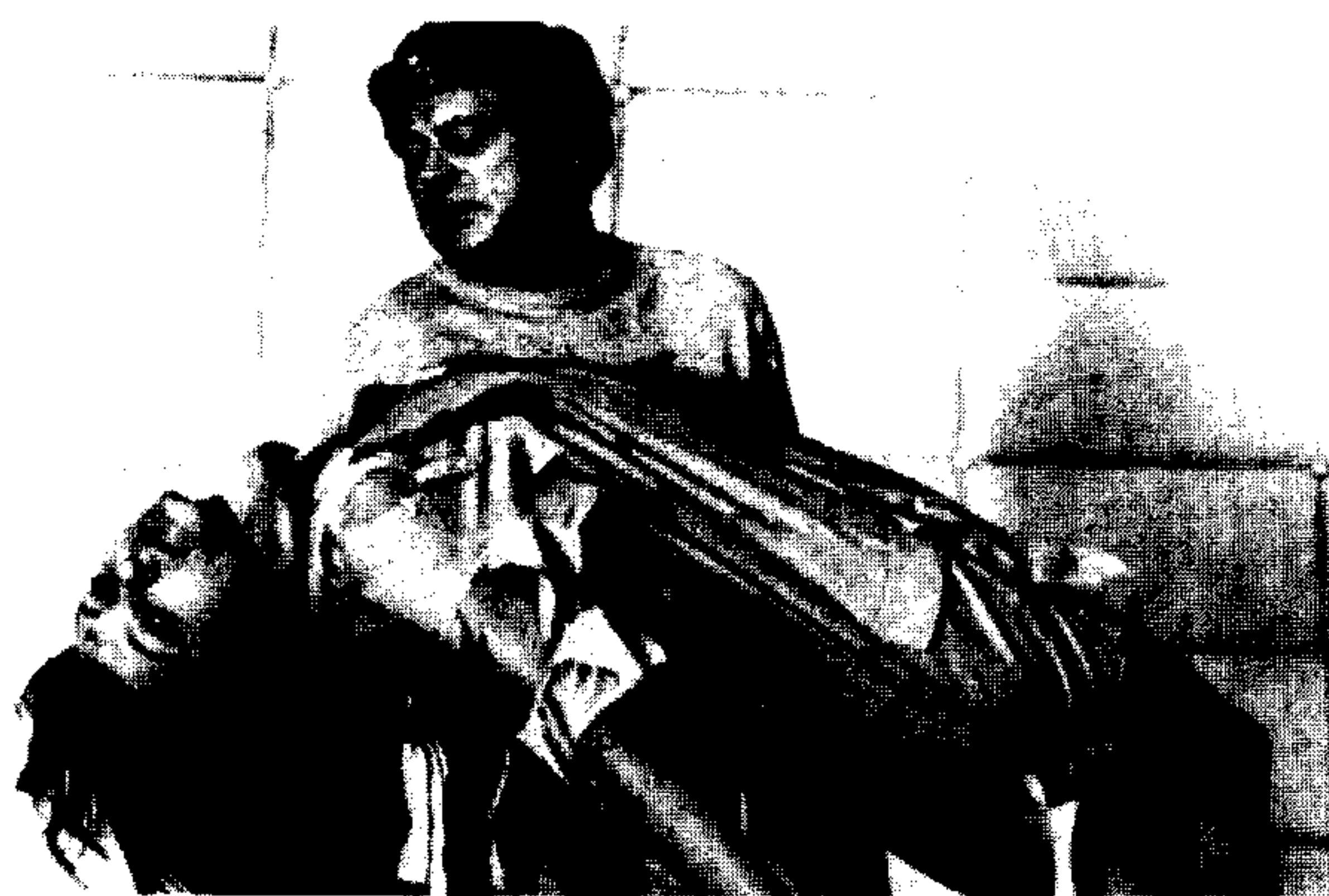
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SOLARIS

U.S.S.R.

SFFest '72

Source and Production: Mosfilm Studio. **Direction:** Andrei Tarkovsky. **Script:** Andrei Tarkovsky, Freidrich Gorenstein. **Photography:** Vadim Yusov. **Leading Players:** Natalia Bondarchuk, Donatas Banionis, Nikolai Grinko, Yuri Yarvet, Vladislav Dvorzhetsky, Anatoly Solonitsyn.



With **Solaris**, his latest work, Tarkovsky has created a complex, deeply philosophical tale, adapted from a novel by Stanislas Lemm. It is a strange, demanding narrative, part science-fiction, part dream-reverie, as though in response to the more psychological questions about the knowledge **awaiting** mankind in unexplored solar territory, left unanswered by Mr. Kubrick in his celebrated **2001: A Space Odyssey**. Tarkovsky is not inspired by Kubrick's film, mind you, so that one should not expect too much of the technical majesty of that film. Rather, one should be prepared for a mind-journey, a trip into wonder and reflection. A famous scientist-psychologist, Kris Calvin, has recovered from a nervous breakdown, after too-strenuous researches on encephalographic reactions, and the sudden death of his young wife, Hari. At his father's country home, where he has been recuperating, Kris prepares to leave for Moscow. While staying there, it had been Kris' habit to work by night, muse by the river he had known since childhood, and read and sleep by day. On the day before his departure, Kris, his father and stepmother are visited by an ex-astronaut, Burton. Burton is the only survivor of an ill-fated expedition into space that had sought to find out, a decade before, if life existed on the mysterious planet, Solaris. According to Burton, there is life there, but the photographs he had taken were judged inconclusive by the majority of scientists. Besides, Burton is the only member of the Solaris expedition to have returned to Earth; the orbital station had managed to break through the living organism surrounding Solaris with the other members, and over the years, strange and confused information has been received from the planet. Kris is profoundly affected by Burton's visit, and later, looks at the videotape of Burton's testimony and photography regarding Solaris . . . the rest is to be **experienced** by the spectator. Tarkovsky's **Solaris** is, perhaps, giving the scientist an opportunity to articulate many-sided views. It is a delirium of the poetic imagination, inspired by the mysteries—the probings into whatever might be discovered about ourselves on other planets, wherever they are.

Short: **THE STRIPPER**. Siew Hwa Beh, United States. 1 min.