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st: N. Krushelnitsky (Jean Kolbasyuk, barber); M. Chardynina-Barskaya (the girl); Dmitri Kapka (salesman in toyshop); I. Zamychkovsky (fat man who buys "berry" instead of doll); V. Lisovsky (old man to whom fat man passes "berry"); A. Belov (fat client); L. Chembarsky (dandy to whom old man passes "berry"). I. Zemgano (photographer) K. Zapadnaya (girl on boulevard); N. Nademsky (soda vendor).

Synopsis

From the moment his sweetheart, Liza, throws a baby into his arms and flees, barber Jean's troubles begin. To get rid of the unwanted burden he leaves it in a toyshop. The shop's salesman mistakes it for a doll. The mistake is discovered only when the "doll" wets her box. The frightened salesman palms the baby off to a customer. The latter, in turn, returns the "living doll" to Jean's barbershop. In his efforts to quiet the baby, the inept "father" feeds it through an atomizer, then leaves it in a shop again. After more misadventures, he is summoned to family court, where Liza claims that the baby is the product (berry) of their love. Jean agrees to marry her. Only then does she reveal the ruse she employed to get him to do so, since he was unwilling to marry her "of his own free will." In a scene of domestic bliss, Jean asks: "Is our child a boy or a girl?" Liza's answer: "Our child? That's my aunt's child!"

DIPLOMATIC POUCH (SUMKA DIPKURIERA). 1927. Released March 24, 1927 (Kiev), January 24, 1928 (Moscow). VUFKU (Odessa). Incomplete. Russian intertitles. ca. 50 minutes.

Direction: Alexander Dovzhenko. Scenario: M. Zatz, B. Sharansky (revised by Dovzhenko). Photography: N. Kozlovsky. Design: G. Bayzengerts. Assistant director: K. Ignatiev. Assistant cameraman: K. Kulyaev. Make-up: Fyodorov. Titles: Yu. Yanovsky.

Cast: M. Buyukli (secretary of embassy); A. Klimenko (first diplomatic courier); G. Zelendzhev-Shipov (second diplomatic courier); I. Penso (Ellen, a ballerina); B. Zagorsky (a spy); S. Minin (Inspector White); G. Skoretsky (Boatswain Harry, son of sentry); I. Kapralov (Ralph, a sailor); O. Suslov (sentry); Redina (his wife); G. Pinkler (Jack, sentry's youngest son); V. Komaretsky (captain of ship Victoria); O. Merlati (captain's mate); Alexander Dovzhenko (stoker); Dmitri Kapka (a passenger); K. Eggers (boxing sailor); A. Belov (innkeeper); M. Smolensky (passenger with eyeglasses); E. Chernova (ballerina's maid); Tarasevich (harbor master), Kalvelis, Solntsev, Lanskoj (passengers); P. Matvienko (first bandit); Sandulevsky (second bandit).

The film is based on the murder of the Soviet diplomat Nette by White émigrés in a foreign country. The murder was sensationalized in the Soviet press and became a large political issue. Even Mayakovsky "immortalized" the occasion in a poem, in which he exclaimed: "I want to await my moment of death in the same way as Comrade Nette faced his."

Synopsis

The Soviet Embassy in England sends two diplomatic couriers carrying confidential information to Leningrad. By order of Inspector White of the secret police, they are attacked on the train bearing them to Portsmouth. As they bravely defend the diplomatic pouch, one of them is killed in the unequal fight. The other, gravely wounded, jumps from the speeding train with the pouch. He's picked up and cared for by the switchman-inspector. Before dying, the wounded man pleads with the switchman to get the pouch to his nephew Harry, a sailor on the English ship Victoria, which is sailing for Leningrad. By threatening to kill the switchman's wife, Inspector White learns of the pouch's destination, and a chase begins. White, his assistant, and his spy, the ballerina Ellen, board the Victoria at the last moment. But, risking their lives, the British sailors safeguard the pouch and deliver it to Leningrad.

-Sonia Volochova