

## Document Citation

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Author(s)	Judy Bloch
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**Monday February 22**

**Silent Film Classics**

## **The Soviets: Eisenstein and Vertov 5:00**

**Bruce Loeb on Piano**

Telling of a factory worker's strike in Czarist Russia in 1912 and its brutal suppression, Eisenstein's *Strike* was one of the most original debuts in film history. In its brilliant mixture of agit-prop techniques and comic-grotesque stylization, it reveals the influence of the explosively rich contemporary theater in which Eisenstein was involved. *Soviet Toys*, Vertov's animated "kino-reklama" (film-advertisement) for

### **Film I**

the "People's Bank," is a grotesque satire of NEP (New Economic Policy)-men and clergy as implacable enemies of the working class. One of the first animated films made in the Soviet Union, it is a curiously visceral example of film expressionism in which the NEP-man literally ingests all he covets.

**Strike** (*Stachka*, Sergei M. Eisenstein, USSR, 1924). Written by Proletkult Collective: V. Pletnyov, I. Kravchunovsky, G. Alexandrov, Eisenstein. Photographed by Eduard Tisse, Vassili Khvatov. With I. Kuvki, Alexander Antonov, Grigori Alexandrov. (105 mins)

**Soviet Toys** (*Sovetskie Ugrushki*, Dziga Vertov, USSR, 1924). Written by Vertov. Photographer by A. Dorn. Animation, artwork by I. Beliakov, A. Ivanov. (13 mins)

• (Total running time: 143 mins, All Silk Russian intertitles and live English trans! B&W, 35mm, From PFA Collection)