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## Osenny Maraphon

(Autumn Marathon)

(SOVIET-COLOR)

Variety — 9-12-79

Moscow, Aug. 28.

A Lenfilm Production, Leningrad; world rights, Goskino, Moscow. Features entire cast. Directed by Georgi Danelia. Only credits available. Reviewed at Moscow Film Fest (out-of-competition), Aug. 28, '79. Running time: 90 MINS.

Soviet cinema's leading satirist, Georgi Danelia comes from Georgia, but made most of his films for Mosfilm in Moscow. He comes from a family of film people and the long tradition of Georgian cinema, where comedies are the spice in life. His films include "Seryozha" (1960), in collaboration with Igor Talankin, "The Way to the Harbor" (1962), "Walking the Streets of Moscow" (1963), "33" (1965), "Don't Grieve" (1969), "Hopelessly Lost" (1972), "Afonya" (1975), "Mimino" (1977) (First Prize winner in 1977 at the Moscow fest), and now "Autumn Marathon."

Danelia's pix are very popular with Soviet auds. For this reason, it was a tribute to the director to close the Moscow fest with "Autumn Marathon" after awarding of the juries' prizes. The howler was again a big success, some observers contending it is his best film to date (although Danelia also prefers his first one).

Story is about a gentle-souled English translator in Leningrad who can't keep his private affairs apart from his duties — that is, he has a mistress on the side and wife he loves. In addition, his Danish neighbor likes to go jogging each morning, and punctually rings his doorbell at dawn during this autumn season. Then there are his English-language students at the Institute where he teaches, a publisher hounding him for a translation into Russian of a new book, and a dumpy colleague needing his help to do her English-Russian translations.

The hours in the day are just too short for everything, particularly for his demanding mistress who's already taken over part of an attentive wife's duties.

The jokes derive from the situations and the fact that he's never on time for anything. The best deal with office and apartment ribs. One is when his colleague's translation (which the hero did as a favor) is considered better than his own work.

This is situation comedy to rock the seats in a Moscow cinema. The wife, of course, thinks that the hero's excuse to "bail out" a friend is just another excuse to leave the house to visit the girlfriend — just when the married daughter with her husband are in town for a short visit. At the end, nothing has really changed: the chump is still saying yes to both wife and girlfriend, the two loves in his life that he can't reconcile.

Credits are tops. This is a sure bet on further appearances on the fest circuit and at Soviet Film Weeks.

— Holl.