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POET AND TSAR

(RUSSIAN MADE)
(WITH SONGS)

Am kino release of Lenfilm production.
Stars D. Zhuravlev. Directed by Moisey
Levin. Music by N. Stravinsky. At
Cameo, N. Y., starting Aug. 21, '38. Run-
ning time, 72 mins.

Pushkin.....D. Zhuravlev
Pashkevich.....S. Azhbelievski
Nurtsey.....N. Khochlov
Chernyshev.....G. Sobolev
Rykovskiy.....G. Ryzhov
Lutovin.....L. Koltsov
Sokolov.....G. Semenov
Gusev.....P. Andreyev
Miro.....A. Tolok
Mishchenko.....V. Shalupov
Cossack.....N. Kuznetsov
Ivanov.....V. Volkov

(In Russian, with English Titles)

Story-telling ability of Russian film producers shows marked advancement in this feature, depicting the further adventures of 'Young Pushkin' after the famed Russ poet quit college and carried his revolutionary ideas into the outside world. Chief regret is that such vigorous acting, direction and all-round yeoman production should be wasted on the revolutionary theme, which has been worn threadbare by Soviet producers. Vehicle is most effectual in individual portrayals and its swift passages and battle spectacle climax.

Effort is adapted from Alexander Pushkin's 'A Voyage to Arzrum,' as it traces the poetical genius' utter defiance of Nicholas I, then Czar. It's a sequel to 'Young Pushkin,' successful vehicle of about a year ago, which depicted the youthful poet as a student when his revolutionary ideas were taking form. Producers seemingly waver between telling a story strictly for entertainment and attempting to inject the propaganda slant.

Yarn winds up with Pushkin not getting far with his wild ideas and his friends receiving even worse treatment. Way the ending is clipped, as he despairs over treatment meted out by Russian troops, indicates that there may be another in this series about the poet.

Besides D. Zhuravlev's vivid portrayal of Pushkin, there are several other sharply defined acting contributions. Villain of the piece, whose identity is never clearly revealed, is outstanding.

Way in which the plot is developed and kept moving is praiseworthy in comparison with previous Russ cinema efforts. Photography is not as good as usual, nor is some of the sound recording. Many scenes represent care and high expenditure for costumes and sets. Sweep of the climaxial battle is the most realistic from Soviet producers in some time.

Wear.

Museum of Modern Art
(New York) program
notes gave correct
title of this film
as JOURNEY TO
ERZURUM
(PUTESHESTVIYE V
ARZRU).

Dir. Moisey Levin.

- Not to be confused
with Poet i tsar,
dir. Victor Gardin

Sept. 7, '38