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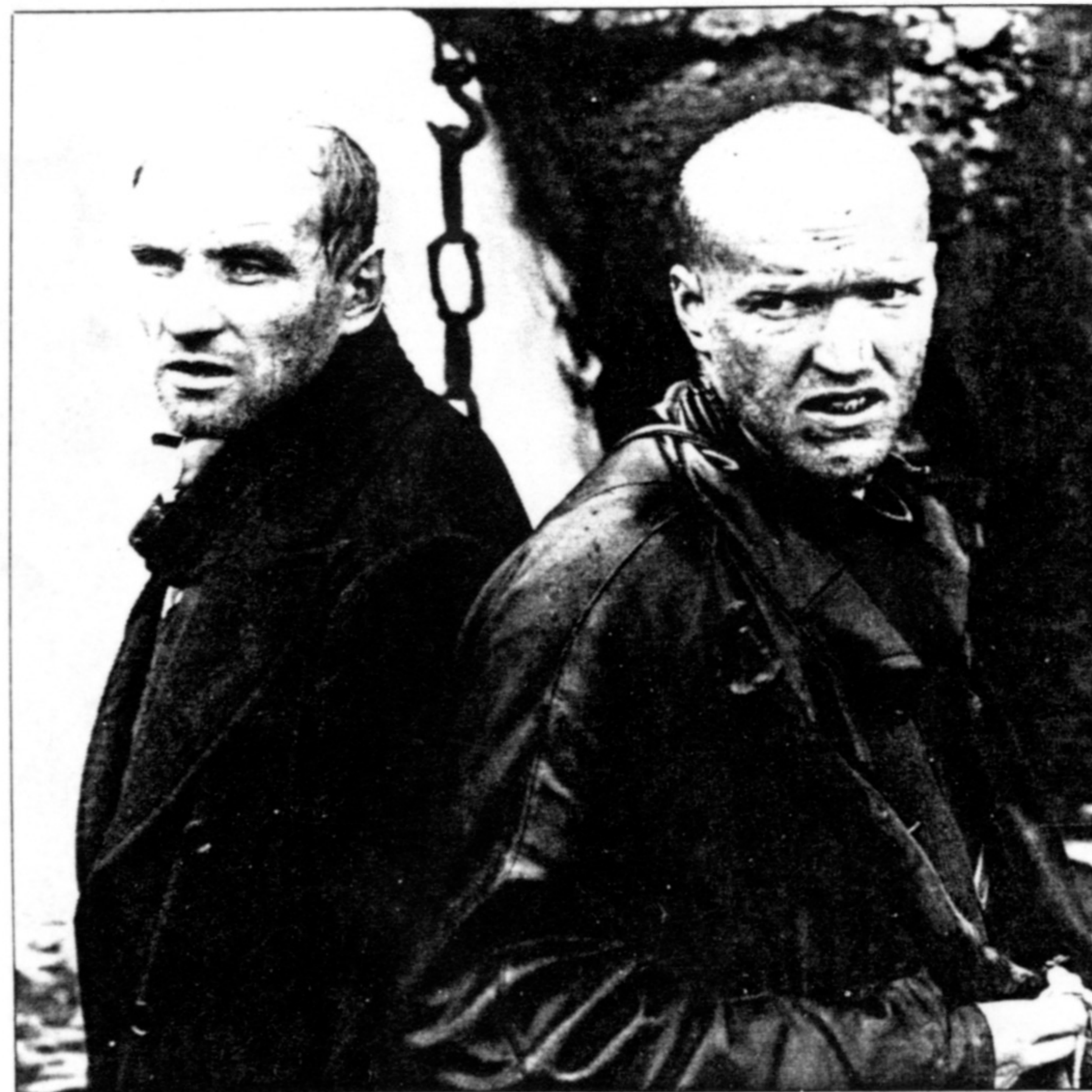
STALKER

Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky

Andrei Tarkovsky is the most highly-regarded postwar Russian director, although his films have generally been considered too dark, mystical, and idiosyncratic to suit Soviet authorities. As a result, he has been able to make only five films in 20 years, among them two bonafide cult movies: the medieval epic **Andrei Roublev** and the spectacular science-fiction film **Solaris**. **Stalker** is Tarkovsky's second venture into science fiction: 20 years before the story begins, a strange meteorite struck the Earth, creating a Bermuda-Triangle-like region known as the Zone. The Zone has been sealed off by troops and barbed wire, but special guides—known as “Stalkers”—have powers which enable them to penetrate the Zone and lead expeditions into its interior. **Stalker** is the story of one such journey into the Zone, an eerie hybrid of industrial wasteland and primeval forest, where mirages and mindbending traps await the unwary traveller, and where, it is rumored, there exists a Room with the power to grant the innermost desires of whoever enters. Critics have compared **Stalker** to such films as **Eraserhead** and **Salo**—like them, it is a work which is excessive, exasperating, uncompromising, a challenge to one's normal patterns of perception.

U.S.S.R., 1980. 161 mins. Color.
In Russian with English subtitles.

Rental: 350



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