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Prokofiev, Sergei (1891-1953), Sontsovka (formerly Russia),

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Eisenstein, Sergei (1898-1948), Riga (formerly Russia), Latvia

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IN 1238, Buti, grandson of Genghis Khan, conquered Moscow and thirteen other city-states of Russia. Of the great princedoms, Novgorod alone remained free. Slaves and wares were the tribute exacted by the Tartars from the territories under their dominion.

While suffering under the Tartar yoke, Russia in 1242 was suddenly confronted with a new and more dangerous enemy: the cruel and powerful Order of Teutonic



SERGEI EISENSTEIN

Knights. These "cur-knights"—as the Russians called them of old—swept across the Baltic provinces into Russia. Burning and pillaging, they marched on the city of Pskov at the Southern end of Lake Peipus. After a severe battle, the treacherous Mayor Tverdillo delivered Pskov into the hands of the invaders.

News of the disaster reached the neighboring city of Nov-gorod. Panic-stricken, the people turned to Prince Alexander Nevsky, who had received his surname for his great victory over the Swedes at the Neva River some years before. Young, brilliant and impetuous, Alexander determined to attack the Teutons on foreign soil. He led his troops to a strategic point on Lake Peipus and disposed his army to await the flying wedge of the Germans. After a fierce engagement, the Germans broke and fled across the frozen surface of the lake. The weight of the heavily armored Teutons shattered the slow-melting ice, and a large part of them were drowned.

Alexander led his victorious troops into Pskov. The conquered knights he decided to exchange in the West "for soap." The traitor Tverdillo he delivered up to the people. The German common soldiers he set free, saying: "Go home and tell all in foreign lands that Russia lives. Let them come to us as guests . . . But if anyone comes to us with the sword, he shall perish by the sword. On this the Russian land stands and will stand."

## Amkino is Proud to Present SERGEI EISENSTEIN'S Alexander Apusky

Directed by Sergei Eisenstein and D. I. Vassiliev

Story by Sergei Eisenstein and Peter A. Pavlenko
Photography by Edward Tisse
Original Music by Sergei Prokofiev

Produced by MOSFILM STUDIOS, U.S.S.R.

## CAST

| Prince Alexander Yaroslavich Nevsky    |                 |   | NIKOLAI CHERKASSOV<br>Honored Artist   |
|--|-----------------|---|--|
| Vassily Buslai                         |                 |   | N. P. OKHLOPKOV                        |
| Gavrilo Olexich                        |                 |   | A. L. Abrikossov                       |
| Ignat, Master Armorer                  |                 |   | D. N. Orlov<br>Honored Artist          |
| Pavsha, Governor of Pskov              |                 |   | V. K. Novikov<br>Honored Artist        |
| Domash, nobleman of Novgorod           |                 |   | N. N. Arski                            |
| Amelfa Timofeyevna, mother of Buslai   |                 | • | V. O. MASSALITINOVA<br>People's Artist |
| Olga, a Novgorod girl                  |                 |   | V. S. IVASHEVA                         |
| Vassilissa                             |                 |   | A. S. Danilova                         |
| Master of the Teutonic Order           |                 |   | V. L. Ershov<br>People's Artist        |
| Tverdillo, traitorous mayor of Pskov . | 140             |   | S. K. BLINNIKOV<br>Honored Artist      |
| Anani, a monk                          |                 |   | I. I. LAGUTIN                          |
| The Bishop                             | ( <b>) (</b> () |   | L. A. FENIN<br>Honored Art Worker      |
| The Black-robed Monk                   | •               | • | N. A. ROGOZHIN  Honored Artist         |

## WHO'S WHO IN "ALEXANDER NEVSKY"

Sergei Eisenstein stands in the first rank among the motion picture directors of the world. His "Potemkin," made in 1926, was hailed as one of the greatest motion pictures of all time. This was followed by "Ten Days That Shook the World" and other productions for the silent screen. "Alexander Nevsky" is Eisenstein's first venture into the field of sound. He is now engaged on a new film built around the life of the Soviet military hero, Frunze. Eisenstein was recently awarded the Order of Lenin for his direction of "Alexander Nevsky."

Sergei Prokofiev needs no introduction to music lovers. One of the greatest living composers, his works have been played by every leading symphony orchestra throughout the world. His best known compositions include his "Classical Symphony," and some of the most brilliant piano concertos in concert repertory. He has made several visits to America, appearing before concert audiences as piano soloist.

Edward Tisse has been associated with Eisenstein as cameraman since the filming of "Potemkin." He was one of the first motion picture photographers of the Soviet cinema. His work with Eisenstein has brought him world fame.

Nikolai Cherkassov is the leading actor of the Soviet stage and screen. His previous roles include that of Professor Polezhayev in "Baltic Deputy" and of Alexi in "Peter I." He has been decorated by the Soviet Government for his artistic work.