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King Lear

1971 140 min. B&W

Anamorphic Only Rental: B

Directed and written by Grigori Kozintzev, from the play by William Shakespeare; original title: "Karol Lir;" photography by Jonas Gričius; music by Dmitri Shostakovich. With Yuri Jarvet, Elza Radzins, Galina Volchek. Russian dialog with English subtitles.

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One critic has written that "of all Shakespeare's tragedies, *King Lear* is perhaps the best suited to Russian adaptation, being the longest, wildest, starkest, and most replete with pain and suffering at all social levels." In this Soviet production (using Pasternak's translation) the play's somber tone is further heightened by the striking cinematography that captures the chaos of battle as well as the aged king's deepening moods of madness. As Lear loses his command over his lands, his daughters, and finally, over himself, the play moves inexorably towards its shattering climax. The renowned Dmitri Shostakovich composed the dramatic score.

