

## Document Citation

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Produced by the Lenfilm Studio



A feature colour film, 2711 m  
Script by Yuri Arabov with the participation of Arkady Strugatsky, Boris Strugatsky, Pyotr Kadochnikov  
Directed by Alexander Sokurov  
Camera by Sergei Yurisditsky  
Production Designer — Yelena Amshinskaya  
Music by Yuri Khanin  
Featuring: Alexei Ananishnov, Eskender Umarov, Vladimir Zamansky, Irina Sokolova

# DAYS OF THE ECLIPSE

**D**mitry Malyanov is busy with composing something, typing and from time to time moving aside an annoying telephone...

Whereas in Sokurov's previous film "Mournful Hard-heartedness" all the characters were equally strange to him, in "Days of the Eclipse" based on Arkady and Boris Strugatsky's story the director is obviously charmed by his hero.

Dmitry Malyanov (played by non-professional actor Alexei Ananishnov) is really a fine young man. He is handsome, he is lonely. We are waiting expecting some action, but... Sokurov says his "no" to all those who prefer sharp intrigue, staggering attractions, horrifying tricks and melodramatic turns of the story. By the way they will go to see the film by Sokurov, who has already got the image of a "director of elite cinema". Though in the film "Days of the Eclipse" he made a step in the direction of entertainment. Not attraction but entertainment, because the author placed his hero into an exotic landscape where faces of people and nature — deserts, dust storms, majestic beauty of canyons and the sunset — are well matched. Malyanov is a doctor: he decided to devote his life to his favourite profession and to prove the impossible: that the man's health depends on his morals. His occupation will be important to us when the director will lay for his hero mystic nets of Good and Evil. But meanwhile we see a young man who is typing, speaking with his friend, riding bicycle along a Marcian road, looking at the bright sun and contacting strange, a bit wild people who do not need him. It seems sometimes that they need little: to be near him for a while, to look at him with admiration — that's all. But it is a strange thing: they pay for it with their life.

What is the idea of the film?  
Nostalgia for a personality perfect in

all its deeds. It is impossible to make such a character act, it would mean — to destroy him. But to outline a saving circle, a circle of voluntary loneliness would mean in the end to undermine the sympathy with him. Among these wishes the pulse of the picture is beating up to the very finale, when the director gives as a gift Kabiria's smile to his hero, as if he has suffered a storm of feelings and at least he collected his strength to find faith in life...

In this film camera catches the varying texture of moods: from fear to delight, from triumph to depression. We haven't ever seen such cinema. Without any doubt, it is author's cinema.

**S**i dans le film précédent de Sokourov «Indifférence affligeante» tous les personnages lui étaient étrangers, dans celui-ci fait d'après les motifs de la nouvelle des frères Strougatski, le réalisateur admire manifestement son personnage principal.

Dmitri Malianov est un jeune homme charmant. Il est beau et seul. Nous attendons une action mais... Sokourov dit résolument «non» aux amateurs des intrigues, des situations extrêmes et des péripéties mélodramatiques. Bien qu'il ait déjà l'image du réalisateur «élitaire», dans son nouveau film il a fait un pas vers une narration plus spectaculaire car il place, son personnage dans un paysage exotique où les hommes ressemblent à la nature qui les entoure: déserts, tempêtes de sables, beauté majestueuse des gorges avec un soleil rouge couchant.

Malianov est un médecin qui veut prouver la corrélation entre la santé et la moralité de l'homme. Il nous sera important de savoir de quoi il s'occupe quand le réalisateur dressera devant lui des pièges mystiques du Bien et du Mal. En atten-



dant nous voyons ce jeune homme se promener en bicyclette, regarder le soleil rouge et parler avec des hommes bizarres, un peu sauvages qui veulent toujours quelque chose de lui. Il leur faut parfois être tout simplement à côté de lui, l'admirer. Cependant cela leur coûte leur vie. Quelle est l'idée du film?

La soif de la personnalité, belle dans toutes ses manifestations. Faire agir un tel personnage est impossible car c'est l'anéantir. Dessiner autour de lui un cercle salvateur de la solitude volontaire, c'est saper la compassion pour lui. C'est entre ces deux extrêmes que se situe l'action du film

où le réalisateur offre à son personnage le sourire de Cabiria comme s'il a passé par une tempête de sentiments et a retrouvé les forces pour gagner la foi en la vie... C'est vraiment du cinéma d'auteur.

Long-métrage en couleurs, 2711 m  
Scénario: Youri Arabov avec la participation de Arkadi et Boris Strougatski, de Piote Kadochnikov  
Images: Sergueï Yourisditski  
Décors: Eléna Amchinskaja  
Musique: Youri Khanine  
Avec: Alexei Ananichnov, Eskender Oumarov, Vladimir Zamanski, Irina Sokolova