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"THE NEW BABYLON," ONE OF THE MASTERPIECES OF THE
SILENT CINEMA, TO BE PERFORMED WITH ITS LONG-LOST
SHOSTAKOVICH SCORE AT THE CASTRO THEATRE, APRIL 14.

Omri Hadari to conduct San Francisco Chamber Orchestra.

"The New Babylon", one of the masterpieces of the silent era of film, will be performed with its long-lost Dmitri Shostakovich score, at the Castro Theatre, Saturday, April 14 at 7PM and 9PM, as a special event of the 27th Annual San Francisco International Film Festival. The score will be performed by the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and conducted by Omri Hadari, who reconstructed the score for these performances. This San Francisco major film event is the premiere performance of a national tour produced by Philip H. Mittell, tour producer, New Babylon Film, Inc., Allan Kassirer and Gary Goldstein, a Corinth Films release. Tickets are \$10, \$15, and \$20.

The film, which has been hailed by the Cinematheque Francaise as one of the few authentic epics of the cinema, represented the first collaboration between the 22-year-old Shostakovich and the Russian directorial team of Grigori Kozintsev and Leonid Trauberg. It was also Shostakovich's first film score; he went on to compose thirty-five more. The score for "The New Babylon", however was lost from the time of the film's first presentation in Leningrad in 1929, until right after the composer's death in 1975. And not unlike many silent classics of the era just prior to the introduction of sound, "The New Babylon" has rarely been seen since that time, and its score has never been recorded outside of the Soviet Union.

Last Fall, with Mr. Hadari at the podium, the reconstructed score and the film were performed together for a single performance in Radio City Music Hall; the result was a sensation for the New York Film Festival. Film Comment said "... (it) was one of the great events in the history of the New York Film Festival... it had never before been seen and heard in this country as intended by its creators, with the thrilling music... and a steaming hot pot of images, most of which are startling and beautiful."

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"The New Babylon" is one of the final triumphs of the silent era. The film is set in Paris in 1871 during the Franco-Prussian War. It focuses on the strife of a young girl employed in a posh Parisian department store (modeled after Le Bon Marche of Emile Zola's "Ah Bonheur des Dames",) The New Babylon, and depicts the bourgeois morality and social tensions of her times. As the Prussian army advances on Paris, the government at Versailles surrenders. The common people of Paris take up arms, reject the surrender, and set up their own independent government, The Paris Commune, in the city. The heroine comes to recognize her own working class values, while her young lover, a soldier, remains loyal to the government. After a heroic fight in the streets of Paris for forty-nine days, the Communards are finally arrested, tried and executed.

Shostokovich' brilliant score, his first for a motion picture and only silent film score, was lost from the time of the film's first presentation. The music ranges from a giant can-can, to a musical commentary counterpointing the bourgeois singing "The Marseillaise" while the orchestra parodies Offenbach, to sensuous waltzes, to a lone piano amid the debris of battle evoking Chopin. Vincent Canby, in The New York Times, said "What was gloriously apparent was that this Shostakovich score, the composer's first for a motion picture, is a model of its kind--occasionally rousing, and often extremely funny, all on its own, though it never comes between the images and the audience."

Kozintsev and Traubert began producing films in 1924 as FEKS ("Factory of the Eccentric Actor.") After a few comedy shorts, they made "The Devil's Wheel," "The Cloak", and "The Neversky Prospect", each in more expressionistic style than the last. "The New Babylon" followed, taking a year and a half to make with filming in Paris and Lenin-grad. It was photographed by Andrei Moskvin, who worked on all the films of Kosintsev and Trauberg and later lit Eisenstein's "Ivan the Terrible." The directorial team went on to make "The Maxim Trilogy" (1934, 1937, 1938, with sound) which became Russian popular classics. Their final film together, "Plain People" was produced in 1945. Kozinstev resurfaced triumphantly (without Trauberg) in 1957 with the first of three literary adaptations -- "Don Quixote", followed by the highly celebrated "Hamlet" (1964) and "King Lear" (1971), both of which had scores by Shotakovich.

Omri Hadari, guest conductor for the Casto Theatre performance, was born in Israel and is music director of the London Lyric Orchestra. Maestro Hadari is responsible

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for having reconstructed the complete score from a painstaking study of the parts discovered in Moscow archives. He has performed with the Israel Chamber Orchestra and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, studied conducting at the Guildhall School of Music in London, and won the Guildhall's prize for conducting in 1974. He has conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's orchestras on tour, the City of Birmingham Orchestra, and has toured with the Dutch National Ballet.

The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, which will perform the score at The Castro screenings, is known for its no-charge public concerts to the people of San Francisco for the past thirty years, and will soon present its Second Annual Lake Tahoe Music Festival.

Tickets to the two special April 14 presentations of the film with live performance of the score are \$10, \$15, and \$20, and are available at BASS, Ticketron, and the Downtown Center Box Office.

"THE NEW BABYLON" (1929), CASTRO THEATRE

APRIL 14, 1984 - 7 PM and 9 PM

THE NEW BABYLON -- USSR - 1929

Running Time: 106 minutes

with live performance of score by San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, Omri Hadari, conducting.

Direction and script:	Grigori Kozintsev Leonid Trauberg
From an idea by:	P. Bliakin
Photography:	Andrei Moskvin E. Mikhailov
Art Direction:	Evgeni Enei
Historical Consultant:	A. Molok
Music:	Dmitri Shostakovich

Cast:

Louise Poirier:	Elena Kuzmina
Jean, a soldier:	Piotr Sobolevskii
Grasselin, proprietor:	David Gutman
An actress:	Sophie Magarill
Lutro, a journalist	Sergei Gerasimov
Old Poirier:	S. Gusev
Therese, a needlewoman:	Janina Jeimo
A Washerwoman:	A. Gluchkova
A soldier:	Evgeni Cherviakov
Old Shop assistant:	Andrei Kostrichkin
Young girl at barricades:	Anna Zarazhinskaia
Shop Assistant:	Vsevolod Pudovkin

Producers for this presentation are Philip H. Mittell and New Babylon Films, Allan Kassirer and Gary Goldstein, a Corinth Films release.

A special event of the 27th Annual San Francisco International Film Festival.