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Kalina Krasnaya
(The Red Snowball Tree)
(RUSSIAN-COLOR)

Moscow, May 30.

Mosfilm release of Mosfilm production. Features entire cast. Directed by Vasili Shukshin. Screenplay Vasili Shukshin from his original novel. Camera (Sovcolor). A. Zabolotsky; music. P. Chekalov. Running time: 95 MINS.

Yegor	Vasili Shukshin
Lyuba	L. Fedoseeva
Lyuba's father	I. Ryzhov
Lyuba's mother	M. Skvortsova
Pvotr	A. Vanin
Guboshiyop	G. Burkov
Lucienne	T. Gavrilova
Interrogator	Zhanna Prokhorenko

Religioso drama as a genre, is back on the Soviet screen after Andrei Tarkovsky's "Andrei Roublev" (1966) which had been banned for six years. Now comes "Kalina Krasnaya" by Vasili Shukshin without excessive redtape was happily released on March 20 this year in one of Moscow biggest cinema theatres, the Zaryadye situated at the South wing of the Hotel Russia, a giant accommodation for foreigners.

Translated title, "The Red Snowball Tree" is an extraordinary film about the Russian peasant psyche. There is a strong Dostoyevsky influence. Whatever the explanation, it has become an unexpected smash.

Yegor Prokudin is a Slavic type, who being an orphan during the last war, found himself in a criminal gang. Staying pure at heart, but after long years in prisons, he is embittered when he is free again at last. Yegor felt close to the soil and wanted to become a peasant under the influence of his sweetheart, Lyuba. Yegor found in Lyuba complete understanding, but his happiness was brief, as he was tracked down and shot by members of his former gang.

This is a first color film by Shukshin and considered his best film. There are many charming scenes in this very realistic attempt to be faithful to Russian classic traditions.

Score and camera work are brilliant. Acting ensemble is excellent. This contemporary Dostoyevskian effort has real international film festival value, but the authorities as always persist in their own wrong wishes, often dispatch their least, not their best, releases to foreign events. —/van.