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A. DOVZHENKO

ARSENAL

1979
Kit Parker

(USSR/1929) silent \$30.00
97 minutes at the silent speed of 16 fps
(or 65 minutes if projected at sound
speed). English title cards.

Direction, Scenario and Editing by Alexander
Dovzhenko - Cinematography by Danylo
Demutsky - Art Direction by Isaac Shpinel,
Vladimir Mullter - Produced by VUFKU
(Odessa). Players: S. Svashenko, A. Buchma,
M. Nademsky.

Although not as well known as Eisenstein
and Pudovkin, Dovzhenko was the most
poetic of these three great, innovative
Russian film makers. The Ukraine
during the War of 1914 is the setting for
this lyrical masterpiece with impres-
sionistic and symbolic juxtaposition.
Skeletal soldiers are silhouetted in a death
march against a smoky, bleak sky; a
soldier's death by gas is made agonizingly
personal; the tense expectancy before the
outbreak of revolution in Kiev is reflected
in the faces of the populace from all
walks of life; as a signal of revolutionary
strength, the hero bares his chest to
the bullets that cannot kill him. ^{Kit} KP
~~AKER~~

"In making *Arsenal*, I had two tasks:
to unmask reactionary Ukrainian nation-
alism and chauvinism and to be the bard
of the Ukrainian working class - which
had accomplished the social re-
volution . . ."

A. Dovzhenko,

The Poet as Filmmaker