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Friday, January 15

Stories from Siberia: Vasily Shukshin in the Cinema

STRANGE PEOPLE

(STRANNYE LIUDI)

1971, Vasily Shukshin, USSR, 100 min.

With Sergei Mikonenko, Vsevelod Sanaev

6:00

"Shukshin's peasants are often touched by 'strangeness'--an eccentricity that reveals their inner protest against grinding hardship. Here three richly contrasting stories each explore one such protective fantasy. Vasska travels to the Crimea only to discover that his brother has lied about his success. Bronka takes tourists on hunting trips and enthralls them with his epic tale of nearly assassinating Hitler. And in a magnificent final episode a kolkhoz (collective farm) chairman confides his disillusion to a village sculptor, whose art is his bid for freedom."--Ian Christie, British Film Institute