

Document Citation

Title	Early Soviet cinema : Aelita and The devil's wheel
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Source	<i>Pacific Film Archive Calendar</i>
Date	1980 Jul 23
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Constructivism (Art)
Film Subjects	Aelita, Protazanov, Iakov Aleksandrovich, 1924

Aelita

"In the aftermath of the Civil War, and with new solvency achieved through NEP economic experiments, the Soviet film industry was prepared, in 1924, to undertake a production that would rival the foreign films that were arriving in Moscow in the '20s. The film artists collective, Russ, decided to film Alexei Tolstoy's story of three Russians - an engineer, a Red Army soldier, and a detective - who fly to Mars and become involved in a revolutionary uprising among the Martian people: while there, one of them - the engineer - has a love affair with Aelita, Queen of Mars. To direct this monumental story, Russ induced the most experienced director of the pre-Revolutionary period - Yakov Protazanov - to return from exile in Paris.... The art direction is the most famous attribute of *Aelita*: the sets and costumes reveal in the fantastic Martian landscape a cubist design that resulted from Protazanov's experience in the French art world as well as from the direct participation of artists from the Russian constructivist movement." --Tom Luddy, Yvette Biro

• Directed by Yakov Protazanov. Adapted from the novel by Alexei Tolstoy. Designed by Sergei Kozlovsky, Alexandra Exter, Isaac Rabinovich, and Victor Simov. With Valentina Kuinzh, Nikolai Tseretelli,