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Agitatorok
(Agitators)
(HUNGARIAN-B&W)

A Bela Balazs Studio production. Directed by Deszö Magyar. Screenplay, Gabor Body, Magyar, Jozsef Lengyel, György Lukacs, Ervin Sinko, Szilagyí Szamuelyne; camera (b&w), Lajos Koltai. No further credits supplied. Reviewed at Film Museum, Budapest, (Hungarian Film Week), Feb. 9, 1986. Running time: 71 MINS.

With: Gabor Body, György Cserhalmi. Laszlo Bertalan, Tamas Szentjobi, Peter Dobay, Sandor Oszter, Mark Zala, Andras Kozak, Sandor Simenfalvy, György Kezdy, György Pinter, Iren Süto, Laszlo Földes.

Budapest — Produced by a group of young people at the experimental Bela Balazs Studio in 1969, the year after student unrest in Europe and the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia, "Agitators" seems to have been a deliberately provocative pic which was unsurprisingly banned by the Magyar authorities.

It's set in 1919, during the 133-day Communist revolution led by Bela Kun. The film team uses old newsreels from that turbulent year, some of them shockingly savage, and reenacts scenes of debate about Party principles. During these debates, the forbidden name of Trotsky crops up more than once, and with dialog to the effect that, despite the advent of Communism, there's still a class system and the poor still worry about the price of bread, it's no wonder the axe fell on the picture. It is, in truth, a rather academic and dry affair, not without interest, of course, but of limited appeal. —Strat.

VARIETY

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