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Bed and Sofa (Tretya

Meshchanskaya) 9:00 10/19/83

"*Bed And Sofa* is unlike almost any other Soviet silent film. It deals with an atypical situation: a *menage-a-trois* during a housing shortage in Moscow. That the film could imply an imperfection in the socialist system (lack of adequate housing) alone makes it unusual. But *Bed And Sofa* is a landmark primarily because of its incredible humor and naturalism in depicting its characters. Room presents an intimate drama in a way that appears modern even today. Moreover, his sympathetic portrayal of the woman in the triangle, and of her decision at the film's conclusion, makes *Bed And Sofa* one of the few movies in any era to deal with the liberation of women.

"The script was written by Victor Shklovsky, the distinguished Russian formalist and literary critic, and is rumored to have been based on details of the private life of the great Revolutionary poet Mayakovsky." -- Tom Luddy, Yvette Biro

• Directed by Abram Room. Written by Room and Victor Shklovsky. Photographed by Grigori Giber. With Nikolai Batalov, Ludmila Semyonova, Vladimir Fogel. (1927, 72 mins, Silent with English intertitles, Print from PFA Collection)