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Odinokij Golos Celoveka

(Man's Solitary Voice)

(SOVIET-B&W/COLOR)

A Sovexportfilm presentation of a Lenfilm production. Directed by Aleksandr Sokurov. Screenplay, Jury Arabov, based on tales by Andrei Platonov; camera (b&w, color), Sergei Yourizditzky; editor, Sokurov; art direction, Vladimir Lebedev. Reviewed at the Locarno Film Festival (competition), Aug. 7, 1987. Running time: **90 MINS.**

With: Andrei Grudov, Tatiana Coriatcheva.

Locarno — Those who were mystified by Aleksandr Sokurov's outlandish adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's play "Heartbreak House," shown this year in Berlin, won't find much solace here, in an item made in 1978 but never unveiled until now.

A protégé of the late Andrei Tarkovsky, to whom this film is dedicated, Sokurov obviously tries to follow his master's steps in creating a kind of visual equivalent to verbal poetry, but he is much less coherent and quite often drifts into an obscurity whose necessity seems doubtful.

Based on stories by Andrei Platonov, the writer who inspired Andrei Konchalovsky's "Maria's Lovers," the film attempts to transmit the lyrical sense of the prose more than its narrative value. It deals with the emotional drainage of young people at the outset of the

Russian revolution. A young man of evidently proletarian background returns to his village after "killing all the bourgeois" as his father ironically remarks, and marries a young girl whose parents obviously once belonged to the middle class. There is no way this couple can really work out, and this is substantiated in a series of images evoking their respective pasts.

Visually, the picture is very carefully fashioned, and in spite of mediocre quality of the print screened, it is often visually striking. It is difficult, however, to follow the pattern which determined his choice of images, or for that matter, the alternate use of black & white and color. Actors are asked to convey moods more than characters, the use of symphonic music, conducted by one of the foremost Russian musicians, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, is remarkably effective, and so is the restless, tormented country landscape. —*Edna.*