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The Agitators

Agitatorok

22A3 Friday, April 22 10:00 pm

Writer: Dezso Magyar, Gabor Body

Director: Dezso Magyar

Cinematography: Lajos Koltei

Music: Beethoven

Editing: Vera Selmeczy

Principal Cast: Gabor Body, Peter Dobai, Sandor Oster

Production Co.: Hungarofilm

Export Agent: Hungarofilm, Bathori u. 10, 1054

Budapest, Hungary. Tlx: 225768

1969/B&W/82 mins.

In Hungarian with English subtitles

The presentation of "The Agitators" in AFI Fest is a major event and is likely to be a revelation for many. Banned in Hungary for 19 years, it has only just been taken off the shelf and subtitled specifically for this Los Angeles premiere, its first showing outside Hungary. Its director and co-writer Deszo Magyar, who is now Filmmaker-in-Residence at the American Film Institute and the writer-director of many American films, has been widely admired for his short film "Punitive Expedition" which was shown at Cannes in 1971. "The Agitators" is his magnum opus, a cinematic portrait of Hungary's short-lived 1919 revolution. It was described in "Film Comment" as "one of the strongest evocations of the Sixties ever put on film — a fascinating artifact of the Hungarian New Left" while George Lukacs called it "one of the greatest films ever made about revolution, unmatched since Eisenstein." It shows how young revolutionaries really think, how people with no political experience but a great sense of moral responsibility behave when they take charge of a country. Preceding "The Agitators" we will present Magyar's 1971 Hungarian 40-minute film "Punitive Expedition" about the repression of an uprising

*Given in
LA, was
present
w/ AFI*