

Document Citation

Title	Biography: Andrei Mikhalkov-Konchalovsky
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	press release
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	2
Subjects	Konchalovsky, Andrei (1937), Moscow, Soviet Union
Film Subjects	Sibiriada (Siberiade), Konchalovsky, Andrei, 1979

SIBERIADÉ

Biography

ANDREI MIKHALKOV-KONCHALOVSKY

(Director and Co-Writer of "Siberiade")

Andrei Mikhalkov-Konchalovsky, director and co-author of "Siberiade," was recently selected by American film historian Jay Leda in the updated version of his Kino, A History Of The Russian and Soviet Film, as the "prime director among the younger generation with promise for the future from a Western point of view."

Born in 1937, Konchalovsky was graduated from V.G.I.K. (the Moscow Film School) in the same class with Andrei Tarkovsky, another highly regarded young Soviet filmmaker. Konchalovsky subsequently wrote the scripts for Tarkovsky's "The Steamroller and the Violin" (1961) and his internationally successful "Andrei Rublev" (1964).

Konchalovsky has written 15 screenplays to date, including "Slave of Love" for his brother, Nikita Mikhalkov, who also directed the highly successful "Oblomov," released by International Film Exchange in 1980.

Konchalovsky's own six films are considered path-breaking by many international critics. He began his career as a director with a short film, "The Boy With A Pigeon," winner of the First Prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1962.

(More)

Konchalovsky's initial feature film, "First Teacher" (1965), which he wrote and directed, was shown at the Venice Film Festival. His next feature, "Asya Happiness" (1966), was scripted by Yuri Klepikov. It was filmed along the Volga River and was considered too controversial for release until international film critics were allowed to view it (unofficially) at the 1977 Moscow Film Festival.

Konchalovsky then turned to literary adaptations: "A Nest of Gentlefolk" (1973), based on a story by Turgenev, and "Uncle Vanya" (1970), adapted from Chekov, won prizes at the San Francisco and San Sebastian Film Festivals.

His two-part "Romance of Lovers" (1973) won top honors at Karlovy Vary and forecast this decade's trend towards the modern historical epic by Soviet filmmakers. It was filmed in various parts of the Soviet Union and underscored Konchalovsky's taste for the romantic.

"Siberiade" was shown as a four-part epic in competition at the 1979 Cannes Film Festival, and won The Special Prize of the Jury. This \$12-million production follows the lives of two families -- one rich and the other poor -- in a remote Siberian village through the first six decades of the 20th century.

Konchalovsky is presently writing a libretto for an opera based on Dostoyevsky's Crime and Punishment and a screenplay based on the life of Rachmaninov.

"Siberiade" is being released in the U.S. by International Film Exchange, Ltd.

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