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ZEMLYA

(EARTH) (SOIL)

(USSR/1930) silent \$30.00

83 minutes at silent speed of 16 fps
(57 minutes at sound speed). English
title cards.

Directed, Edited and Screenplay by Alexander
Dovzhenko, Assisted by Yulia Solntseva, Lazar
Bodik - Cinematography by Danylo Demutsky -
Art Direction by Visili Krichevsky Mus -
Produced by VUFKU (Kiev). Players: *Semyon
Svashenko, Stepan Shkurat, Mikola Nademsky,
Yelena Maximova, V. Mikhailov, Pyotr
Masokha, Ylia Solntseva.*

Considered his masterpiece, this was
Dovzhenko's fourth, and last, silent
film.

"I wanted to show the state of a
Ukrainian village in 1929—that is to
say—at the time it was going through an
economic transformation and a mental
change in the masses . . ." —*Dovzhenko*

The simple story in this film, twice
included as one of the *Twelve Best Films
of All Time* by an International panel
of critics, concerns the coming of a
collective farm to a Ukrainian village;
however, Dovzhenko is not interested
in the plot, but rather in his belief that
the land is the stem of the life-cycle
of man. Constant juxtaposition results
in an overpowering effect.

Kit Barker 1979

" . . . *Earth* remains one of the true
masterworks of the silent screen."

—Arthur Knight, *The Liveliest Art*