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TRANSLATION

KATKA'S REINETTE APPLES

A young country girl, Katka comes to Leningrad to earn a living. She begins by selling "reINETTE" apples, and falls in with those who live in the city's slums. Katka is seduced by a thief Semka Jgut. Katka is pregnant by the time she realizes how vile he is, but she leaves him. Among the thieves and vagrants, Katka meets a shy, awkward young man. He is attracted by the pureness of her heart. Katka invites him to live with her. Vadka is immediately attracted to Katka's child. Meanwhile, Smeka becomes involved with a woman who smuggles perfume, named Verka. Semka and Verka play cards with the hope of winning easy money. But they have no luck. To replenish his business, Semka plans to trick a rich cattle man. Verka helps him. They are both arrested at the scene of the crime. Katka's fate is different: she breaks with her street life. She stops selling apples, and goes to work in a factory -- a new horizon opens up before her with an opportunity for honest work.

SOVIET OPINIONS

Ermler's first films were made with another beginner E. Iohanson. KATKA 's REINETTE APPLES was produced in 1926. This film is more mature than the first, and is one of the first Soviet films to create a drama based on contemporary Soviet life. This film, because of the intrigue it involves, reminds one of KOZINTsev and Trauberg's THE DEVIL'S WHEEL. In both of these films, the story takes place during the NEP period, but whereas in THE DEVIL'S WHEEL the slums are romanticized, in Ermler's film, they are condemned.

KATKA stands out from other such films by creating human, life-like characters. Katka (Bulenskaia), her friend Verka (Tchernova). Semka Jgut (Solvostov) seem to be people picked off the streets of Leningrad. They weren't quite as authentic as Vilnova in Pudovkin's MOTHER. They were sketches rather than finished portraits, but they were nonetheless closer to real life than were the characters drawn from romantic literature by the FEKS, or the character-types based upon the theories used in editing October, THE OLD & THE NEW by Eisenstein. The character of the intellectual, Vadka (played by F.Nikitin) shows the beginning of an effort to create a character with psychological depth, not very typical, but having at least several realistic traits which give the character the appearance of being alive