

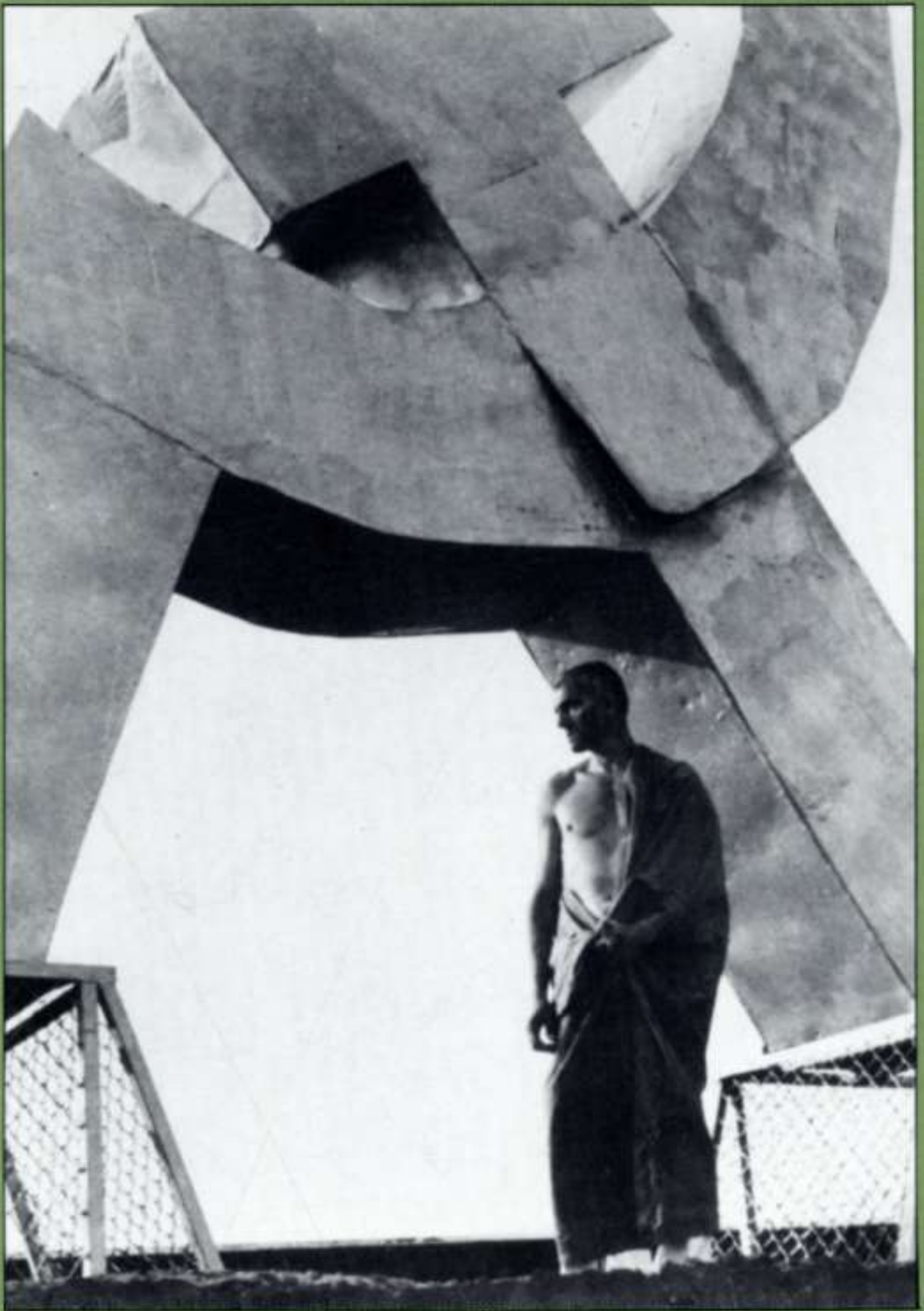
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“★★★★”—*Chicago Tribune*

“Stunning”
—*The New York Times*

“A film of such
astonishing beauty . . .
ranks right up there
with not only the best
of Paradjanov but
also the best of the
late Andrei Tarkovsky.”
—*The Los Angeles Times*



This unforgettable and immensely powerful political allegory from the Ukraine was directed by Yuri Illienko—virtuoso cinematographer for the legendary Sergei Paradjanov—and based on Paradjanov's own prison camp experiences. Opening in mid-flight, **Swan Lake The Zone** follows a gaunt escapee finding refuge inside a claustrophobic hammer and sickle monument. A woman takes pity on him and they fall in love, but he is betrayed by her son and returned to the hellish gulag where life becomes increasingly more bizarre. Illienko's themes of captivity and escape, love and betrayal, surrender and sacrifice are dealt with in an extraordinary visual display. The soundtrack has virtually no dialogue, but is rich in harrowing sound effects. Emerging as the first independent, international co-production from the Ukraine during a period of enormous political upheaval, the timeliness of **Swan Lake The Zone** is in every way as significant as its dazzling cinematic artistry.

swan lake the zone

Directed by
Yuri Illienko

Written by
Sergei Paradjanov
and Yuri Illienko

Ukraine/Canada/Sweden,
1990

96 minutes

Color

35mm

In Ukrainian with
English subtitles

INTERNATIONAL FILM
CRITICS AWARD &
YOUNG CRITICS PRIZE
1990 CANNES
FILM FESTIVAL