

## Document Citation

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Author(s)	Tom Luddy Yvette Bíró
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**Tuesday September 13**

Avant-Garde Film

Dennis James on Piano

**Bed and Sofa 7:30**

*Abram Room (USSR, 1927)*

(*Tretya Meschanskaya*). "*Bed and Sofa* is unlike almost any other Soviet silent film. It deals with an atypical situation: a *ménage-à-trois* during a housing shortage in Moscow. That the film could imply an imperfection in the socialist system (lack of adequate housing) links it with *The Girl With a Hatbox* and a few other films. But *Bed and Sofa* is a landmark primarily because of its incredible humor and naturalism in depicting characters. Abram Room presents an intimate drama in a way that appears modern even today. Moreover, his sympathetic portrayal of the woman in the triangle, and of her decision at the film's conclusion, makes *Bed and Sofa* one of the few movies in any era to deal with the liberation of women. The script was written by Victor Shklovsky, the distinguished Russian formalist and literary critic, and is rumored to have been based on details of the private life of the great Revolutionary poet Mayakovsky."

—Tom Luddy, Yvette Biro

• Written by Room, Victor Shklovsky.

Photographed by Grigori Giber. With Nikolai Batalov, Ludmila Semyonova, Vladimir Fogel.

~~80 mins~~, Silent with English intertitles,

B&W, 16mm, PFA Collection)

110 min notes