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Thursday October 24

**Soviet Cinema: A Tribute
to Boris Barnet (1902-1965)**

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Recent Locarno and Telluride Film Festival tributes to Boris Barnet only underscore the notion that, if Barnet's films are relatively unknown in the United States, it is only due to their lack of availability here. With three social satires, *The Girl with the Hatbox* (1927), *House on Trubnaya Square* (1928) and *Okraina* (1933), Barnet established himself as the leading Soviet director of comedies, although a 40-year career spanned the genres from comedy to thrillers and dramas. He has been called the USSR's Leo McCarey for these perceptive satires, filled with the minutiae of everyday life and propelled less by traditional Soviet montage than by Barnet's robust humor and instinctive eye for human behavior. His films are peopled by eccentrics (especially spunky women), vividly captured in location environments, and they are also broadly inventive in style.

**Archival Treasures of the
Silent Screen--
From the British Film Institute,
Jon Mirsalis on Piano:**

**House on Trubnaya Square
(Dom na Trubnoi) 7:30**

A young country girl, Parasha (Vera Maretskaya) lands a job as a servant in Moscow and gets her first taste of the middle classes when she becomes entangled in the lives of the residents of this block of flats on Trubnaya Square. (In a movement that perhaps signals Godard of many years later, the downtrodden girl becomes transformed when she sees a play about Joan of Arc.) An observant, witty, essentially loving character sketch of a community that never seems to stop to catch its breath, the film is spiced with some well-placed anti-bureaucratic barbs and filled with cinematic surprises, from surrealism, to stop-motion, to burlesques of other Soviet stylists (Eisenstein and his crowds, Vertov and his tramcars).

• Directed by Boris Barnet. Written by B. Zorich, et al. Photographed by Yevgeni Alexeyev. With Vera Maretskaya, Vladimir Fogel, Anna Sudakevich. (1928, c. 60-70 mins, Silent with English intertitles, 35mm, Print from British Film Institute Film and Video Library)