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ALEKSANDR SOKUROV

THE DIRECTOR OF RUSSIAN ARK

"An unshakable vision of what film art should be"
- THE NEW YORK TIMES

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With an Introduction by
the Director**

**New - Restored and Recut
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- THE VILLAGE VOICE

MOTHER



AND SON

A FILM BY
ALEKSANDR SOKUROV

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RUSSIAN ARK

**"AN UNCOMPROMISING, IMAGISTIC,
MASTERLY WORK."**

- Caryn James, THE NEW YORK TIMES



The Second Circle

A Film by

ALEKSANDR SOKUROV

Restored
Director's Cut

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TWO FILMS FROM
**ALEKSANDR
SOKUROV**

THE DIRECTOR OF
RUSSIAN ARK

Mother
and Son

The
Second
Circle



“LYRICAL, INTENSE, MESMERIZING.
Sokurov brings the eye of a masterly painter and the sensitivity of
a poet to the deepest and most complex of human relationships.”
— Lawrence Van Gelder, NY TIMES

MOTHER AND SON

A miracle of sound, light and characterization, *Mother and Son* achieves a pinnacle of film lyricism rarely, if ever, achieved before. Using stained glass, mirror effects and special lenses, director Aleksandr Sokurov (*Russian Ark*) and cameraman Aleksei Fyodorov have created “one of the most painterly features of all times” (Boston Phoenix). Both revolutionary in form and deeply reverent in theme, this intimate elegy is a truly unique film experience of universal relevance and hypnotic vision.

Within a small cabin cloistered in a netherworld as idyllic as a dream, an ailing mother (Gudrun Geyer) and her grown son (Aleksei Ananishnov) play out a muted drama “so elemental, so primal and rudimentary, it’s part of our genetic code” (Boston Herald). “I’m a head person, otherwise my heart would break,” confesses the son as his mother’s life ebbs away. But as the dutiful son comforts his dying mother in her final hours, and the shadow of mortality consumes her, heartbreak is inevitable. “Visuals that make Terrence Malick’s *Days of Heaven* look like a home movie” (Time Out NY) herald both anguished solitude and the arbitrary grace of survival.

Kino is proud to make *Mother and Son* available on US DVD. Hailed as a modern masterpiece, “one of those rare works that extends the art of film” (NY Daily News), it has been championed by rhapsodic admirers as varied as critic Susan Sontag, director Paul Schrader and musician Nick Cave. “Watching it,” said J. Hoberman in the Village Voice, “is like watching the last sunset.”

1997 • Russia • 72 min • Color • Original Aspect ratio (1.66:1)
In Russian with optional English subtitles

A Film by ALEKSANDR SOKUROV
MOTHER AND SON
ALEKSEI ANANISHNOV GUDRUN GEYER
Written by YURI ARABOV Cinematography ALEKSEI FYODOROV
Production Design ESTHER RITTERBUSCH and VERA ZELINSKAYA
Editing by LEDA SEMYONOVA Music MIKHAIL IVANOVICH
Producer THOMAS KUFUS
Directed by ALEKSANDR SOKUROV
© 1997 zero film / ö Film / Severnyj Fond



SPECIAL FEATURES

- An Introduction by Aleksandr Sokurov
- Theatrical Trailer
- Optional English subtitles

“ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE 1990s.”
— Susan Sontag

The Second Circle

In the 1990 film *The Second Circle*, Russian director Aleksandr Sokurov (*Russian Ark, Mother and Son*) solidified his reputation as “a master of controlling mood” (NY Newsday). Expertly pitched between absurdity and elegy, allegory and social critique, *The Second Circle* is an “uncompromising, imagistic, masterly work” (New York Times).

In a remote Siberian village, an anonymous young man emerges from a blizzard to claim his late father’s body. Navigating the detritus of an old man’s final friendless decade and the dehumanizing maze of red tape that are his father’s sole legacy, the boy inadvertently picks through the debris of unraveled family ties and confronts the yawning gap between alienated Soviet generations. Scorned and ignored, his labor of mourning becomes as transformative as the labor of birth. “I’ll burn everything, but not my father,” the young man warns a funeral director. As he finds himself in his father’s lifeless eyes, the reluctant young pilgrim discovers that they have more in common in death than they did in life.

“A starkly beautiful, awesomely impressive and ferociously demanding exercise in pure visual cinema” (LA Times), *The Second Circle*’s austere color palette offers a visual feast of timeless iconography and nightmarishly precise detail. “Like his mentor Andrei Tarkovsky,” said the New York Times, “Mr. Sokurov has an unshakable vision of what film art should be.” Whether bleached by the winter sun, bathed in moonlight or caressed by shadows, the faces and frames of *The Second Circle* haunt a unique cinematic borderland where audacious expressionism meets documentary reality.

This Kino on Video edition has been newly restored, and the director himself has made additional cuts for pacing -- totaling about 5 minutes -- to make this the definitive, never-before-seen version of *The Second Circle*.



SPECIAL FEATURES

- Still Gallery
- About the Restored Director’s Cut
- Optional English subtitles

1990 Russia 85 min Color Original Aspect ratio (1.37:1)
In Russian with optional English subtitles

A FILM BY ALEKSANDR SOKUROV
THE SECOND CIRCLE (Krug vtoroy)
PYOTR ALEKSANDROV NADEZHDA RODNOVA
TAMARA TIMOFEYEVA AND ALEKSANDR BYSTRYAKOV
WRITTEN BY YURI ARABOV
CINEMATOGRAPHY ALEKSANDR BUROV
DIRECTED BY ALEKSANDR SOKUROV
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