

Document Citation

Title	Alyenka
Author(s)	R.P.
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Alienka, Barnet, Boris Vasilyevich, 1961

Friday, January 8

Stories from Siberia: Vasily Shukshin in the Cinema

ALYENKA

1961, Boris Barnet, USSR, 90 min.

With Vasily Shukshin, Natacha Ovodova, A. Zaitsis

60:00

Much of the Shukshin screen persona--the ambiguously motivated country fellow with a thousand ~~_____~~ *schemes*,

~~_____~~ was established

with his performance in this late work by the great Boris

Barnet. ~~_____~~ *_____* runs away

~~_____~~ because ~~_____~~ her new school ~~_____~~ *_____*

~~_____~~ she meets up with an eccentric assortment

~~_____~~

~~_____~~ Set in the newly-developed agricultural regions of Kazakhstan, ALYENKA follows a nine-year-old girl who runs away from home because she hates the school on her collective farm. On her journey she meets up with an eccentric assortment of characters: a dentist from Riga out to prove to her family that she can "rough it" out in the new territories, a tractor driver (Shukshin) whose wife threatens to leave him because of her boredom out on the farm, a woman ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ whose daughter has

~~_____~~ *_____*

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

died out on the steppes and who now refuses to raise any more children there. Unlike a host of other Soviet films which depict the glorious deeds of the "farm pioneers," ALYENKA focuses instead on the pioneers themselves, detailing their complex and often contradictory reasons for moving to new territories far from their native lands, and the often unexpected consequences of their decisions. (RP)