

Document Citation

Title	The extraordinary adventures of Mr. West in the land of the Bolsheviks
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Reader (Chicago, Ill.)</i>
Date	2004 Feb 06
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Neobychainiye prikliucheniia Mistera Vesta v strane bolshevikov (The extraordinary adventures of Mr. West in the land of the bolsheviks), Kuleshov, Lev, 1924

C. Reader 2-6-64

**The Extraordinary Adventures of
Mr. West in the Land of the
Bolsheviks**

NEW Soviet film teacher and theorist Lev Kuleshov was a spirited amateur director, and this first full-length feature (1924, 88 min.) from his experimental workshop shows him and his students at their most manic and inventive. As with some of their other projects (*By the Law*, *The Great Consoler*), the inspiration is largely American: a flag-waving YMCA director from the U.S., with horn-rims and a raccoon coat suggesting Harold Lloyd and a Wild West bodyguard acrobatically played by future director Boris Barnet, is hoodwinked by a gang of disreputable Russians into seeing all the horrors he expects in the wake of the revolution. Americans come in for some ribbing, but the thuggish "Bolshevik" pranksters, even more hilarious, aren't exactly role models either. (JR) With live piano accompaniment. Facets Cinematheque

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