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*Film and Art Movements*

**STRIKE**

(STACHKA)

1925, Sergei Eisenstein, USSR,  
97 min.

**6:00**

**Lecturer: Darryl Fox**

Piano accompaniment by  
David Drazin

“Eisenstein’s first film is about a 1912 rebellion of factory workers and their brutal repression by the Czarist bosses. Influenced by his work in the Proletkult Theater Collective and the Kuleshov Workshop, Eisenstein looked for a way to express the meaning of the revolutionary movement. He shot the film in real locations but aimed for abstractions in which the detail can stand for the whole. He substituted stereotyped figures as collective symbols where other films had individual heroes. The symbolic meaning is underlined by comparative editing, intercutting shots of animals with people, or in the massacre sequence, cutting in the slaughter of cattle in an abattoir. Actors are selected for their facial characteristics as types. The theatrical tradition is still evident in the geometric patterns and decorative settings, but it is also clear that a new style is emerging out of the elements of classic cinema.”

—*Museum of Modern Art program note*

*Film Center Gazette, Feb 1990*