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Wednesday October 31 1984

Bargain Matinee

Bulgarian Cinema: 1958-1979:

Advantage (Avantazh) 5:30

Admission \$2.50

(Also known as *The Reincarnation of the Rooster*.)

"Georgi Dyulgerov is considered by some to be Bulgaria's most promising director. *Advantage* places him within the circle of East Europe's talent to watch by virtue of the theme alone: a remarkable review of the 1950s when the country was going through its birth pains as a Socialist state. 'Advantage' is underworld jargon for 'work that pays off'—namely the ability to pick a pocket cleanly without risk of getting caught. A legendary 'king of pickpockets' named 'Cock' or 'Rooster' plied his trade on trains, at fairgrounds and places where people gathered in crowds. Little is known about the real man, Lazar Kassabov. Dyulgerov went to police officials and petty thieves for enough material to put together three lengthy episodes in Cock's life through the eyes of women who knew him. This allowed for some freedom to fantasize about the man himself, to touch upon the petty criminal's dream-world and capture the feelings of an outsider trying, against fate, to fit into society and live with the woman he loves. The story is both comic and tragic, but the fascinating element is the accurate portrait of the times...." --Ron Holloway, *Variety*

• Directed by Georgi Dyulgerov. Written by Dyulgerov and Roussi Chaney. Photographed by Radoslav Spassov. With Roussi Chaney, Maria Statulova, Plamena Getova, Radosveta Vassileva. (1977, 138 mins, In Bulgarian with English titles, 35mm, Color)