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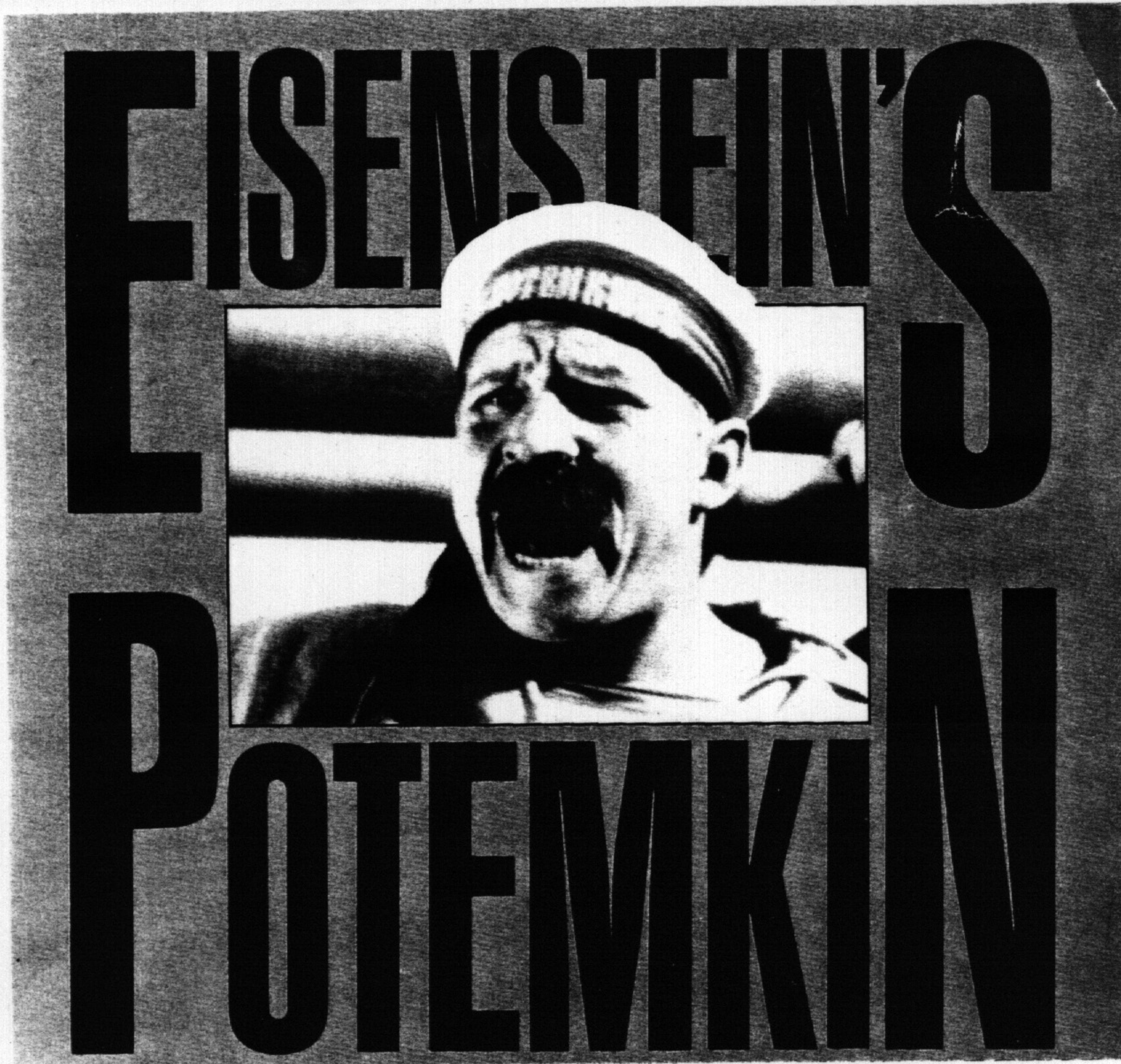
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"The Battleship Potemkin" is considered one of the great films of the 20th Century. It was created in 1925 by the 27 year old Russian genius, Sergei Eisenstein. Eisenstein's bold introduction of the concept of "montage" -- a series of rapid-fire cuts which together describe and create an action sequence -- revolutionized the art of the cinema.

Even today -- almost 70 years later -- "Potemkin" is studied for its techniques of creating tension, of building suspense and of evoking strong emotional responses from audiences.

"Potemkin" is based on an incident during the 1905 revolution in Russia:

"The crew of the battleship Prince Potemkin mutinied rather than eat rotting food, an action supported by some of the civilian population who were mown down by government troops. Made as part of the 20th anniversary of the Revolution, the film contains -- in the massacre on the Odessa Steps (an invention of Eisenstein's) -- one of the most memorable and exciting sequences in all cinema. Down a seemingly endless flight of stairs march soldiers advancing on the fleeing citizens. A nurse is shot and the pram and baby bounce down the steps to destruction. The rapid montage, and the effects devised by using a trolley and a camera strapped to the waist of an acrobat, still take the breath away. 'Potemkin' put Soviet cinema and Eisenstein on the international map." 1

In 1975, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of 'Potemkin', the then Soviet Union Film Directors Society in collaboration with the Eisenstein Museum decided to restore the negative of 'Potemkin'. Although Eisenstein had had a score created for this silent film by the German composer Meisel, it was considered unsatisfactory and the Soviets undertook the task of adding a more effective, dynamic score.

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To their credit, they decided to put the work of two geniuses together: that of Dmitry Shostakovich to that of Sergei Eisenstein.

The music editors studied Shostakovich's symphonic scores and found in his World War II symphonies the movements, episodes and fragments that would heighten the drama of Eisenstein's film. The resulting soundtrack is a seamless, virtuous accompaniment to Eisenstein's masterpiece.

The details and planning involved in creating this soundtrack have been lost; what remains is the film itself and Shostakovich's masterful accompaniment.

Sheldon M. Rich and Associates has received performance copyright permissions from appropriate Russian state agencies for screenings of the film "Battleship Potemkin" with the Shostakovich soundtrack. We have engaged Russian composers, arrangers and copyists to decode the soundtrack, create a conductor's score and all of the instrumental parts so that live performances of the score will be possible.

"Potemkin" projected onto a giant screen gains in strength and drama; a "live" symphony orchestra playing Shostakovich's fierce wartime symphonies makes the evening an unforgettable cinematic and symphonic experience.

We propose such presentations of "Potemkin" in the United States and believe it is an ideal vehicle for Festival settings as well as during the performance/subscription seasons of symphony orchestras. Presentors may also want to consider this for gala fundraising evenings.

A special 35 mm print with English translations for the printed Cyrillic narration has been created for this purpose and is available for viewing in New York City. The score and parts are also available for study and inspection.

Please contact Sheldon M. Rich and Associates for further information on rental fees and availability.

1. The Holt Foreign Film Guide, page 56.