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House in the Snow Drifts / **Dom v sugrobakh**

Friedrich Ermler, 1927, silent; 63m (with live piano accompaniment by Donald Sosin)

One of the many Soviet-era artists in need of serious re-evaluation (or just plain discovery), Friedrich Ermler spent practically his entire career at Lenfilm. Based on the short story *The Cave* by Yevgeny Zamatkin, *House in the Snow Drifts* tells the story of the inhabitants of a small apartment house in the winter of 1919 – 1920, as the battle between "red" (communist) and "white" (tsarist) forces was raging outside the city. For most of these characters, survival is the most important concern, ideological or other interests falling far behind the drive to just stay alive. Among them is a young musician, who feels his art places him somehow above the struggle going on all around him. Ermler's treatment of his characters is remarkably evenhanded, their weaknesses and even deceptions understood against a backdrop of fear and deprivation.

Sat Nov 8: 1:30 & 5:15

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