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Andrei Tarkovsky's

Ivan's Childhood

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Andrei Tarkovsky's masterful first film won grand prizes at film festivals around the world. Twelve-year-old Ivan's childhood exists only in his head; in reality, it is cut short by the Second World War when, after his family is destroyed, he becomes an ace army scout. The boy is adopted by two officers, with whom he finds companionship and some warmth between assignments, but his main solace lies in his dream-memory world, through which he returns to a time of abandon. Tarkovsky moves from terrifying realism to lyrical impressionism, revealing his mastery at incorporating surrealist elements into his filmic universe.

• Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky. Written by Vladimir Bogomolov and Mikhail Papava. Photographed by Vadim Yusov. With Kolya Burlyaev, Valentin Zubkov. (1962, 84 mins, In Russian with English titles, 35mm, Print from PFA Collection courtesy of Corinth Films)