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Arsenal

Earth (1930) is the most famous of Alexander Dovzhenko's masterpieces, but this white-hot war film, made the previous year and screening only once in the Gene Siskel Film Center's invaluable Dovzhenko retrospective, is in many ways his most dazzling silent picture. Though it was commissioned to glorify the 1918 struggle of Bolshevik workers at a Kiev munitions factory against White Russian troops, Dovzhenko's view of wartime and battlefield morality is too ambiguous and multilayered to fit comfortably within any propa-

ganda scheme. More clearly influenced by Sergei Eisenstein than any of Dovzhenko's other pictures, it's certainly the one that uses fast editing in the most exciting fashion, and some of the poetic uses of Ukrainian folklore that were Dovzhenko's specialty have an almost drunken abandon here—as in the singing horses. A 35-millimeter print will be shown, and David Drazin will provide live piano accompaniment. 92 min. Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State, Saturday, June 15, 4:15, 312-846-2800.

—Jonathan Rosenbaum