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Alexander Der Kleine (Alexander The Little) (EAST GERMAN-RUSSIAN-COLOR)

East Berlin, Jan. 17.

A coproduction between DEFA Studios, Group Berlin, East Berlin, and the Maxim Gorki Studio for Youth Films, Moscow. Features entire cast. Directed by Vladimir Fokin. Screenplay; Ingeborg Kretzschmar, Valentin and Vladimir Yeshov, Vladimir Fokin; camera (color). Sergei Filippov; sets, Erich Kruellke; music, Eduard Artemyev; editor, Tamara Belyeyeva; co-director, Helge Trimpert; dramaturg, Gudrum Deubner, Andrei Ivanov; production manager, Dietmar Richter, Arkadi Kushlyansky. Reviewed at DEFA Screening Room, East Berlin, Jan. 7, '83. Running time: 98 MINS.

Cast: Boris Tokaryev (Captain Zvetov), Yuri Nasarov (Starshina), Mikhail Kokshenov (Privat Kurykin), Ute Lubosch (Tessa), Walfriede Schmitt (Frau Flechsig), Hans Uwe Bauer (Walter),

Aimed for the youth audience, this lopsided glance at the postwar scene leaves much to be desired in painting a rather heroic picture of Soviet soldiers coming to the rescue of an entire village off the beaten path on the way to Berlin. Tale has a new mayor just out of prison caring for a load of orphaned kids in a barn in the summer of 1945, the area threatened by hoodlums and diehard Nazi youth who are not above raids and the killing of innocent people for the losing Fatherland.

The title refers to a name given to a newborn baby by the Russians"he's too small to be Alexander the Great, so Alexander the Little"—
and there's a bloody shootout in the end as the fascists attack the town for revenge or something.—Holl.