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THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF MR. WEST IN THE LAND OF THE BOLSHEVIKS

(NEOBYCHAINYE PRIKLYUCHENIYA MISTERA •
VESTA V STRANE BOLSHEVIKOV)

Director: Lev Kuleshov

USSR 1924 94 minutes silent

Cast: Porfiri Podobed, Boris Barnet, Vsevolod Pudovkin

“The finest comedy of the decade” (Denise Youngblood) featured Barnet in the role of the boisterous American bodyguard, “Cowboy Jeddie,” and was directed by Lev Kuleshov – the influential theoretician, filmmaker, teacher of the Soviet montage school, and founder of the famous collective that Barnet would briefly join. Kuleshov saw Barnet in a boxing match and, impressed with his physical prowess, recruited him to perform in this story of the eponymous Mr. West, an American businessman visiting the USSR with Jeddie in tow and with outlandish preconceptions about the unsavoury Bolshevik character. Pudovkin, also a member of the Kuleshov collective and initially chosen to play Jeddie, appears as a scheming Russian thief attempting to bamboozle the rich Yankee out of his money. Pudovkin and his motley crew of bumbling criminals fairly steal the whole show in this frenetically paced satire of both American propaganda about Russia and Keystone-style caper films.

Presented with live piano accompaniment by William O'Meara.

Sunday, March 20 1:00 p.m.

*Chemungue Ontario,
SP. 105.*