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Classic Soviet Silents:

Eisenstein's

Strike 9:15

9-8-83

Ours is a sparkling print of this gorgeous film. One of the most original debuts in film history, Eisenstein's *Strike* reveals the influence of the explosively rich contemporary theater (particularly of Meyerhold) in its brilliant mixture of agit-prop techniques and comic-grotesque stylization. In telling of a factory workers' strike in Czarist Russia in 1912 and the brutal suppression of the strike, "*Strike* is full of cinematic metaphors and images of sight, sound, touch, smell and taste; it is a deluge of real things and surroundings—the spying in the latrine, the union meeting in the row-boat, the hosing of the demonstrating strikers, the final debacle...." (Jay Leyda, *Kino*)

• Directed by Sergei M. Eisenstein. Written by V. Pletnyov, I. Kravchunovsky, G. Alexandrov and Eisenstein (the Proletkult Collective). Photographed by Eduard Tisse, Vassili Khavatov. With I. Kuvki, Alexander Antonov, Grigori Alexandrov. (1924, 75 mins, Silent with Russian intertitles and live English translation, 35mm, Print courtesy Francis Ford Coppola)