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Ballada O Soldatse

(Soldier's Ballad)

(RUSSIAN)

Cannes, May 17.

Mosfilm production and release. With Volodia Ivachov, Janna Prokhorenko, Anton Maximova, Nicolas Krioutchkov, Evgueni Ourbanski. Directed by Grigori Chukhray. Screenplay, V. Elov, Chukhray; camera, V. Nikolaiev, E. Savelieva; editor, B. Nemetchek. At Cannes Film Fest. Running time, 85 MINS

Soldier Volodia Ivachov
Girl Janna Prokhorenko
Mother Antonia Maximova
General Nicolas Krioutchkov
Wounded Man Evgueni Ourbanski

This film is in "The Cranes Are Flying" vein in that it is a war film done in a poetic style and a purported pacifistic outlook. It emerges a warm, simple film that could well be an art possibility abroad as well as possibly a more general entry.

It is tenuous but able to be sentimental without being mawkish. A 19-year-old Russian soldier, during the last war, is trapped by a couple of tanks which he manages to knock out in spite of his fear. He gets a four day pass and sets out for his home to see his mother and fix the roof. But he gets into a series of adventures and manages to get home only for a few minutes to talk to his mother.

On this slim thread, the director has woven a series of tender sketches emphasizing the lurking terror, uselessness and hopelessness of war. It also shows that all Russo soldiers were not brave, that there were shirkers and that there were women who cheated on their husbands. But its main treatment is in a lyrical style with excellent camera work, direct acting, and deft character blocking. This plus technical effects all combine to make this a touching pic.

Mosk.

May 18, '60