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FILMEX
1972

Saturday, November 11, 9:30 P.M.

10 SOLARIS



USSR, 1972

In Russian with English subtitles
Jury Prize, Cannes Film Festival

Director: Andrei Tarkovsky
Screenwriters: Andrei Tarkovsky, F. Gorenchtein
Production Company: Mosfilm
Cinematographer: Vadim Youssov
Music: E. Artemiev
Leading Players: Natalie Bondarchuk, Donatas Banionis, Yuri Yarvet
Running Time: 165 minutes Source: Sovexportfilm

A film as nonlinear, as abstract, and as thematically difficult as **Solaris** is a remarkable event in the development of the Soviet cinema, and in the career of director Andrei Tarkovsky.

Solaris, based on the novel of the same name by the Polish science-fiction writer Stanislas Lemm, is set slightly in the future of an unidentified country. It tells the story of a scientist who is sent to investigate strange happenings at a scientific station on a distant planet. The film poses questions about the nature of reality and the morality of science. As in his first two films, Tarkovsky has again made a film about a character "who has something to overcome, who must win in the name of the optimism in which I believe".

Tarkovsky began his first feature film, **My Name Is Ivan**, shortly after he graduated from the Institute of Cinematography in Moscow in 1960 at the age of 29. It is about an orphan boy who reconnoiters behind enemy lines for the Red Army during World War II. In its concentration on the fate of an individual,

My Name Is Ivan marked a clear turning away from the Stalinist era. It won awards for best picture, best director and best actor at the 1963 Cannes Film Festival.

Tarkovsky worked for three years on his second film **Andrei Roublev**. This epic about the great 15th-century Russian icon painter affirms the individual's right to dignity. Its candid treatment of Russian history is unparalleled in Soviet cinema. **Andrei Roublev** enjoyed a succes d'estime at the 1969 Cannes Film Festival. It was withheld from distribution for five years. — Bill Stern

Short: **Russian Rocket to the Moon**, Yuri Khlebtsevich
(USSR, 1957) 3 min.