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Sunday February 23

Psychological Realism in Early
Soviet Cinema

Bed and Sofa 7:00

Abram Room (USSR, 1927)

Introduced by Naum Kleiman

Bruce Loeb on Piano. (*Tretya Meschanskaya*).

"*Bed and Sofa* is unlike almost any other Soviet
silent film. It deals with an atypical situation: a

ménage-à-trois during a housing shortage in
Moscow. That the film could imply an
imperfection in the socialist system (lack of
adequate housing) links it with *The Girl With a
Harbox* and few other films. But *Bed and Sofa* is a
landmark primarily because of its incredible
humor and naturalism in depicting characters.

Abram Room presents an intimate drama in a way
that appears modern even today. Moreover, his
sympathetic portrayal of the woman in the
triangle, and of her decision at the film's
conclusion, makes *Bed and Sofa* one of the few
movies in any era to deal with the liberation of
women. The script was written by Victor
Shklovsky, the distinguished Russian formalist
and literary critic, and is rumored to have been
based on details of the private life of the great
Revolutionary poet Mayakovsky."

—Tom Luddy, Yvette Biro

• Written by Room, Victor Shklovsky.

Photographed by Grigori Giber. With Nikolai
Batalov, Ludmila Semyonova, Vladimir Fogel. (X)
mins, Silent with English intertitles, Piano
accompaniment, B&W, 16mm, Print from PFA
Collection)

80" @ 20 fps

+
CHILD
of the
BIG CITY