

Classics of Soviet Cinema

The Lady With the Dog

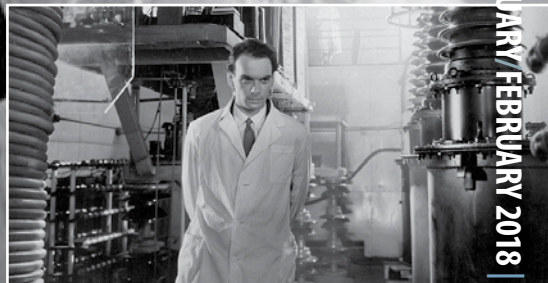
Sunday, 4 February 2018 at 4:30pm
Iosif Kheifits | Soviet Union 1960 | 83 min |
Russian with English subtitles

The film, set in late-19th century Czarist Russia, tells the story of an adulterous affair between a Russian banker (Aleksey Batalov) and a young lady (Iya Savvina) he meets while vacationing in Yalta. Based on a short story by Anton Chekhov.

"The Lady With the Dog is a literate, delicate and satisfying film, though slight. Both existentialist and humanist at once, its fine performances and cinematography are its greatest assets." (Stuart Galbraith)

Award: Special Jury Prize, Cannes Film Festival 1960

These screenings also act as a tribute to the great Russian actor Aleksey Batalov (1928–2017) who features in both these films.



Nine Days of One Year

Sunday, 11 February 2018 at 4:30pm
Mikhail Romm | Soviet Union 1962 | 111 min |
Russian with English subtitles

Physicists Dmitry Gusev (Aleksey Batalov) and Ilya Kulikov (Innokentiy Smoktunovskiy) are good friends and colleagues, but rivals for the love of Lyolya (Tatyana Lavrova). The two young scientists are conducting experiments in nuclear physics when an accident occurs in a reactor. The idealistic Dmitry is determined to make fusion work, even at the risk of his own life. This ground-breaking film, from the liberating 'Thaw' period of Soviet cinema, questions not only war or testing but the very nature of playing God with the atom.

"Putting concerns about nuclear energy in the same pot with the struggles of three people in love isn't a simple recipe by any measure but [director] Romm pulls it off splendidly. Nine Days of One Year is one of the best, and most under-seen, movies of the sixties Soviet cinema." (Turner Classic Movies)