

Russian Ark (DVD-foreign-RUS-R)

Alexander Sokurov, director, 2002, 99 min.

A 19th century French aristocrat, notorious for his scathing memoirs about life in Russia, travels through the Russian State Hermitage Museum and encounters historical figures from the last 200+ years.

Second Circle (DVD-foreign-RUS-S)

Alexander Sokurov, director, 1990, 85 min.

A man tries to come to terms with his father's death and to deal with the mundane details of his burial in a society cut off from spirituality.

The Steamroller and the Violin (DVD-foreign-RUS-S)

Andrei Tarkovsky, director, 1960, 43 min.

A warm yet ironic story about the unlikely friendship between a boy who loves to play the violin and a steamroller driver. In this simple early film you can already appreciate the emerging talent of an artist who would go on to create some of the most profound works of world cinema.

Taxi Blues (DVD-foreign-RUS-T)

Pavel Longuine, director, 1990, 110 min.

Surrounded by hustlers and black marketeers, a hard-working, anti-semitic taxi driver, is pushed over the edge when a Jewish saxophonist, stiffens him on a fare. Enraged, the taxi driver tracks down the freeloading musician and forces him to pay off the debt through physical labor.

The Thief (DVD-foreign-RUS-T)

Pavel Chukhraj, director, 1997, 94 min.

In 1946 a soldier fathers a child and dies before his birth. Six years later, the mother and the child meet a handsome soldier on a train. An incredible story of much deceptions, heartbreaks and betrayals ensue.

Vovochka (DVD-foreign-RUS-V)

Igor Muzhzhukhin, director, 2002, 95 min.

This hilarious story follows Vovochka, a spontaneous, indefatigable ten-year-old boy, an ever-inventive daredevil who happens to be quite a handful. With his arrival on the eve of the New Year holidays, a quiet suburban Moscow village blows up both figuratively and literally.

The White Sun of the Desert (DVD-foreign-RUS-W)

Vladimir Motyl, director, 1969, 85 min.

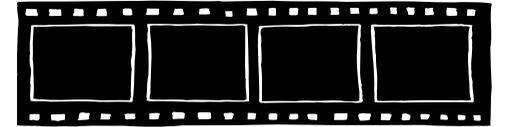
A soldier of the Red Army has been fighting in the Russian Civil War in Russian Asia for many years. Just as he is about to return home to his wife, Sukhov is chosen to guard and protect the harem of a guerilla leader.

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COMMON GROUND IV:



Russian Cinema

at
Russell Library
Middletown, Connecticut

9th Company (DVD-foreign-RUS-N)

Fedor Bondarchuk, director, 2005, 139 min.

Young Soviet Army recruits are stuck in the bloody war in Afghanistan, that was started by politicians.

Absurdistan (DVD-foreign-RUS-A)

Veit Helmer, director, 2008, 90 min.

An allegorical comedy centered on childhood sweethearts destined for one another until the women of their village, angered by male indifference toward the water shortage, go on a sex strike.

Alexander Nevsky (DVD-foreign-RUS-A)

Sergei Eisenstein, director, 1938, 112 min.

The story of how a great Russian prince led a ragtag army to battle an invading force of Teutonic knights.

Andrei Rublev (DVD-foreign-RUS-A)

Andrei Tarkovsky, director, 1966, 165 min.

Immediately suppressed by the Soviets in 1966, Tarkovsky's epic masterpiece is a sweeping medieval tale of Russia's greatest icon painter. Too experimental, too frightening, too violent, and too politically complicated to be released officially.

Ballad of a Soldier (DVD-foreign-RUS-B)

Grigori Chukhrai, director, 1959, 88 min.

Russian soldier Alyosha is granted a visit with his mother after he singlehandedly fends off two enemy tanks. On his journey home, he encounters the devastation of his war-torn country, witnesses glimmers of hope among the people, and falls in love.

Burnt by the Sun (DVD-foreign-RUS-B)

Nikita Mikhalkov, director, 1994, 135 min.

The moving story of a war hero from the Russian Revolution who is targeted by his wife's ex-lover, a member of Stalin's secret police.

Come and See (DVD-foreign-RUS-C)

Elem Klimov, director, 1985, 136 min.

A young soldier joins a group of Partisans fighting the Nazis in Byelorussia, he little suspects that he is plunging through the looking glass. Separated from his comrades, struck deaf by German artillery, he finds a beguiling peasant girl and they wander a battle scorched Russia together.

Earth (DVD-foreign-RUS-E)

Alexander Dovzhenko, director, 1930, 70 min.

Dovzhenko's "film poem" style brings to life the collective experience of life for the Ukrainian proles, examining natural cycles through his epic montage.

Hamlet (DVD-foreign-RUS-H)

Grigori Kozintsev, director, 1964, 140 min.

In the utterly corrupted kingdom, a lone hero is bound to take up arms to avenge his father's death. This film became a champion among Lenfilm Studio's prize-winning motion pictures - 23 awards in four years. The musical score was written by the great Russian composer Dmitry Shostakovich.

House of Fools (DVD-foreign-RUS-H)

Andrei Konchalovsky, director, 2002, 104 min.

In the midst of the Chechen War, a remote psychiatric institution is left without staff leaving the patients to fend for themselves. Based on a true story.

How I Ended This Summer (DVD-foreign-RUS-H)

Alexei Popogrebsky, director, 2010, 130 min.

A polar station on a desolate island in the Arctic Ocean, a seasoned meteorologist, and a recent college graduate, are spending months in complete isolation on the once strategic research base. The graduate receives an important radio message creating an atmosphere of lies, suspicion and fear.

The Island (DVD-foreign-RUS-I)

Pavel Longuine, director, 2006, 112 min.

Somewhere in Northern Russia in a small Russian Orthodox monastery lives an unusual man whose bizarre conduct confuses his fellow monks, while others who visit the island believe that the man has the power to heal, exorcise demons and foretell the future.

The Italian (DVD-foreign-RUS-I)

Andrei Kravchuk, director, 2005, 99 min.

For most Russian orphans, the chance to be adopted is a dream come true. But six-year-old Vanya has other hopes. After discovering that his mother is still alive and before an Italian family can claim him for their own, Vanya sets off on a perilous journey to find his only remaining family.

Ivan the Terrible, Part I (DVD-foreign-RUS-I)

Sergei Eisenstein, director, 1944, 99 min.

During the early part of his reign, Ivan the Terrible faces betrayal from the aristocracy and even his closest friends as he seeks to unite the Russian people.

Ivan the Terrible, Part II (DVD-foreign-RUS-I)

Sergei Eisenstein, director, 1946, 85 min.

As Ivan the Terrible attempts to consolidate his power by establishing a personal army, his political rivals, the Russian boyars, plot to assassinate their Tsar.

Letter Never Sent (DVD-foreign-RUS-L)

Mikhail Kalatozov, director, 1959, 96 min.

This absorbing tale of exploration and survival concerns four members of a geological expedition who are stranded in the bleak Siberian wilderness while on a mission to find diamonds.

The Mark of Cain (DVD-foreign-RUS-M)

Alix Lambert, director, 2007, 73 min.

Great coverage of prison tattoo culture to satisfy enthusiasts - though this film is much, much more. Lambert witnesses complexities of the Russian prison system in impressive lucid complexity.

Mermaid (DVD-foreign-RUS-M)

Anna Melikyan, director, 2008, 100 min.

The story of a lonely little girl from a seaside village who takes a vow of silence while believing she has the power to make wishes come true. She is forced to move to Moscow as a teenager, her fairy tale world hits head-on with the realities of love, innocence and material life in modern Russia.

Mother and Son (DVD-foreign-RUS-M)

Alexander Sokurov, director, 1997, 73 min.

A slow and poignant story of love and patience told via a dying mother nursed by her devoted son. The simple narrative is a thread woven among the deeply spiritual images of the countryside and cottage.

Prisoner of the Mountains (DVD-foreign-RUS-P)

Sergei Bodrov, director, 1996, 99 min.

Based upon a short story by Leo Tolstoy, two Russian soldiers, Sacha and Vania, are ambushed by Muslim rebels in the grandly forbidding Caucasus and taken prisoner.

The Return (DVD-foreign-RUS-R)

Andrey Zvyagintsev, director, 2003, 106 min.

In the remote Russian wilderness, two brothers face a range of new, conflicting emotions when their father--a man they only know through a single photograph--resurfaces.

Roads to Koktebel (DVD-foreign-RUS-R)

Boris Khlebnikov & alexei Popogrebsky, directors, 2003, 100 min.

After his wife's death and the loss of his job, an engineer sets off from Moscow with his 11 year old son for his sister's house in Koktebel. With no money or means of transport, they drift through the expansive and mesmeric landscapes of Russia at the mercy of chance.