

Russian Films

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In Russian with English captions, unless otherwise noted.

***Absurdistan* (DVD FOREIGN ABS)** 90 min. 2008. Welcome to Absurdistan, a small village in the high desert mountains, just on the outskirts of reality, where magical visions and bizarre events fuse together. The village is facing a water shortage, but the men are too lazy to fix a rickety pipeline and the women are getting fed up with their good-for-nothing husbands. The women make a simple vow: 'No water, no sex.'

***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson* (DVD FOREIGN SHE)** In Russian with optional English soundtrack and optional Russian captions. 192 min. 1980. Episode 1: "The Master Blackmailer," Episode 2: "Deadly Fight," Episode 3: "Hunt for the Tiger."

***Alexander Nevsky* (DVD FOREIGN ALE)** 108 min. 1998. This is the biographical story of Prince Alexander Nevsky and his successful resistance to an attempt by Teutonic Knights to invade Russia in 1242.

***Andrei Rublev* (DVD FOREIGN AND)** 205 min. 1966. This fictional account features the 15th century icon painter who survives the cruelties of medieval Russia and his own conflicts to create renowned works of art. This version includes captions and the restoration of 40% of the original dialog; commentary, an essay by Vlada Petric, and an interview with Andrei Tarkovsky.

***The Anna Akhmatove File* (920 DVD AKHMATOVA, A.)** 65 min. 1990. Although this Soviet poet's works were banned and weren't published for 17 years, her poem 'Requiem' became the underground anthem for the millions who suffered under Stalin.

***Barber of Siberia* (DVD FOREIGN BAR)** In Russian with captions in a variety of languages. 180 min. 1998. This romance between a young Russian soldier and a foreign woman is set in Russia in 1885.

***Burnt by the Sun* (DVD FOREIGN BUR)** 135 min. 1994. Nikita Mikhalkov directs and stars as a Revolutionary hero spending the summer in the country with his daughter (Mikhalkov's own daughter), his wife, and her eccentric family. His wife's childhood love appears and the idyllic day takes a surprising turn. This is an indelible account of a man dedicated to family and fatherland, destroyed by political paranoia.

***Carmen* (DVD FOREIGN CAR)** 108 min. 2003. In this modern adaptation of Merime's *Carmen*, a cop falls into obsessive love with a young criminally talented woman, which drives him into degradation. Jealous, the cop starts killing, gets demoted, and joins criminal brotherhood – and finally kills her, facing a 20-year sentence.

***The Cranes are Flying* (DVD FOREIGN CRA)** 94 min. 1957. When Veronica's lover, Boris, goes to war, she moves in with his family. His cousin seduces her and guilt-ridden, she marries him. Unhappy in her marriage and still in love with Boris, she leaves to await Boris' return, only to learn he was killed in the war.

***D'Artanyan and the Three Musketeers* (DVD FOREIGN DAR)** 250 min. 1979. Based on the novel *Trois Mousquetaires* by A. Dumas and originally released as a motion picture by Gosteleradio SSSR.



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Day Watch (DVD FOREIGN DAY) In Russian or English or Spanish, with English, Spanish or French subtitles; closed captioned. 146 min. 2006. Anton fights the forces of darkness while trying to find and save his son, but when vampires from the dark side mysteriously get killed, he is framed for their murders and must now try to escape the Day Watch who is looking for his blood.

Dersu Uzala (DVD FOREIGN DER) 140 min. 1975. The story of man's unity with nature and the struggle for wilderness survival tells of the friendship of Soviet explorer Vladimir Arsenyev and his guide, Dersu Uzala.

4 (DVD FOREIGN FOU) 125 min. 2004. Two men and a woman happen to meet in a bar. Through their conversations, both the intriguing and banal details of their lives emerge. But is anyone really telling the truth? Topics are discussed from the meat market, to the president's drinking habit and even the Soviet cloning project. Following their late-night lies, these three strangers journey their separate ways through a surreal and apocalyptic landscape that is the dark heart of new Russia.

Golem, the Petrified Garden (DVD FOREIGN GOL) 84 min. 1991. This wry and humorous film follows Daniel, an art dealer, who travels to Siberia to claim his inheritance of an art collection, which includes a giant statue of a Golem. The long journey across Russia becomes an ironic encounter with the lost ideals of the Soviet Union after its collapse.

Harvest Time (DVD FOREIGN HAR) 67 min. 2004. Working at a collective farm as a tractor operator, Antonina has to support her young son and husband - after the latter returns from the warfront without his legs.

House of Fools (DVD FOREIGN HOU) 108 min. 2002. Psychiatric patients become involved in the Chechen War after the staff leave to find a safer hospital. Soldiers overrun the asylum, and a female patient falls in love with a soldier, leaving her boyfriend.

How I Ended This Summer (DVD FOREIGN HOW) 130 min. 2010. On a desolate island in the Arctic Circle, two men work at a small meteorological station, taking readings from their radioactive surroundings. One day while Sergei is out, inexperienced Pavel receives terrible news for Sergei from HQ. Intimidated, Pavel can't bring himself to disclose the information. When the truth is finally revealed, the consequences explode against a chilling backdrop of thick fog, sharp rocks, and the merciless Arctic Sea. The DVD also includes the short (16 min.) film, "First Day of Peace."

I am Cuba (DVD FOREIGN I) In Russian and Spanish, with English captions. 141 min. 1964. Stories depict the extremes of wealth and poverty, exploitation, and passions that led to the Cuban Revolution.

The Island (DVD FOREIGN ISL) 112 min. 2007. An unusual man lives in a northern Russian Orthodox monastery. Visitors believe that the man has the power to heal, exorcise demons and foretell the future. However, he considers himself unworthy because of a sin he committed in his youth. This parable about faith and salvation combines the realities of Russian life with monastic ritual and routine.

The Italian (DVD FOREIGN ITA) 99 min. 2005. After discovering his mother is still alive, a six-year-old Russian boy runs away from his orphanage and sets out to find her. Pursued by orphanage staff and the police, Vanya Solntsev now faces the most difficult challenges of his young life in this story inspired by true events.

Lady with the Dog (DVD FOREIGN LAD) 89 min. 1960. This forgotten masterpiece of the Soviet cinema is a bittersweet portrait of a doomed love affair between Dmitri, a bank official, and Anna, a well-to-do young woman. Because each is married to someone else, they can see each other only once a year.



Little Vera (DVD FOREIGN LIT) 110 min. 1988. This controversial, award-winning Russian movie is about a sullen, sultry teenager with few goals in life who is trying to deal with a brooding boyfriend, an abusive alcoholic father, an ineffectual mother, and the futility of life trapped in her small industrial town.

The Lover (DVD FOREIGN LOV) 96 min. 2002. The unexpected death of Dmitry's wife is a shock. But an even bigger shock awaits when he finds a letter to an unnamed lover among her papers.

The Mark of Cain (391.65 DVD MAR) 73 min. 2000. This documentary examines the importance and meaning of tattoos in Russian prison society using a series of interviews with inmates, prison officials, and criminologists to illustrate the state of Russian prisons and changes since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The Mirror (DVD FOREIGN MIR) 106 min. 1974. Tarkovsky's looking glass is not merely cracked, but shattered, and we see the jagged reflections of its shards, images of his childhood mixed with fragments of adulthood – a child's wartime exile, a mother's experience with political terror, the breakup of a marriage, life in a country home – mixed with slow-motion dreams and poetic chunks of stark newsreels.

Mother and Son (DVD FOREIGN MOT) 72 min. 1997. Within a small cabin cloistered in a netherworld as idyllic as a dream, an ailing mother and her grown son get ready for her passing. As the dutiful son comforts his dying mother in her final hours, heartbreak is inevitable.

9th Company (DVD FOREIGN NIN) 140 min. 2005. This film is based on a true story of the 9th company during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s. Young Soviet Army recruits are sent from boot camp directly into the war, but real war is not like boot camp. This inexperienced company is sent to defend a difficult position, a task which may be beyond their capabilities.

Prisoner of the Mountains (DVD FOREIGN PRI) 99 min. 1996. Two Russian soldiers are taken prisoner by a Chechen father hoping to barter them for the release of his captured son. Understanding between the soldiers and their captors is broken when plans go awry, and a chain of violence and retaliation is precipitated.

Repentance (DVD FOREIGN REP) In Georgian, Russian, or French, with captions in 13 languages. 153 min. 1987. The tragedy of the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union is paralleled in a provincial Georgian town. Varlam Aravidze, the former mayor, has died. At his funeral he is mourned ostentatiously by his son, his grandson, and the townspeople. One woman, however, refuses to let the dictator rest in peace, exhuming the body each night, leaving it in the Aravidze family garden. Her parents were imprisoned and murdered by Varlam, and she uses her trial to force everyone to confront and acknowledge the horrors of his regime.

Roads to Koktebel (DVD FOREIGN ROA) 105 min. 2005. A father sets off from Moscow with his 11-year-old son for his sister's house in Koktebel by the Black Sea. With neither money nor transportation, they drift through the landscape at the mercy of chance. For the father, the journey is an attempt to restore self-respect and win back the trust of his son. For the boy, the mythic coastal town holds the key to a new life.

Russian Ark (DVD FOREIGN RUS) 96 min. 2002. A filmmaker is transported to the 18th century on a time-traveling journey through 300 years of Russian history. This is the first feature film made in a single take.

Sauna (DVD FOREIGN SAU) In Finnish or Russian, with English or Spanish captions. 84 min. 2008. Explores the space between Christianity and paganism. The year is 1595 - a long, brutal war is finally over. Brothers Knut and Erik, part of a commission marking the border between Finland and Russia, commit a terrible sin as they leave a young girl to die. As the commission crosses the uncharted swamp, the girl returns to haunt them. Weary men find solace from the nameless village and find a sauna where all sins are washed away.



7 Songs from the Tundra (DVD FOREIGN SEV) In Nenet and Russian, with English or French captions. 85 min. 2001. Filmmaker Anastasia Lapsui, a Nenet who hails from the Russian tundra, has combined Nenet legends with her personal experiences to portray the life of her people under the communist regime.

72 Metra (DVD FOREIGN SEV) In Russian. 116 min. 2004. Every second is precious to a Russian submarine crew stranded 72 meters below the ocean's surface.

Solaris (DVD FOREIGN SEV) 167 min. 2011. This film was adapted from a Stanislaw Lem novel. Ground control has been receiving strange transmissions from the three remaining residents of the Solaris space station. When cosmonaut and psychologist Kris Kelvin is sent to investigate, he experiences the strange phenomena that afflict the Solaris crew, sending him on a voyage into the darkest recesses of his own consciousness.

Steamroller and the Violin (DVD FOREIGN STE) 43 min. 1960. At the center of the film is the unlikely friendship between a young boy who loves to play the violin and a macho steamroller driver. The film sidesteps sentimentality to give a warm yet ironic look at two individuals who bridge differences in generations to form a powerful bond.

Strike (DVD FOREIGN STR) Black & white, silent film with intertitles in Russian and English translation. 89 min. 1925. Triggered by the suicide of a worker unjustly accused of theft, a strike is called by Moscow factory laborers. The managers, owner, and Czarist government dispatch infiltrators in an attempt to break the workers' unity. Unsuccessful, they hire the police and, in the film's most harrowing and powerful sequences, the unarmed strikers are slaughtered in a brutal confrontation.

The Thief (DVD FOREIGN THI) 94 min. 1997. In 1946, a soldier fathers a child and dies before his birth. Six years later, the mother and the child meet a handsome soldier in a train, and an incredible story of deception, heartbreak and betrayals ensue. Nominated for an Academy Award (Best Foreign Language Film, 1997).

To Russia with Love (DVD CONCERT TO) Sung principally in Russian, with one selection in Italian. 86 min. Recorded live, St. Petersburg, September 15, 2006. Contents: The White Acacia's Fragrant Flakes – Misty Morning – Do Not Awaken Memories – Tapestry – Bright Is the Night – Only Once – In Memory of Sergei Esenin – The Lonely Coach Bell Rings – The Troika Speeds, the Troika Gallops – Do Not Hurry – I'm Grateful to You – Spanish Dance from the film *Gadfly* – Tenderness – The Whisper of Birches – Waltz from Masquerade Suite – You Are My Melody – How Young We Were – O Sole Mio – Dark Eyes – Evening Song.

Treasures of Hermitage (708.947 DVD TRE) 162 min. 2003. Six films tell about the gems of the Hermitage collection. The museum holds a comprehensive collection of paintings and sculpture, which is rightfully considered one of the best of the world. The film series presents an absorbing narrative about the collection creation, the great masters whose works adorn the fabulous rooms, and the works themselves.

Tulpan (DVD FOREIGN TUL) In Kazakh with English captions. 100 min. 2008. Asa is a young Russian naval service dreamer who returns to the desolate Hunger Steppe to begin a hardscrabble career as a shepherd. Before he can tend his own flock, Asa must win the hand of the only eligible bachelorette for miles, his neighbor Tulpan. Accompanied by his girlie magazine-reading sidekick, Asa will stop at nothing to prove he is a worthy husband and herder.

12 (DVD FOREIGN TWE) 160 min. 2007. Set in contemporary Moscow, 12 men must decide the fate of a young man accused of murdering his step-father. In a jury room, each man takes center stage to confront, connect, and confess while the accused awaits a verdict and revisits his war journey through flashbacks.

The Vanished Empire (DVD FOREIGN VAN) 104 min. 2008. Trapped by obligations to his brother, single mother, and aging grandfather, 18-year-old Sergey rebels by shirking responsibility. With diplomat's son Kostya and schoolmate Styopa, Sergey pursues girls, drugs, and rock n' roll. But the arrival of gorgeous, innocent Lyuda threatens to break Sergey out of his rootless cycle of teenage kicks, even as it tests his already tenuous connection to friends, family, past, and future.

Vladimir Vinokur 2003 (DVD FOREIGN VLA) 120 min. 2003. Stand-up comedy.

War and Peace (DVD FOREIGN WAR) 403 min. 1967. This detailed adaptation of the Tolstoy novel follows the lives of a group of Russian aristocrats from 1805 to 1812, including Napoleon's invasion of Russia.

Ward No. 6 (DVD FOREIGN WAR) 83 min. 2009. An adaptation of Anton Chekhov's 1892 short story "Palata No. 6," *Ward No. 6* chronicles one man's descent into madness. The head doctor at a provincial insane asylum daily interacts with the abandoned, the unloved and the forgotten. Lonely and isolated in his personal life, he finds solace in the philosophical dialogues with his patient Gromov, which lead him to question the nature of his own existence. Updated to the present, the film is shot in a mental institution on the outskirts of Moscow, and features interviews with patients, illuminating the writer's genius for a new generation.

Window to Paris (DVD FOREIGN WIN) In Russian. 100 min. 1994. Fired music teacher Nikolai gets a communal room in an apartment. The room's previous inhabitant died a year ago, and yet her cat, Maxi, is still in the locked room, healthy and fat. Soon, Nikolai and his neighbors discover there is a window to Paris in the room. The comedy begins – will the Russians be able to cope with the temptation to profit from the discovery?

Woman in Berlin (DVD FOREIGN WOM) In Russian and German, with English captions. 127 min. 2009. Women become the victims of the Red Army invasion in Berlin in 1945. One of them, Anonyma, an educated woman, decides to look for an officer who can protect her. A complex symbiotic relationship develops between her and Russian officer Andrej that will force them to remain enemies until the bitter end.

Other Films on Russian Topics

Anna Karenina (DVD DRAMA ANN) 111 min. 1948. Based on the novel by Leo Tolstoy. Passion and family conflict in 19th century upper class Russia. Anna (Vivian Leigh), the wife of a stuffy bureaucrat, falls in love with a dashing cavalry officer. Ultimately discarded by her lover, she is driven to suicide.

The Ballad of Bering Strait (DVD CONCERT BER) 99 min. 2003. This documentary follows the classically trained Russian musicians of the country music group Bering Strait, who follow their dream of coming to America from Russia in hopes of becoming country music stars.

Cambridge Spies (DVD TV CAM) 240 min. 2003. It is based on the true story of four brilliant young men at Cambridge University who are recruited to spy for Russia. They take huge personal risks to pass Britain's biggest secrets to Moscow.



Catherine the Great (920 DVD CATHERINE THE GREAT) 90 min. 2006. Venture deep into the world of the Empress Catherine: a world of secrets, deception, conquest, and glory. She adroitly rides the shifting currents of social change and unrest to become one of Russia's most unforgettable and beloved rulers.

Catherine the Great (920 DVD CATHERINE II, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA) 120 min. 2006. A young girl transforms herself from an obscure German Princess into Catherine the Great, Russia's most powerful regent.

The Cherry Orchard (DVD DRAMA CHE) 137 min. 1999. A revival of Anton Chekhov's masterpiece of imprisonment in wealth and regret. A second version of the play (***DVD DRAMA CHE***) features the 1962 cast: Peggy Ashcroft, John Gielgud, Dorothy Tutin; and 1981 cast: Judi Dench, Bill Paterson, Anton Lessor.

Doctor Zhivago (DVD DRAMA DOC) 200 min. 1965. The life of a surgeon, who is also a poet, husband, and lover, is disrupted by war. It alters the lives of many, including Tonya, the gentle woman he marries, and Lara, the woman he cannot forget.

Enemy at the Gates (DVD ACTION ENE) 131 min. 2001. This film is based on the true story of WWII Russian hero Vassili Zaitsev, whose fame pitted him against the Nazis' best sharpshooter, Major Erwin Konig.

Fiddler on the Roof (DVD MUSICAL FID) 179 min. 1971. Tevye is a poor Jewish milkman with five unmarried daughters in a village in Czarist Russia. With a sharp-tongued wife at home and growing anti-Semitism in the village, he talks to God about his troubles. His people's traditions keep him strong when his existence is as precariously balanced as a fiddler on the roof.

The Great Famine (947 DVD GRE) 60 min. 2011. When a devastating famine descended on Soviet Russia in 1921, Americans responded with a massive two-year relief campaign, championed by a new Secretary of Commerce, 'The Great Humanitarian' Herbert Hoover, an operation hailed for its efficiency, grit, and generosity. The film is based on the book *The Big Show in Bololand* by Bertrand M. Patenaude.

Icons of Power: Wrath of the Tsar, Peter the Great (920 DVD PETER I, EMPEROR OF RUSSIA) 90 min. 2006. Peter the Great took Russia from an isolated and primitive borderland into an 18th century powerhouse.

Keeping Score: Stravinsky's Rite of Spring (784.184 DVD KEE) 107 min. 2006. Music director Michael Tilson Thomas and the musicians of the San Francisco Symphony go from the salons of St. Petersburg to the villages where Stravinsky found inspiration in the earthy power of Russian folk music and dance. Thomas retraces Stravinsky's journey to the cultural crossroads of pre-war Paris, where the composer collaborates with the great impresario Diaghilev and his star dancer Nijinsky to develop the shocking, erotic, and violent evocation of pagan Russia that became *The Rite of Spring*. It includes a live performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and music from *The Firebird* by the San Francisco Symphony, with Thomas conducting.

The Kremlin (947.31 DVD KRE) 56 min. 1963. Once the heart of Soviet Russia, the Kremlin embodies the rich and fascinating cultural heritage of Moscow. For the first time, an American film crew is allowed to enter and discover the rich treasures and history of the government.

Reilly, Ace of Spies (DVD TV REI) 628 min. 1983. At the turn of the 20th century, one man single-handedly tried to alter the course of history. Sidney Reilly was a Russian-born British agent who transformed modern espionage techniques and set the mold for the super spy. From one heart-pulsing mission after another, from stealing top-secret Russian oil information to a near overthrow of the Bolshevik Revolution to his final capture by Stalin's forces in 1918, Reilly's exploits are at times so daring, it's hard to believe they are actual history.



Russia, Land of the Tsars (947 DVD RUS) 2 volumes. 2003. From the settlement of Russe Vikings to the murder of Tsar Nicholas II and his family, this program covers nearly a thousand years of despair and rebellion, innovation and conflict. It explores the tumultuous lives of Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, and Catherine the Great. Events include the history-changing December Revolution and Napoleon's ill-fated invasion.

Sputnik Mania (629.46472 DVD SPU) 87 min. 2008. On Oct. 4, 1957, the USSR announced to an unsuspecting world that it had launched the first man-made object ever to successfully orbit earth. Americans were stunned and then terrified, asking themselves what had happened to their academic and technological superiority; could the Soviets overtake them; could their satellites be used as weapons of mass destruction? The satellite had impact on the American psyche, and the shock catapulted the nation from complacency into action.

Top Gun Over Moscow (358.4131 DVD TOP) 60 min. 1996. For half a century the free world feared them. Now, for the first time meet the rugged pilots of the Russian Air Force and take a close-up look at heart-stopping maneuvers that astonish Western flyers.