

[**Aelita - Queen of Mars**](#) /

Aelita (1924)

Yakov Protazanov, Director

An engineer designs a spaceship and travels to Mars where he falls in love with Aelita, the Queen of the planet. One of the earliest science fiction films, this big-budget silent film is also notable for its imaginative sets and costumes. DVD

[**Ballad of a Soldier**](#) /

Ballada o soldate (1960)

Grigori Chukhrai, Director

World War II soldier Alyosha

Skvortsov destroys two enemy

tanks and is declared a war hero.

He is granted a six-day leave and

decides to visit his mother. During

the long journey back home, he

meets many civilians and witnesses

the damage the war has caused to his

country and its people. DVD

[**The Battleship Potemkin**](#) /

Bronenosets Potyomkin (1925)

Sergei Eisenstein, Director

This film pioneered many narrative

techniques still in use today such as montage, quick edits, fade-ins and and fade-outs. The film dramatizes a 1905 mutiny by Russian sailors who were returning from war with Japan and rebelling against having to eat infected food. VHS

[**Brother**](#) / **Brat** (1998)

Aleksei Balabanov, Director

Danila returns home after completing his military service and begins working

for his brother, a successful criminal.

When Danila proves to be a more

skillful killer than his brother, he sets

out on his own to make it in the

underworld. DVD

[**Burnt by the Sun**](#) /

Utomlyonnye solntsem (1994)

Nikita Mikhalkov, Director

This film tells the story of how former

war hero Colonel S. Kotov, while on

vacation with his family, realizes that

he may become a victim of Joseph

Stalin's Great Purge, and that the

government he once respected may

now be turning against him. VHS

[**Close to Eden**](#) / **Urga** (1991)

Nikita Mikhalkov, Director

Sergei, a Russian truck diver,

befriends Gombo, a Mongolian

shepherd. Although their

backgrounds differ considerably,

the two soon learn that they have

much in common. VHS

[**The Cranes Are Flying**](#) /

Letiat zhuravli (1960)

Mikhail Kalatozov, Director

Young lovers Veronika and Boris

are forced to separate when Boris is

called to fight during World War II.

When Veronika doesn't hear from

Boris, she assumes he has died, and

marries Mark, his cousin. DVD

[**Father and Son**](#) /

Otets i syn (2004)

Alexander Sokurov, Director

This film explores the close

relationship between a father and

his son, Alexei, who live together in

St. Petersburg. As Alexei's

girlfriend grows to resent their

bond, Alexei's father begins to

contemplate life away from his son.

DVD

Prisoner of the Mountains /
Kavkazskii plennik (1997)

Sergei Bodrov, Director
Chechen rebels capture Russian soldiers Vanya and Sachaare. The leader of the rebels, Abdul Murat, tries to exchange the soldiers for his son who has been imprisoned by the Russians. As Abdul works out the details of the exchange, Vanya befriends Sacha, Abdul's daughter. DVD

Russian Ark /
Russkiy kovcheg (2002)

Alexander Sokurov, Director
Set in the Hermitage, this film presents a journey through hundreds of years of Russian history as seen through the eyes of an unnamed visitor. In addition to its strong visual appeal, this entire film is composed of one continuous camera shot. DVD

The Steamroller and the Violin /
Katok i skripka (1962)

Andrei Tarkovsky, Director
As young Sasha leaves his home and heads to his violin lesson, a group of boys begin to bully him. When Sergei, a steamroller operator, rescues him,

a close friendship develops. DVD

Strike / Stachka (1925)

Sergei Eisenstein, Director
This silent film from first-time director Sergie Eisenstein tells the story of a factory workers' strike in Moscow during 1912 and the violence which erupts after the owners confront the disgruntled workers. DVD

Tycoon / Oligarkh (2002)

Pavel Lungin, Director
Plato Makovski, part businessman and part gangster, earns and loses a fortune during the post-Soviet era of the early 1990s. DVD



December 2007



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