

PUBLIC NEWS

MAY 9, 1990 ISSUE #419

SOVIET CINEMA comes to Houston

Filmmakers Gleb and Igor Aleinikov - Igor publishes
Cine Phantom in Moscow

С И Н Е Ф А Н Т О М



FLICKS FROM THE U.S.S.R.

RED FISH IN AMERICA, Independent Soviet Film and Video, lecture and presentation by Soviet filmmakers Igor and Gleb Aleinikov profile by MICHAEL BERGERON

Cine Fantom is an independent film journal published in the U.S.S.R. with a readership of only 1,000. But its editor-in-chief, Igor Aleinikov, was responsible for the first public showing of independent media in Moscow and Leningrad in November 1987. Now with the collaboration of American curator Marie Cieri, Igor will present two shows of contemporary Soviet videos and 16mm shorts.

Traveling with his brother Gleb, the Soviet movie maven is coming to town courtesy of DiverseWorks, by way of the the Andy

Warhol Foundation, the Massachusetts Council for the Arts and the Trust for Mutual Understanding. "This is an exciting and one-of-a-kind show for Houston to get," said Michael Peranteau of DiverseWorks. The tour will only include a handful of stops, including its premiere at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

Two nights next week, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 15 and 16 at 8 p.m., the Aleinikov brothers will discuss each evening's presentations as well as the present state of independent film and video production in the Soviet Union. Each program runs slightly over 70 minutes.

In contrast to the relative ease by which US denizens have access to video production through private funding or non-profit organizations such as Access Houston, the

Russian media artist has only recently had easy reach to the means of producing his visions. "Sixteen-millimeter film is much cheaper now in Russia than in the US," said Igor by phone from Michigan.

He continued, "Those who work in video use VHS or Video 8. No special effects are used to enhance the editing. We who use film go to the store to get it, and one can only buy reversal film."

The information society of cable television has only come to Russia in the last two years. "Only the large Soviet cities have it, and then only in parts of the city or certain hotels," Igor said.

When I asked Igor what he thought of Gorbachev or Boris Yeltsin he replied, "Most artists want to continue to be more

progressive than the state-sponsored art or movies."

Igor sees America as a young country and is most impressed by the architecture. His filmic influence was formed by the classic 1920s Russian filmmakers and the energy of Soviet filmmakers of the 1960s such as Konchalovsky and Tarkovsky.

"When I started making films, I had only seen a few foreign films," Igor continued. "Now, of course, the opportunity to see films is great. I now have the ability to read many foreign periodicals and books on art."

The films included in the "Red Fish in America" series are by artists from the Baltic States, Byelorussia, the Ukraine, Perm and Tula in the Russian republic, and the larger and more familiar cities of Leningrad and Moscow.