

Document Citation

Title	Soviet silent pic 'Babylon' N.Y. Fest closer a la 'Nappy'
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1983 Aug 31
Type	article
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Novyi Vavilon (The new Babylon), Kozintsev, Grigorii Mikhailovich, 1929

Soviet Silent Pic 'Babylon' N.Y. Fest Closer A La 'Nappy'

VARIETY
Aug. 31
1983

BFI Revived It

The final selection for the 21st New York Film Festival is a revival of Grigori Kozintsev and Leonid Trauberg's Soviet silent film classic "Novyi Babilon" (The New Babylon) to be presented as a special event Oct. 3 at Radio City Music Hall. Highlighting the evening will be the live performance of Dimitri Shostakovich's rediscovered original score for the picture by an orchestra under the baton of Omri Hadari.

Last year, the Film Society of Lincoln Center and Radio City Music Hall co-presented Godfrey Reggio's "Koyaanisqatsi" to a sellout crowd at the 6,000-seat Manhattan showplace.

Ticket scale for the once-only, 9 p.m. screening is \$10 and \$15, comparable to opening and closing night prices of \$10 and \$14 for "The Big Chill" and "Streamers" at Lincoln Center. Other fest pics are pegged at \$5 and \$7.

"The New Babylon" is being distributed domestically by Corinth Films following its festival showing.

It has previously been revived by the British Film Institute for screenings in London and the Netherlands, all conducted with orchestra by Hadari, principal conductor and musical director of the London Lyric Orchestra. The BFI's Ian Christie, Andrew Youdell and Veronica Riley arranged for the Shostakovich score's availability for the Radio City screening.

Starring Elena Kuzmina and Piotr Sobolevski, "The New Babylon" was the seventh silent film directed by the team of Kozintsev and Trauberg, who originally had formed an experimental theatre company FEKS, the Factory of the Eccentric Actor.

"The New Babylon" represents Shostakovich's only silent film score, but he later provided music for Trauberg and Kozintsev's "Alone" (1931), "The Youth Of Maxim" (1935), "The Return Of Maxim" (1937) and "The Vyborg Side," last three representing an acclaimed trilogy. He also scored Kozintsev's later solo-directed films "Pirogov" (1947), "Hamlet" (1964, screened that year at the New York Film Festival) and "King Lear" (1971).