

THE BEST IN

KINO
INTERNATIONAL

WORLD CINEMA

ANDREI TARKOVSKY'S
STALKER

and

ALEKSANDR ZARKHI'S
ANNA KARENINA

KINO INTERNATIONAL ADDS TWO CLASSIC RUSSIAN FILMS TO ITS DVD LIBRARY

Kino International is proud to announce the addition of two masterpieces of Russian cinema to its already classic DVD library. Available in exclusive two-DVD sets, Andrei Tarkovsky's *STALKER* (1979) and Aleksandr Zarkhi's 70mm widescreen *ANNA KARENINA* (1967), based on Leo Tolstoy's classic novel and never before available on U.S. DVD, will pre-book on October 3, 2006, each title with a SRP of \$29.95. Both *STALKER* and *ANNA KARENINA* have a street date of November 7, 2006.

Previously available on DVD, Andrei Tarkovsky's *STALKER* is now part of an exclusive arrangement between Kino International and Ruscico (Russian Cinema Council), which gives Kino exclusive rights for dozens of films owned by the Russian powerhouse. Ruscico is a commercial association of Russian and foreign companies created for the purpose of realizing a complex program of restoring, remastering, replication and world distribution of the best Soviet and Russian films in DVD format.

It is also through this exclusive deal that Kino makes available for the first time on U.S. DVD the much-acclaimed 1967 film version of *ANNA KARENINA*, starring the Cannes award-winning actress Tatiana Samoilova (*The Cranes Are Flying*). Though little known outside of Russia, Aleksandr Zarkhi's gorgeous film version of *ANNA KARENINA* is acknowledged as the most visually spectacular and faithful interpretation of Leo Tolstoy's masterpiece.

Now considered as famous and relevant as Soviet master Sergei Eisenstein (*The Battleship Potemkin*), Andrei Tarkovsky was born in April of 1932. After studying music and Arabic, Tarkovsky enrolled in the Soviet film school VGIK and released his first feature film, known in the U.S. as *My Name is Ivan*, at the age of 30. This poetic feature film debut about a 12-year-old war spy won the top prize at that year's Venice Film Festival and turned Tarkovsky into a worldwide celebrity.

(MORE)

For more information please contact Rodrigo Brandão at
(212) 629-6880 or rodrigo@kino.com

(CONTINUED)

His subsequent masterpiece, *Andrei Rublev* (1969), won a FIPRESCI award at the Cannes Film Festival and cemented his reputation as an ambitious master of Russian culture and world cinema – even if the film remained banned by Soviet authorities until 1971. From that point on, Tarkovsky remained a highly acclaimed figure in cinema circles, although his reputation with Soviet authorities became increasingly more complex. After directing his penultimate film, *Nostalghia* (1983), Tarkovsky defected to the West – and lived in Europe until his death in 1986. STALKER stands, alongside Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) and Tarkovsky's own *Solaris* (1972), as one of the most impressive science fiction films ever made.

STALKER

In the near future, an unseen alien force has taken possession of an area of Russian wilderness that authorities have dubbed The Zone. The only thing known for sure about the region is that few who enter it ever return. Led by a Stalker, one of a small group of outlaws able to safely navigate the Zone, a renegade scientist and a cynical, burnt-out writer penetrate the dangers outside in search of the power and transcendence rumored to exist inside. The Stalker longs to undo a mysterious physical transformation the Zone has performed on his young daughter. The scientist will risk anything to see that reason triumphs over faith. The writer seeks a germ of inspiration that the crumbling and corrupt world beyond the Zone no longer provides.

Together, these three men become desperate pilgrims walking a desolate trail leading to one of the most enigmatic and tantalizing endings in the history of cinema. A haunting and honest meditation on the intersection of science, feeling, and faith, STALKER is both profoundly unsettling and deeply moving.

ANNA KARENINA

In pre-revolutionary Moscow, Anna (*The Cranes Are Flying's* Cannes award-winning Tatiana Samoilova), a beautiful young aristocrat, languishes in a loveless marriage to Karenin, a powerful politician and highly visible public figure. When her brother Stiva invites scandal in an impetuous affair with his children's governess, Anna sympathizes with Stiva's faithful wife Dolly.

(MORE)

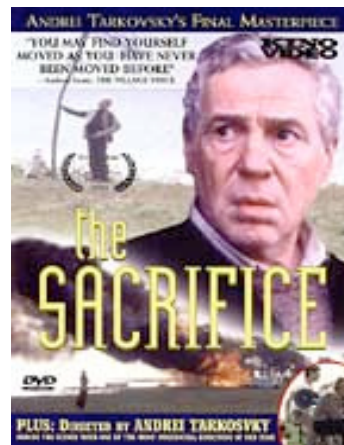
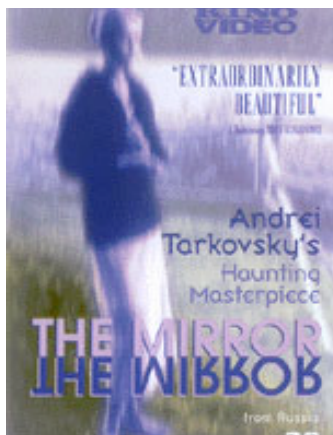
For more information please contact Rodrigo Brandão at
(212) 629-6880 or rodrigo@kino.com

(CONTINUED)

But when Anna's head is turned by the dashing Count Vronsky (Vasili Lanovoy), she finds herself risking her marriage, her family, and her husband's career in pursuit of a romance as self-destructive as it is passionate. The suffocating hypocritical social order that imprisoned Anna in her marriage won't permit her to leave it without paying a tragic price. For ANNA KARENINA, the USSR's famed Mosfilm Studios spared no expense to lavishly recreate the palatial trappings of upper crust 19th century Moscow. Working for more than two and a half years in close collaboration with cinematographer Leonid Kalashnikov (*The Red Tent*), and with an outstanding cast (including dancer/actress Maya Plisetskaya, the Bolshoi Ballet's legendary "queen of the air"), director Zarkhi created a film that sympathetically marries epic scope to the humanity, intimacy and insight of Tolstoy's novel.

SPECIAL FEATURES DVD:

- + "Thoughts About Leo Tolstoy" (21 Minutes)
A short film about Leo Tolstoy's life and home
- + "Chronikle"
- Rare film footage of Leo Tolstoy at the end of his life
- + "The Making of Anna Karenina" (3 Min.)
- + Video Interviews with the director, actors and cameraman
- + Leo Tolstoy Biography / + Photo Album
- + Cast & Crew Biographies / + Filmographies
- + Languages:
- Spoken: Original Russian. English Dubbed, French Dubbed
- Optional Subtitles: English, French and Spanish.

OTHER FILMS BY ANDREI TARKOVSKY:

For more information please contact Rodrigo Brandão at
(212) 629-6880 or rodrigo@kino.com