Vladimir Paperny

Andrej Tarkovskij and Andrej Končalovskij

Lives, Films, Culture

In 1957, a 24-year old architect-turned-poet Andrej Voznesenskij published a poem Požar v Architekturnom institute ("Fire in the Architectural Institute"). Two stanzas from this poem express the prevailing mood of that period. The first one could be seen as a poetic interpretation of Nikita Chruščev's 1954 speech¹ denouncing excessive ornamentation of Stalinist architecture:

Прощай, архитектура! Пылайте широко, коровники в амурах, райклубы в рококо!

The last stanza is even more telling:

Все выгорело начисто. Милиции полно. Все – кончено! Все – начато! Айда в кино!²

¹ At the "All-Union Conference of Builders, Architects and Workers of the Industry of Building Materials, Building and Road Engineering, Design and Research Organizations", 30 November 1954.

^{2 &}quot;Farewell my architecture! / Let flames engulf all those / cowsheds with painted cupids, / rococo workers' clubs! [...] All burned into the ground. / Militiamen abound. / All finished! All started! / Let's go to the movies!" (All translations are mine unless indicated otherwise – V. P.)

Vladimir Paperny

This is, perhaps, the most concise manifestation of feelings of liberation, renewal and rebirth shared by creative young people of the *thaw* generation. The last word of the poem, *movies*, is not accidental either. For a few years, during the *thaw*, filmmaking seemed to have a leading role in dismantling Stalinist aesthetics.

Four years later, a 29-year old doctor-turned-writer Vasilij Aksenov published a short novel Zvëzdnyj bilet ("Ticket to the Stars"). The hero, a ne'er-do-well teenager, discovered sudden liberating excitement in demolition work:

Может быть, вот оно – бить ломом в старые стены? В те стены, в которых нет никакого смысла? Бить, бить и вставать над их прахом? (Aksenov 2014, 411)

A year earlier, in 1960, a 28-year old artist-turned-filmmaker Andrej Tarkovskij made a short film Katok i skripka ("The Steamroller and the Violin") where *hitting old walls* was shown in full color and blasting sound. This time the walls were hit with a demolition ball rather than a crowbar.

Obviously, there were quite a few creative young people of the *thaw* era eager to help *melting* of the Stalinist culture with fire, crowbars and demolition balls. To understand creative and intellectual development of the two directors we have to look at what was happening in the Soviet Union after Stalin's death.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE THAW

Stalin died on March 5, 1953,⁴ and dramatic changes started to occur almost immediately. The infamous fabricated *Doctors' plot*⁵ collapsed, torturous interrogations stopped, doctors were acquitted and released. At the same time, prisoners started returning from the GULag. Some labor camps were closed.

Eleven days after the announcement of Stalin's death, Georgij Malenkov, Stalin's *heir apparent*, already was making overtures to the West: "At the present time there is no disputed or unresolved question that cannot be resolved by peaceful means, on the basis of mutual agreement [...] States interested in preserving peace may be assured, both now and in the future, of the firm peaceful policy of the Soviet Union" (Malenkov 1953). The US State Department was suspicious:

^{3 &}quot;Maybe that's it – hit old walls with a crowbar? Those walls, which make no sense? Hit, hit and rise over their ashes?"

⁴ The official date of Stalin's death. The actual date is unknown, he most likely died a few days earlier.

⁵ A group of prominent Moscow (mostly Jewish) doctors was accused of conspiring to assassinate Soviet leaders.

The purpose for such campaign is painfully obvious: by this method the Communists hope to crack the wall of resistance which the West has been constructing, and to bring about an eventual slowing-down of the armaments program of the Free World. (Osgood 2006, 62)

The year Stalin died, Dwight D. Eisenhower became president, replacing Harry S. Truman who, a few weeks before his departure, announced that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb. Eisenhower's emphasis was on psychology rather than on military power alone. "Psychological warfare", he said during his election campaign, "is the struggle for the minds and wills of men" (Osgood 2006, 64). The most important weapon of the Cold War became culture, and one of the most powerful warrior to wield this weapon became the United States Information Agency (USIA), created in 1953 and secretly financed by the CIA. Creation of this agency and shifting of the Cold War into the realm of culture directly affected lives of both Andrejs.

In 1962, the German film magazine FILMKRITIK, speaking about Tarkovkij's IVANOVO DETSTVO ("Ivan's Childhood"), was at a loss to understand "why would USSR send a debut film to Venice, especially so groundbreaking", while local distribution was so limited. The possible answer is that during the Cold War, the leadership of the Soviet Union considered getting *Leone d'Oro* in Venice or *Palme d'Or* in Cannes as trophies for cultural victories over the West.

Meanwhile, the carefully constructed Stalinist system of control continued to disintegrate. In November 1953, marriages between Soviet citizens and foreigners, banned since 1947, were permitted again. In May 1954, Il'ja Erenburg's short novel Ottepel' ("The Thaw") was published – the title eventually giving name to the whole era. In November 1955, abortions, criminalized since 1936, became free and legal. In 1956, the French singer and actor Yves Montand toured the USSR singing to overwhelmed crowds, while Muscovites formed several-blockslong lines to Pablo Picasso's exhibition. The same year Nikita Chruščev shook the world by denouncing Stalin's crimes at the 20th party Congress. "Only after the 20th Congress," Tarkovskij would say later, "filmmakers were able to free themselves and to release their locked up energies" (Tarkovskij 2006, 4).

In 1956, Marlen Chuciev's Vesna na Zarečnoj ulice ("Spring on Zarečnaja Street") was released, one of the first films of the *thaw*. The popular song from this film was about the hero's "love for his street" rather than for his fatherland – a seemingly minor detail showing a more human scale compared to the Stalin era. It was also, perhaps, the first Soviet film with a love scene shot in bed – between a married couple, of course, and with only faces visible. This same year, Tarkovskij with his friend (and later brother-in-law) Aleksandr Gordon made a short student film Ubijcy ("The Killers") based on Hemingway's stories, partly imitating the American Western's style. Years later, Tarkovskij will be talking about Hollywood and American movies with disdain.

In 1956, the French director Albert Lamorisse received *Palme d'Or* in Cannes for his short film about a boy – Le Ballon Rouge. This event generated an international avalanche of short films about boys⁶, including Andrej Tarkovskij's Каток і skripka ("The Steamroller and the Violin", 1960), Georgij Danelija and Igor' Talankin's Serëža (1960), Andrej Končalovskij's Mal'čik і golub' ("The Boy and the Dove", 1961), Michail Kalik's Čelovek idët za solncem ("The Man Who Follows the Sun", 1961) and many others.

In July 1957, the 6th World Festival of Youth and Students opened in Moscow. Just a few years earlier, any unauthorized contact with a foreigner could result in arrest, imprisonment and, possibly, death. This time, the streets of Moscow were flooded with millions of people from all over the world, all kinds of unauthorized contacts flourished, resulting, among other things, in quite a few newly-permitted interstate marriages. In October, the first *Sputnik* was launched.

The same year, Michail Kalatozov's Letjat žuravli ("Cranes are Flying", 1957) received *Palme d'Or* in Cannes – something neither Tarkovskij nor Končalovskij nor any other Russian director ever achieved afterwards. In no small part the award was due to Sergej Urusevskij's innovative camera work. His famous shot of rotating tree tops was subsequently copied by many DPs including Vadim Jusov in Tarkovkij's Ivanovo detstvo ("Ivan's Childhood", 1962).

In 1958, a young American pianist Van Cliburn unexpectedly (and against the wishes of the Central Committee of the party) won the the Čajkovskij Competition in Moscow. In that year, Andrej Tarkovskij & Aleksandr Gordon made their second student film Segodnja uvol'nenija ne budet ("There Will Be No Leave Today", 1958), possibly influenced by Henri-Georges Clouzot's Le Salaire de la peur (1953 – awards in Berlin, London and Cannes) with Yves Montand in the lead role. Both films' plots deal with *playing with death*.

On September 10, 1958, Chruščev and Eisenhower signed an agreement for the national exhibitions exchange to open 10 months later.

On July 24, 1959, the USIA-produced and the CIA-financed, American National Exhibition opened in Moscow producing a stir. American Abstract Expressionism, the CIA weapon of choice, tested in many previous international exhibitions, was almost universally hated by the Soviet public, just as it was in the US. The exception was a group young Soviet artists who saw in this artistic movement new possibilities for themselves, and soon the "Underground Soviet Art" was born.

Soviet film students from the VGIK (Cinema Institute in Moscow) had access to pirated black-and-white copies of major foreign films, so for them the Ameri-

⁶ Film critic Maya Turovskaya made a similar observation: "It's quite possible that the child-based plot of Tarkovskij's film was somehow related to filmmakers' universal infatuation with Albert Lamorisse' The Red Ball in these years. The same motive will appear in Končalovskij's The Boy and the Dove" (Turovskaja 1991, 29).

can exhibition did present any revelations. The revolutionary seven-screen film show by Charles and Ray Eames GLIMPSES OF THE USA did not have any noticeable influence on the work of Tarkovskij and Končalovskij, as it did on other artists and filmmakers (such as Jurij Nolev-Sobolev and Aleksandr Šejn).

On April 12, 1961, Gagarin left the Earth to travel into space. On June 16, dancer Rudol'f Nuriev defected to the West. That same year, Stalin's body was removed from Lenin's Mausoleum, cremated and buried in the Kremlin wall.

In 1962, Tarkovskij's Ivanovo detstvo ("Ivan's Childhood") won the *Leone d'Oro* in Venice and the *Golden Gate Award* in San Francisco. Končalovskij coauthored the screenplay but did not get credits.⁷ In November, another Ivan, *Ivan Denisovič* (the protagonist of a story of one day of a peasant in a GULag) which brought its author, Aleksandr Solženicyn, the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1970, dealt Stalinism a much harder blow than any of the previous *thaw* creations. Chruščev, who personally authorized publication of Solženicyn's short novel, soon started backpedaling. In December, Chruščev denounced the exhibition of Soviet unofficial art, in almost the same terms as *Entartete Kunst* (*Degenerate Art*) was denounced by the Nazis in 1933. Chruščev was calling the artists who strayed from the party line *homosexuals*. Considering that homosexual behavior was criminalized in the USSR from 1933 to 1993, that was a serious accusation.

The *thaw* started to move, to use Lenin's expression, one step forward and two steps backward. In 1963, Chruščev continued his attack on creative people whose art did not conform to the Soviet ideology. Among the victims were filmmaker Marlen Chuciev and poet Andrej Voznesenskij. Meanwhile, Fellini's 8½ received the First Prize at the Moscow Film Festival and Larisa Šepit'ko's Znoj ("Heat", 1963) was shot in Kirgizija where, two years later, Končalovskij would shoot his first film Pervyj učitel' ("The First Teacher", 1965). Also in 1965, Sergej Paradžanov, an Armenian from Tbilisi, would shoot his Teni zabytych predkov ("Shadows of the Forgotten Ancestors", 1965) in Ukraine. Periphery was becoming the place where creative experiments were possible.

In 1965, in the same mode of *one-step-forward-two-steps-backward*, Michail Romm's Obyknovennyj fašizm ("Ordinary Fascism", 1965)⁸ documentary the Nazi film propaganda was released. Soviet intellectuals, trained in reading between the lines, saw the film as an allusion to the Stalinist epoch. At the same time, the Sinjavskij-Daniėl' affair resulted in imprisonment of both writers who risked publishing their literary works in the West.

In 1966, Andrej Rublev, Tarkovskij's first fully mature work, with the script co-authored by Končalovskij (this time with credits) was finished.⁹ This same

^{7 &}quot;Ivan's Childhood Andrei and I wrote in two and a half weeks. I participated as a full-fledged co-author, but was not credited" (Končalovskij, 2014, 122).

⁸ Also known as Triumph Over Violence. Screenplay by Maya Turovskaya and Yuri Khanyutin.

⁹ A real premiere of the restored film took place only in 1987.

year Susan Sontag published her famous book *Against Interpretation*. "Interpretation," she argued, "had become the intellect's revenge upon art". If Tarkovskij had access to this book, he would wholeheartedly agree.

THE TWO FAMILIES

Both Andrejs were sons of poets, both studied music before turning to film-making, both were students of Michail Romm at VGIK, both listed the same names as sources of inspiration: Bergman, Bresson, Buñuel, Dovženko, Fellini, Kurosawa.¹⁰

Andrej Tarkovskij and his father Arsenij always insisted that they were related to the *Shamkhal* (ruler) of Tarki, an urban settlement in Dagestan, and that the name Tarkovskij was derived from Tarki. Andrej's sister Marina, however, disputed this claim saying that both the father and the son had made up the Tarki story and enjoyed the mystification. In fact, she said, they were descendent of Polish nobility (Tarkovskaja 2006, 10).

In 1921, according to a legend, Arsenij and a group of his friends were arrested (and later released) for publishing a poem, which contained an acrostic saying nasty things about Lenin. ¹² Because of this incident (or, more likely, regardless of it), Arsenij never became an "official Soviet poet". His first book of poetry Pered snegom ("Before Snowfall") was published only in 1962, the same year his son received *Leone d'Oro* in Venice for IVANOVO DETSTVO ("Ivan's Childhood").

Andrej Končalovskij's father, Sergej Michalkov, was the most ,official' of Soviet writers. His ancestors belonged to the Russian nobility and included admirals, governors, and princes. His major poetic achievement was the text of the Soviet/Russian anthem, which he had written three times. The 1943 version (co-authored with Gabrièl' Èl'-Registan) mentioned Lenin and Stalin; in the 1977 version Stalin disappeared but Lenin remained, and in the 2000 Russian anthem, both Lenin and Stalin were replaced by "God". Sergej Michalkov's career is best understood through numerous awards he received from the government. Multiple Orders of Lenin, Red Star, Red Banner, Hero of Socialist Labor, Lenin and Stalin prizes give way, in the 1990s, to Orders of St. Sergij, St. Andrej, St. Dmitrij Donskoj and the like.

Through his mother, poet Natalija Končalovskaja, Andrej is a great grandson of the famous artist Vasilij Surikov (1848–1916) and a grandson of no less famous artist Pëtr Končalovskij (1876–1956).

¹⁰ Both lists kept changing over time but this core usually remained intact.

¹¹ For arguments for this version see Volkova (2013, 26).

¹² The story was confirmed to me by Marina Tarkovskaja. The actual text of the poem unknown.

TARKOVSKIJ AND KONČALOVSKIJ: FILM AND WORDS

The *thaw* in Soviet filmmaking started with reviving some ideas of the *Russian Formalism* of the 1920s, specifically, the idea of liberating each art of extraneous elements. In the words of David Arkin, "verbal creation is freeing itself from music; music, from painterly and literary elements; theater, in its turn, from literature and music and painting, etc." (Arkin, 1921, 13). According to Jurij Tynjanov, "film has slowly liberated itself from its captivity to neighboring art forms – painting and theater, now it has to liberate itself from literature" (Tynjanov 1977, 323).

The Stalin epoch turned this idea inside out. The Soviet encyclopedia of 1953 lamented the *wordless* status of films of the 1920s: "В 20-х годах кино было еще немым, лишенным слова – главного средства выражения мысли художника"¹³ (BSÈ 1953, v. 21, 19). From the mid-1930s, the content of any creation, from film to architecture, had to be expressed in words. For example, Boris Iofan's design for the Soviet pavilion at 1939 New York Expo was explained this way: "A calm and composed but at the same time upward striving building, crowned with the figure of a worker: a model of the Soviet working class, indicating to the world the path to the future; sculptural groups of workers having achieved power and having built socialism under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin; and bas-reliefs of the republics possessing equal rights – everything blends into a single expressive form" (ARCHSSSR 1929, 8–9).

In 1938, a resolution of the Council of People's Commissars informed film studios that film directors were not allowed to change a single word in an approved screenplay "without the approval, of the president of the Committee for the Affairs of Cinematography" (SPIRP, 1938, 13, 82). From 1938 to 1953, full content of any film had to be expressed through sound, by dialogues and monologues of the characters. Images on the screen were only to illustrate the words.

This was exactly what Tarkovskij and Končalovskij were fighting with in the 1950–60s, consciously or unconsciously harking back to the *Russian Formalism* of the 1920s. "I do not believe", said Tarkovskij in an interview in 1962, "in the literary-theatrical principle of dramatic development. In my opinion, this has nothing in common with the specific nature of cinema" (Gianvito, xii). Elsewhere he added: "I don't follow a strict narrative development and logical connections. I don't like looking for justifications for the protagonist's actions. One of the reasons why I became involved in cinema is because I saw too many films that didn't correspond to what I expected from *cinematic language*" (Bureau 1962, 4. Емрhasis added). Later he reiterated: "Настало время, когда необходимо наконец отделить литературу от кинематографа" (Tarkovskij 1989, 15).

^{13 &}quot;Films were silent, deprived of the word, of the primary means for expressing the artist's thoughts."

^{14 &}quot;The time has come for literature to be separated, once and for all, from cinema."

Končalovskij, although not specifically calling for purging film of words, ¹⁵ was, nevertheless, rejecting word-based Stalinist aesthetics:

Нам казалось, что мы знаем, как делать настоящее кино. Главная правда – в фактуре, чтобы было видно, что все подлинное – камень, песок, пот, трещины в стене. Не должно быть грима, штукатурки, скрывающей живую фактуру кожи. Костюмы должны быть неглаженные, нестиранные. Мы не признавали голливудскую или, что было для нас то же, сталинскую эстетику. 16 (Končalovskij 2014, 122)

TARKOVSKIJ AND KONČALOVSKIJ: TRUTH AND DOCUMENTS

Stalinist culture was suspicious of documents of any kind. All statistical offices in the USSR were closed in 1930 (SZIRRKP, 1930, 6, 74). In the same year, Stalin publically attacked A. G. Sluckij's article for overestimating the role of *documents*: "Какие ему нужны еще документы? […] Кто же, кроме безнадежных бюрократов, может полагаться на одни лишь бумажные документы?"¹⁷ (PR, 1931, 102).

As we could see above, both Tarkovskij and Končalovskij were fighting for documents and real life. Tarkovskij wrote: "Время в форме факта! Я снова напоминаю об этом. Идеальным кинематографом мне представляется хроника: в ней я вижу не способ съемки, а способ восстановления, воссоздания жизни"18 (Tarkovskij 1989, 64–65). Не was proud when some people took real documentary clips in Zerkalo for made up ones: "Я не раз слышал мнения о том, что хроникальные куски, вставленные мною в ,Зеркало', на самом деле никакая не хроника, а просто сняты мною ,под хронику', подделаны" (ibid., 130).

Both directors expressed a similar ,documentary' dream. Tarkovskij:

Идеальный случай работы над фильмом рисуется мне следующим образом. Автор берет миллионы метров пленки, на которой после-

¹⁵ Especially, having written 34 film scripts.

^{16 &}quot;We thought we knew how to make real cinema. The main truth – is in the texture, to make it clear that all is authentic – stone, sand, sweat, cracks in the wall. There must be no make-up, concealing living texture of the skin. Costumes should be un-ironed, unwashed. We did not accept the Hollywood or (what for us was the same) the Stalinist aesthetics."

 $^{37\,}$ "What additional documents he needs? [...] Who, except hopeless bureaucrats, can rely on nothing but paper documents?"

^{18 &}quot;Time in the form of fact: again I come back to it. I see chronicle as the ultimate cinema; for me it is not a way of filming but a way of reconstructing, of recreating life."

^{19 &}quot;I have more than once heard people say that they thought the newsreels were reconstructions, deliberately made to give the impression of actual newsreels: the documentary had become an organic part of the film."

довательно, секунда за секундой, день за днем и год за годом прослежена и зафиксирована, например, жизнь человека от рождения до самой смерти, и из всего этого в результате монтажа получаешь две с половиной тысячи метров, то есть около полутора часов экранного времени.²⁰ (Ibid., 65)

Končalovskij:

Мы с Андреем Тарковским много думали о принципах изложения сюжета. Нельзя ли просто хроникально зафиксировать жизнь человека в каждый момент его жизни, ничего не отбирая, а потом смонтировать, отжав все неинтересное на монтажном столе?²¹ (Končalovskij 2014, 456)

Tarkovskij never attempted to realize this dream. Končalovskij tried to do it in Belye noči počtal'ona Alekseja Trjapicyna ("The Postman's White Nights", 2014).

The two directors, while expressing similar desires for authenticity, in their films acted quite differently. Andrej Končalovskij, true to his declarations, in both his first films Pervyj učitel' ("The First Teacher", 1966) and Istorija Asi Kljačinoj ("The Story of Asya Klyachina", 1966) as well as in Belye noči počtal'ona Alekseja Trjapicyna used mostly non-professional actors and relied on improvising during shooting. Andrej Tarkovskij never felt obligated to follow his theoretical statements. Desire for authenticity somehow coexisted with his desire for a full control of the set.

TWO FATES

The two directors, who started as like-minded friends and collaborators, later went completely different paths, both politically and artistically.

Končalovskij, who in the early 1960s, "was attracted to foreigners" and considered them some sort of "chosen people", had "one passionate desire – to get rid of it all. Leave. Get out. Get rid of the Soviet passport. To live with it was shameful" (Končalovskij 2014, 519). After spending some time in France, he returned to the

^{20 &}quot;This is how I conceive an ideal piece of filming: the author takes millions of meters of film, on which systematically, second by second, day by day and year by year, a man's life, for instance, from birth to death, is followed and recorded, and out of all that come two and a half thousand meters, or an hour and a half of screen time."

^{21 &}quot;Andrej Tarkovskij and I thought about the principles of telling a story. Could we just record human life at every moment, not selecting anything, and then edit by removing all uninteresting stuff?"

Soviet Union to make a pseudo-poetic, politically loyal Romans o vljublennych ("A Lover's Romance", 1974), to which Tarkovskij reacted with disdain, noting its "взвинченная псевдо-поэтическая интонация […] какой холодностью, какой непереносимой выспренностью и фальшью веет от этого фильма"²² (Tarkovskij 1989, 149).

Končalovskij later paid back by calling Tarkovskij's last films Nostal'GIA and Offret ("Sacrifice", 1985/86) pretentious: "Считал, что он больше занят поиском себя самого, чем истины. […] Членораздельный режиссерский язык стал уступать место мычанию"²³ (Končalovskij, 2014, 508).

Tarkovskij, despite his keen interest in the West and frequent fights with Soviet authorities, (Tarkovskij 2008, 27.01.1973) was more patriotic that Končalovskij, at least in his diaries: "прекрасно чувствовал себя в России в своем деревенском доме, отделенный от Москвы тремя сотнями километров" (Tarkovskij 1989, 212). And a few years later: "Если бы границы не существовало, мы (Россия) бы победили безбрежно. Не ради строя. Ради идеи. Ибо мы уважаем идеи. Живем ради идеи" (Tarkovskij 2008, 10.05.1976). Regardless of his feelings for Russia (ibid., 8.11.1984), 6 he asked for a political asylum and died in the West.

In conclusion, despite Andrej Tarkovskij's notoriously difficult personality (he managed to offend everybody who worked with him) and elements of self-indulgence in his last films, his best work, such as Andreij Rubljev and Zerkalo ("The Mirror", 1974/75), will probably survive, if not forever, but at least for as long as there are film archives and film schools. Andrej Končalovskij, on the other hand, who has always been friendly and generous with all members of his crews, with all his intelligence and professionalism, has not produced work of lasting value, neither in Russia nor in the West. His best film, ISTORIJA ASI KLJAČINOJ (1966), made half a century ago, was banned by the Soviet authorities for a long time for reasons that are still not quite clear. Even his omnipotent father Sergej Michalkov, Hero of Socialist Labor and multiple Lenin and Stalin Prizes winner, was not able to un-ban the film despite all his highest-level connections. It was an important film for its time but not many films, however good, can survive decades of being hidden from the public. The

 $^{22\,}$ "High-key, pseudo-poetic tone. $[\ldots]$ Everything about the film is cold, intolerably high-flown, and corny."

^{23 &}quot;I believed that he was busy searching for himself rather than for truth. [...] Articulate directorial language gave way to mooing."

^{24 &}quot;I felt wonderful in Russia when I was in my country house, with three hundred kilometers between Moscow and myself."

^{25 &}quot;If the borders did not exist, we (Russia) would have won boundlessly. Not because of the political system. Because of the idea. Because we respect ideas. We live for the sake of an idea."

^{26 &}quot;Today I had a terribly sad dream. Again, I saw a northern (I think) lake somewhere in Russia, the dawn. On the opposite bank there are two Russian Orthodox monasteries with cathedrals and walls of extraordinary beauty. And I felt so sad! It hurts so much!"

same happened with Marlen Chuciev's ZASTAVA IL'IČA ("Ilyich's Gate", 1964), and quite a few others.

If not for these unfortunate circumstances, Andrej Končalovskij's creative biography could have taken a completely different turn.

APPENDIX

Интервью автора с Андреем Кончаловским, 5 ноября 2014 г. (сокращенная версия). For the full video version see: https://vimeo.com/112624235 (27.05.2015).

ВП: Вы много писали, какое впечатление на вас в 1960-х годах производили иностранцы: они были людьми из другого мира, и вам очень хотелось в тот мир. Тарковский наоборот, если читаешь его дневники, все время хотел уехать к себе в деревню Мясное, писал, где бы найти денег, чтобы построить крышу, и вообще, подальше из Москвы, но туда – а вам туда. В результате он оказался невозвращенцем, остался и умер на Западе, а вы оказались возвращенцем. Как объяснить такой парадокс?

АК: Это не соответствует действительности. Тарковский мечтал уехать в деревню, потому что он не мог уехать на Запад. Если бы он мог свободно уехать на Запад, он бы сразу уехал. Как только у него возникла возможность снимать картину в Италии, он всеми правдами и неправдами... и я ему помогал, чтоб этот выезд состоялся. Он состоялся, потому что включилась итальянская компартия и так далее. Тарковский, как и я, мечтал о Западе, и мы первый раз вместе попали в Венецию. И вообще «Андрей Рублев» он писал с расчетом на Венецианский фестиваль, там есть иностранцы, и все они говорят по-итальянски. Если бы он думал о Каннах, то там с великим князем были бы французы.

Италия обожгла нас обоих, он мечтал туда уехать, и я мечтал уехать. Он уехал раньше, официально, а я уехал, потому что был женат на француженке. Он умер на Западе, потому что он боялся вернуться. И зря боялся. А если бы он дожил до моего возраста, он бы наверняка тоже вернулся. Он бы вернулся раньше, чем я! Потому что я умел снимать картины по заказу. Я мог снимать в Голливуде. Я профессионал, а не художник. Особенно в то время считал себя просто профессионалом. Он же был художником, и ему было очень сложно. Если бы не шведы, он вряд ли смог что-нибудь снять. С его идеями ему было бы очень трудно, особенно в девяностые годы, когда все менялось, и картины для взрослых перестали сниматься. А он снимал картины для взрослых, причем для читающих взрослых.

ВП: Что вас заставило вернуться?

АК: Ничего не заставило. Я захотел. Я приехал в Голливуд, когда картины делались за небольшие деньги, снималось много картин и разных. В то время Голливуд был местом паломничества европейских режиссеров. Оттуда только что уехал Куросава, там Феллини обломал себе рога, Лив Ульман, там многие пытались. Но к 90-м годам Голливуд стал an extension of Wall Street. Большие деньги обратили внимание на Голливуд после Star Wars. Лукас сделал картину чуть ли не за 10 миллионов долларов, но все игрушки, весь merchandizing, оставил себе, и они заработали чуть ли не четверть миллиарда на игрушках. Голливуд понял, что это колоссальная money-making машина, и что надо делать картины для тинэйджеров, и с этого момента Голливуд стал делать картины для тинэйджеров.

Потом стали повышаться цены, картины стали стоить от 70 до 300 миллионов, а чем дороже картины, тем меньше картин выходит, и так далее. Сейчас в Голливуде снимается очень мало картин, как при Сталине. Мне там нечего делать. Я хочу снимать картины без денег, быть абсолютно свободным и писать камерой роман, а в Голливуде надо не снимать камерой роман, а выполнять точные инструкции, как рецепт Макдональдса – он уникален и универсален, в любом Макдональдсе один и тот же рецепт.

ВП: Майя Туровская рассказывала мне, что она вас как-то встретила, когда вы вернулись из Голливуда, и спросила: "Скажи мне одним словом, чему ты там научился". И вы ответили: "Смирению". Вы помните этот эпизод?

АК: Нет, не помню. Я много чего не помню.

ВП: Но это правдоподобно?

АК: Абсолютно.

ВП: Что вы имели ввиду?

АК: В Америке я научился, во-первых, слушать, а во-вторых, понял, что надо уметь продавать свой талант. Нас никогда этому не учили. Несколько лет я ходил по Лос-Анджелесу и никак не мог понять, почему никто не хочет со мной кино снимать. Надо уметь продавать свой талант, а это значит надо уметь соглашаться со всем, что тебе говорят и стараться делать по-своему. И потом учишься тому, что тобой руководят люди, как правило, ниже тебя по культурному уровню. Намного.

ВП: Но в чем-то, наверно, выше, в понимании бизнеса, например?

АК: В понимании бизнеса безусловно. Но понимание бизнеса сейчас сводится к чему? Чтобы как можно больше людей посмотрели твою картину. А это значит продукт. Художник выпускать продукт, конечно может, но не в серийном качестве.

ВП: Вы много писали, и кстати Тарковский говорил то же самое, что вы хотите запечатлеть неприхотливое течение жизни на пленку. Тарковский вообще говорил, что хроника это идеальная форма кино. Мне кажется идея, что можно снимать "как есть" несколько наивная. Любая фотография это выбор – точки, кадра и так далее. И даже Тарковский, который говорил, что надо снимать без грима...

АК: То, что Андрюша говорил, и то, что он делал, не совпадало. Его часто заносило в мыслях в небеса, а потом он сталкивался с реальностью. Это естественно, у каждого художника есть свои идеалы, а когда он пытается их осуществить, у него чего-то для этого не хватает. Андрей писал сценарии, а как только пишется сценарий, хроника кончается. В его картинах, особенно в Зеркале, движение камеры – это абсолютно продуманная вещь. Когда камера продуманно движется, это уже не хроника.

ВП: Меня поразило интервью Тарковского с журналисткой по имени Ирена Брезна. Он говорит ей, что женщины – неполноценные существа, что женщина может себе реализовать только через отношения с мужчиной, женщина, у которой карьера – это катастрофа. Вдруг такой шовинистический патриархальный поток. Как это объяснить?

АК: Да, никак. Андрей – ребенок. Сегодня одно, завтра другое. У него был друг такой, Артур Макаров, приемный сын Тамары Макаровой. Он был *misogyne*, считал, что женщина должна служить мужчине. ²⁷ Андрей был человеком впечатлительным и, я бы сказал, не очень сильным. Очень неуверенным, отсюда его метания. Отсюда он испугался КГБ. Я ему говорил: "вернись, тебя отпустят обратно, ты же не *rocket scientist*". Потом он сказал, что я работаю в КГБ. Он был очень впечатлительный, нервный, и это его погубило. Если бы он был поспокойнее, и Володя

²⁷ Ср. про Артура Макарова: "Андрей без преувеличения боготворил его, называя исключительно "Арчиком", в то время как Лариса рисовала его мне подлинным исчадием ада. Она рассказывала, что его содержат какие-то проститутки, одна из которых стала его женой, о садомазохистском поведении" (Surkova, 2002, 114).

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Максимов не выдернул бы его с Канн. Это было на моих глазах. Володя говорил: "сейчас увезем его, устроим пресс-конференцию". Несчастный Андрей.

ВП: Последний вопрос: что происходит в России? Бежать надо отсюда?

АК: Зачем? Куда бежать? Кто хочет тот бежит, кто не хочет, не бежит.

ВП: Что будет происходить в ближайшие пять лет?

АК: Я не знаю. Я только знаю, что в России идет очень активный исторический поток, колоссальной интенсивности. Все вместе – деньги, русский темперамент. Мы живем во времена Медичи. Это мощный поток, который гораздо интереснее, чем устоявшаяся идея политической корректности, которая сковала члены западным странам. Я поездил, мне там очень нравится, но мне трудно себе представить, что я могу делать сейчас на Западе. Если бы я был ученым или компьютерщиком, то да, но мне как личности и как художнику Россия бесконечно интересна. Идет огромная смена вех, очередная "Смена вех". Кончается целый период иллюзий относительно того, что мир устоялся, фашизм невозможен, демократия везде неизбежна и do it our way. Все это кончилось. Идея европоцентризма кончилась. Кончилась идея, что европейские идеалы прав человека, демократии, политической корректности, толерантности, все это возобладает. Это стало своего рода религией идиотов. Эта религия пытается научно продолжить Христианство, только в позитивистском смысле.

ВП: Вы имеете ввиду Френсиса Фукуяму и конец истории?

АК: Нет, я имею ввиду все вместе, идею, что либеральная мысль восторжествует, что демократия ведет к процветанию, и так далее. Эти все мысли сейчас главенствуют в Европейском союзе, и они не знают как из этого вылезти, повторяют уже как попугаи, хотя видно, что все идет наоборот. Этот *influx*, который идет из Северной Африки – они не знают, куда деваться. А куда деваться? Интересно. Посмотрим, что будет происходить в Европе.

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