



Surry Opera Company & Leningrad Amateur Opera Company,  
Camden, 1989  
Photo from [www.mainememory.net](http://www.mainememory.net)

XFR Collective Presents  
**Video Rescues from the Surry Opera Company**  
Saturday, July 21, 2018

# XFR COLLECTIVE

A non-profit organization that partners with artists, activists, individuals, and groups to lower the barriers to preserving at-risk audiovisual media – especially unseen, unheard, or marginalized works – by providing low-cost digitization services and fostering a community of support for archiving and access through education, research, and cultural engagement.



@XFR\_Collective  
xfrcollective@gmail.com

More information at:  
<https://xfrcollective.wordpress.com/>

# How We Stumbled Into This Remarkable Story



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# Our Host, Alan Wittenberg



Inside the Surry Arts Barn



Outside the Morgan Bay Zendo





# Maine Gang road trip...



# The Surry Opera Company



Re-discovering through digitization.

# You can visit, too! Check out Alan's Airbnbs!



Coastal Maine Cottage  
“The Shingle Mill”  
[airbnb.com/rooms/1582859](https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/1582859)



Cottage With a View  
[airbnb.com/rooms/7773656](https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/7773656)



Apartment With a View  
“The Cow Barn”  
[airbnb.com/rooms/19591751](https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/19591751)



# Independent Film and Cultural Exchange in the Soviet Union and Modern Russia

# Amateur Collectives in the Soviet Union (no affiliation with XFR)



Soviet Armenian jazz  
collective, c. 1936



Dancing at the 19th Komsomol  
Congress, 1982



*A Sentimental Short Story*  
dir. Eva Näripea (Estonia),  
1966

# “Archive Rats”



State Documentary Photo-Film  
Archive  
(RGAKFD)



Gosfilmofond

# Problems Today

THE CALVERT JOURNAL

ART & CULTURE PHOTOGRAPHY VIDEO COMMENT SPECIAL REPORTS TRAVEL GUIDES NEWS ABC

Entire staff of Moscow's Museum of Cinema resigns in protest against new director

28 OCTOBER 2014

The Moscow Times

News Business Opinion Culture Multimedia Jobs Real Estate

USD ↑ 61.3167 0.3575 EUR

Russia's Film Foundation Doesn't Want Greenaway to Show Eisenstein Was Gay in Biopic

Jan. 05 2015 15:14

Hollywood REPORTER

MOVIES ▾ REVIEWS SXSW BOX OFFICE

## Russia to Ban Films That "Theorize" or "

A photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark sweater over a patterned shirt. He is sitting at a desk, looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. His right hand is raised, palm facing up. On the desk in front of him is a laptop, a microphone on a stand, and a glass of white wine.

Former curator Peter Bagrov, dismissed from Gosfilmofond in fall 2017

**Glasnost,  
Perestroika,  
VHS**

ТТЦ "ЛИРА" 0:00.02  
► SP 00

**АМЕРИКА**

**ВМ**

**ABM-11**

# Ilf and Petrov's American Road Trip

"Bewildered, we went to Hartford, a city in the state of Connecticut, where the great American writer Mark Twain spent his mature years. Much to our horror, the locals announced in unison that Hartford isn't exactly the real America either. They couldn't say for certain where the actual America is located. Some said that the real America is the southern states, while others maintained that it is the western ones.

A few didn't say anything at all - they just pointed their fingers vaguely into space."

- *Ilf and Petrov's American Road Trip*, p. 1  
(republished Cabinet Books, 2007)





# XFR

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xfrcollective@gmail.com

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