**Barnet, Boris (b. 18 June, 1902, Moscow, Russia; d. 8 January, 1965, Riga, Latvia).**

Boris Barnet was a Russian actor, director and professional boxer. He made his debut as an actor in Lev Kuleshov’s comedy *Neobychainye priklyucheniya mistera Vesta v strane bolshevikov* (*The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr. West in the Land of the Bolsheviks*,1924) along with Vsevolod Pudovkin, after both famously attending Kuleshov’s three-year workshop on film principles that spawned the film. Barnet would inherit Kuleshov’s montage principles, consisting of the combination of American style fast cutting, combined with avant-garde techniques from French Impressionism and German Expressionism, to set it apart from its “dull” predecessors, since for Kuleshov, the film only came together in the editing room, insisting on the importance of the relationship between shots and scenes. Barnet debuted with the contemporary spy serial *Miss Mend* (1926) and became well known for his swiftly paced comedies; he was therefore somewhat of an anomaly in the propaganda-driven Soviet montage cinema. In his two most celebrated comedies, *Devushka s korobkoi* (*The Girl with the Hatbox*; 1927) and *Dom na Trubnoi* (*The House on Trubnaya Square*; 1928), Barnet took on the speed of modern city life and translated it into an elating style by combining the visual characteristics of Dziga Vertov with the rhythm and acting of someone like Buster Keaton. In the sound era, Barnet continued to impress internationally with lyrical masterpieces such as the understated Great War ensemble piece *Okraina* (*Outskirts*; 1933) and the impressionistic fisherman’s drama *U samogo sinego morya* (*By the Bluest of Seas*; with S. Mardanin, 1936).

**References and further reading:**

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Eisenschitz, B. (1991) “A fickle man, or portrait of Boris Barnet as a Soviet Director,” in Taylor, R. & Christie, I., eds. *Inside the Film Factory: New Approaches to Russian and Soviet Cinema*, London & New York: Routledge: 151-164.

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**Selected Works:**

**Director:**

*Miss Mend* (*The Adventures of the Three Reporters*; with F. Otsep, 1926)

*Moskva v oktyabre* (*Moscow in October*; 1927)

*Devushka s korobkoi* (*The Girl with the Hatbox*; 1927)

*Dom na Trubnoi* (*The House on Trubnaya Square*; 1928)

*Okraina* (*Outskirts*; 1933)

*U samogo sinego morya* (*By the Bluest of Seas*; with S. Mardanin, 1936)

*Staryy naezdnik* (*The Old Jockey*; made in 1940, released in 1959)

*Odnazhdy nochyu* (*Dark is the Night*; 1945)

*Podvig razvedchika* (Secret Agent; 1947)

**Actor:**

*Neobychainye priklyucheniya mistera Vesta v strane bolshevikov* (*The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr. West in the Land of the Bolsheviks*; Lev Kuleshov, 1924)

*Shakhmatnaya goryachka* (*Chess Fever*; Vsevolod Pudovkin & Nikolai Shpikovsky, 1925)

*Miss Mend* (*The Adventures of the Three Reporters*; Boris Barnet with F. Otsep, 1926)

*Dom na Trubnoi* (*The House on Trubnaya Square*; Boris Barnet, 1928)

Potomok Chingis-Khana (*Storm over* Asia; Vsevolod Pudovkin, 1928)

*Podvig razvedchika* (*Secret Agent*; Boris Barnet, 1947)

**Paratextual Material**

- Jonathan Rosenbaum’s article on Boris Barnet, which includes portraits, stills and posters (<http://www.jonathanrosenbaum.net/2004/02/glimspe-of-a-rare-bird/>).

- Bright Lights Film Journal piece on Boris Barnet with more stills, portraits and posters (<http://brightlightsfilm.com/73/73barnet_vivaldi.php#.U1pxk9ykUds>)

- A complete Barnet filmography can be found on the Internet Movie Database (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0055823/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1>)

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