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| **Battleship Potemkin** |
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| *Battleship Potemkin* (Dir. Sergei Eisenstein; Moscow: Goskino, 1925) is the only completed film of what was planned as a series commemorating the 1905 Russian revolution. It depicts a mutiny on the eponymous vessel. Often named one of the best films of all time and one of the most powerful propaganda films ever made, *Battleship Potemkin* compellingly implements Eisenstein’s ‘montage of film attractions’ theory. According to Eisenstein an effective film should manifest as a designed series of emotional shocks generated by extra-narrative associations evoked in sequential cinematic images. These accumulative shocks, or ‘attractions’, should compel viewers to adopt a predetermined ideology. A frequently cited example of an ‘attraction’ in *Battleship Potemkin* — and the film’s most significant departure from history — is the scene on the ‘Odessa Stairs’, where tsarist forces massacre unarmed civilians who support the mutiny. |
| *Battleship Potemkin* (Dir. Sergei Eisenstein; Moscow: Goskino, 1925) is the only completed film of what was planned as a series commemorating the 1905 Russian revolution. It depicts a mutiny on the eponymous vessel. Often named one of the best films of all time and one of the most powerful propaganda films ever made, *Battleship Potemkin* compellingly implements Eisenstein’s ‘montage of film attractions’ theory. According to Eisenstein an effective film should manifest as a designed series of emotional shocks generated by extra-narrative associations evoked in sequential cinematic images. These accumulative shocks, or ‘attractions’, should compel viewers to adopt a predetermined ideology. A frequently cited example of an ‘attraction’ in *Battleship Potemkin* — and the film’s most significant departure from history — is the scene on the ‘Odessa Stairs’, where tsarist forces massacre unarmed civilians who support the mutiny.  Link: http://youtu.be/GmUef84ybXk?t=47m17s  1 Battleship Potemkin on YouTube  The decision to make the Odessa Stairs sequence central and to exclude other portions of the script allowed Eisenstein to finish the film despite a short production schedule. Due to various delays, production had begun in August, 1925, and *Battleship Potemkin* premiered the following December, albeit without having undergone final editing. In 1926 Eisenstein released a more polished version, which no longer exists in full. Mosfilm offers a 1976 partial restoration with music by Dmitri Shostakovich. However, Kino International’s 2007 restoration, with Edmund Meisel’s original score, is the most thorough to date.  Link: http://cinema.mosfilm.ru/films/film/1920-1929/bronenosets-potemkin-1905-god/  2 Mosfilm entry (in Russian) |
| Further reading:  (Eisenstein)  (Eisenstein, The Montage of Film Attractions)  (Eisenstein, The Birth of a Film)  (Grace)  (Taylor) Paratextual Links & Materials: (In Pictures: Soviet posters of the silent screen)  (Lavinskiy)  (Battleship Potemkin) |