**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) alongside Vsevolod Pudovkin, after both actors famously attended Kuleshov’s three-year workshop on film principles that spawned the film. Barnet would inherit Kuleshov’s montage principles, consisting of American style fast cutting, combined with avant-garde techniques from French Impressionism and German Expressionism in order to set it apart from its “dull” predecessors. For Kuleshov, the film only came together in the editing room and he insisted upon 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 typical 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 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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**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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