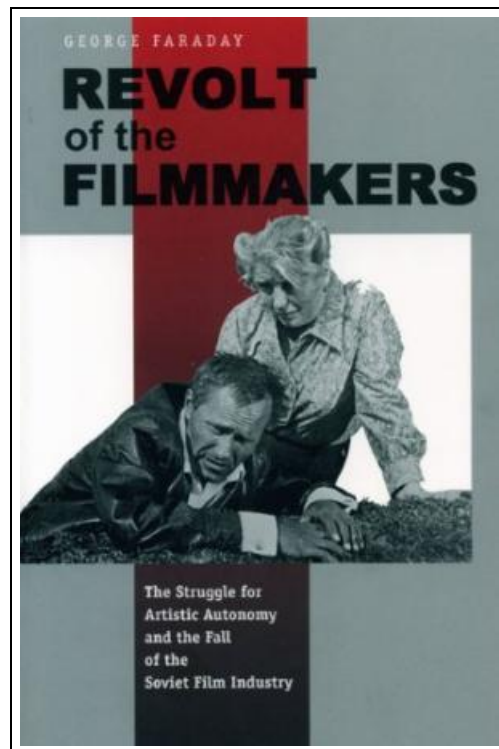


Revolt of the Filmmakers: The Struggle for Artistic Autonomy and the Fall of the Russian Film Industry



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REVOLT OF THE FILMMAKERS: THE STRUGGLE FOR ARTISTIC AUTONOMY AND THE FALL OF THE RUSSIAN FILM INDUSTRY

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Pennsylvania State University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Revolt of the Filmmakers: The Struggle for Artistic Autonomy and the Fall of the Russian Film Industry, George Faraday, One of the many unforeseen consequences of the fall of the Soviet Union has been the sudden collapse of the domestic film industry, probably the most privileged mass cultural medium of the Soviet Union. By the mid-1980s, some 150 feature films were produced annually for audiences numbering nearly four hundred billion per year. Since 1991, however, cinema attendance has plummeted by a factor of at least 100, and the remnants of the once huge audiences now watch an overwhelming number of imported, mostly American, films. "Revolt of the Filmmakers" is an account of the Russian film industry's decline. According to Faraday, who was film correspondent for "The Moscow Times" during the mid-1990s, the turning point came during the years of "perestroika", when Russian filmmakers achieved an unprecedented degree of freedom from managerial control. They immediately used their newfound liberty to dismantle the industry's central administrative structure in the name of artistic autonomy. Filmmakers were at last free to follow their own aesthetic criteria, and many began to orient their work entirely toward critical acclaim at festivals. But the unintended result of this revolution in the name of art was the alienation of the mass Russian audience. Today some filmmakers are attempting to regain a mass audience by celebrating and mythologising national cultural identity, but the Russian film industry has never fully recovered from the "revolt" of the filmmakers. For this book Faraday has interviewed Russian filmgoers, critics, directors and other industry insiders. Among those directors whose work he considers are Alexei Balabanov ("The Castle"), Nikita Mikhalkov ("Burnt by the Sun"), Karen Shakhnazarov ("American Daughter"), Pyotr Todorovsky ("Moscow Country Nights") and Marina...

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