

NEW FROM **NEW YORKER FILMS**

"WIRED TO THE MOMENT.

A CINEMATIC NEWSPAPER WHOSE ALARMING HEADLINES CRY OUT NOT TO BE IGNORED."

-Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*

**"★★★★ I BREATHLESSLY
PACED...epic detective thriller."**

-Jan Stuart, *NEWSDAY*

**"ROMANCE, BETRAYAL...
a superb post-Soviet
Godfather movie."**

-Jack Mathews, *NY DAILY NEWS*

**"TERRIFIC! What most
impresses me...is the way the
picture recalls *Citizen Kane*."**

-Stuart Klawans, *THE NATION*

"I was enthralled."

-Andrew Sarris, *THE NY OBSERVER*

TYCOON

From the director of *TAXI BLUES*

A FILM BY PAVEL LOUNGUINE

Based on the true story of
Russian oligarch Boris A. Berezovsky

A NEW RUSSIAN



WWW.NEWYORKERFILMS.COM

From the director of *Taxi Blues* comes the definitive portrait of the primitive dog-eat-dog capitalism of post-Soviet Russia as exemplified by an extraordinary and notorious entrepreneur, based on real-life billionaire Boris Berezovsky. An epic biography whose flawed, titanic protagonist embodies the spirit of his age.

RUSSIA • 2002 • 128 mins • Color • In Russian with English subtitles

MICHAEL WILMINGTON



Pavel Lounguine's "Tycoon," a savage portrait of Russia's volatile economy in the 1980s and '90s, paints the aftermath of Communism in chilling terms.

Told in the form of an intricate detective thriller, the movie charts the 1985-2000 rise and fall of a fictional oligarch, Platon Makovski (played by Russian actor Vladimir Mashkov), who builds a vast communications and industrial empire with dizzying rapidity, only to become the victim of corruption and intrigue. It's a rare example of a modern movie based on crucial contemporary historical material that crackles with dramatic and cinematic energy.

Like Costa-Gavras' "Z" in 1969, "Tycoon" makes grand melodrama out of modern history. In the course of its packed two hours - in a story by Lounguine and novelist/co-screenwriter Yuli Dubov, based loosely on real events and characters, including the controversial oligarch Boris Berezovsky - it reveals a morass of business and government amorality. "Tycoon" begins furiously with TV reports of Platon's assassination and then flashes back and forth to follow the tycoon's dizzying ascent and the investigations of a doggedly honest cop, Inspector Chmakov (Andrei Krasko).

Chmakov, a dour plebeian type, defies his more corrupt superiors to uncover the truth about Platon and also his longtime cadre of college buddies. These include brainy Viktor (Sergei Oshkevich), crooked associates like businessman Larry (Levani Uchaineshvili), his lover Maria (Maria Mironova), and the band of rival entrepreneurs and politicians who, with Maria's jealous ex-husband, ex-party leader Koretski (Alexandre Baluev), conspire to bring him down.

Along the way, Lounguine, Dubov and their collaborators create a devastating portrait of the Boris Yeltsin era, one that

indicts all sides and, perhaps by implication, the West as well, for its blind support of Russian reformers who proceeded to loot the country. The movie, like the socially conscious film noirs of the '40s, or the political thrillers of the '60s and '70s, is dark in hue and relentless in attack. If its sympathies are more with the reformers like Platon than the ex-Communists who oppose them, it's unsparing in showing how Platon betrays his own ideals and friends as the massive riches he accumulates begin to change him.

Mashkov, who played Owen Wilson and Gene Hackman's Russian nemesis in "Behind Enemy Lines," is a magnetic actor who attracts and repels as Platon, a man of enormous intelligence and talent who plunges into a maelstrom and becomes perverted by his success.

The rest of the cast, especially Krasko and Uchaineshvili, has the pungency and flavor of a top noir ensemble like "Citizen Kane," a movie that this one perhaps deliberately recalls.

Lounguine, the director of the iconoclastic "Taxi Blues" and the marvelous 2000 ensemble comedy-drama "The Wedding," knows how to keep a story roaring along. This is a meaty, well-crafted thriller that absorbs and disturbs you from first frame to last. If the movie has a notable lack, it may be subtlety - but I'm not sure greater tact and restraint would have helped this story. The tale of a national whirlwind and the monsters it breeds, "Tycoon" shocks, rivets and wakes you up.

TYCOON: A NEW RUSSIAN

Directed by Pavel Lounguine. Written by Alexandre Borodianski, Lounguine and Yuli Dubov. Running time: 128 minutes. In Russian with English subtitles. No MPAA rating.

WITH: Vladimir Mashkov (Platon) Andrei Krasko (Chmakov), Maria Mironova (Maria), Sergei Oshkevich (Viktor), Alexandre Samoilenko (Moussa), Mikael Vasserbaum (Mark), Vladimir Golovin (Ahmet), Vladimir Goussav (Lomov), Levani Uchaineshvili (Larry).



Available in 16mm, 35mm and VHS public performance to universities, museums & other non-theatrical customers (all dates subject to theatrical approval)

CALL NEW YORKER FILMS TOLL FREE: 1-877-247-6200

85 Fifth Avenue, 11th floor, New York, NY 10003 • Tel: (212) 645-4600 • Fax: (212) 645-3232 • nontheatrical@newyorkerfilms.com