

Andrei Tarkovsky

Sean Martin
new title

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- The first book in English to consider the whole of Tarkovsky's oeuvre including, in addition to his feature films, his stage and radio works, his books, photographs, paintings and poems.
- Tarkovsky is a cult figure whose appeal is not just limited to film buffs, but to a wide variety of people, as suggested by the popularity of his book *Sculpting in Time*
- Tarkovsky's work has now started to appear on DVD, exposing his work to a new market.
- A fully comprehensive Filmography which no current English-language book has.

Andrei Tarkovsky is the most celebrated Russian filmmaker since Eisenstein, and one of the most important directors to have emerged during the 1960s and 70s. Although he made only seven features, each one was a major landmark in cinema, the most well-known of them being the mediaeval epic *Andrei Rublev* and the autobiographical *Mirror*, set during the Russia of Stalin's purges in the 1930s and the years of stagnation under Brezhnev. Both films landed Tarkovsky in considerable trouble with the authorities, and he gained a reputation for being a tortured – and ultimately martyred – filmmaker. Despite the harshness of the conditions under which he worked, Tarkovsky built up a remarkable body of work.

He burst upon the international scene in 1962 with his debut feature *Ivan's Childhood*, which won the Golden Lion at Venice. During the 1970s, he made two classic ventures into science-fiction, *Solaris*, regarded at the time as being the Soviet reply to Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and *Stalker*, which was thought to have predicted the Chernobyl disaster. Harassed at home, Tarkovsky went into exile and made his last two films in the West, where he also published his classic work of film and artistic theory, *Sculpting in Time*. Since his death in Paris in 1986, his reputation continued – and continues – to grow.

In this book, Sean Martin considers the whole of Tarkovsky's oeuvre, from the classic student film *The Steamroller and the Violin*, across the full-length films, to the later stage works and Tarkovsky's writings, paintings and photographs. Martin also seeks to demystify Tarkovsky as a 'difficult' director and to make a case for Tarkovsky's position not just as an important filmmaker, but also as an artist who speaks directly about the most important spiritual issues of our time.

Sean Martin is a filmmaker, poet and writer. He has written three previous books for Pocket Essentials: *The Black Death*, and the best-selling *Alchemy and Alchemists* and *The Knights Templar*. His poems have appeared in numerous magazines, and he has just directed his second feature film, *The Notebooks of Cornelius Crow*.

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