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A Restoration by the Deutsche Kinemathek - Museum für Film und Fernsehen

Battleship Potemkin (Bronenosets Potyomkin)
(USSR 1925)

Directed by Sergei Eisenstein
With Edmund Meisel's original orchestral score

71 mins | Cert PG

A BFI release

www.bfi.org.uk/releases

Release date: 29 April 2011

Opening venues: BFI Southbank, Curzon Renoir, Irish Film Institute Dublin plus selected venues nationwide

Eisenstein's influential masterpiece about the navy mutiny that sparked off the Russian Revolution premiered at the Bolshoi Theatre on December 24 1925 and was released in the Soviet Union in January 1926. It was famously banned in the UK by the BBFC until 1954 when it was released to UK cinemas with an X certificate. Now ***Battleship Potemkin*** is to be reissued by the BFI on 29 April in a restoration by Deutsche Kinemathek, with Edmund Meisel's original score, played by the 55-piece Deutsches Filmorchester Babelsberg and conducted by Helmut Imig.

The Deutsche Kinemathek restoration, which brings Potemkin as near to the original version as has ever been seen, comprises 1,372 shots - 15 more than the previous sound version restoration in 1976 - and replaces scenes particularly from the Odessa Steps sequence that were cut by censors following the film's premiere in 1925. For the first time, the film's 146 title cards have also restored to the filmmaker's specifications.

This restoration combined with Meisel's score makes this version of **Battleship Potemkin** a must-see. Writes Ian Christie in this month's BFI Southbank guide: "When Eisenstein heard the score that had been such an incendiary success in Germany, he worried that Meisel's powerful music overshadowed the film. But Potemkin was already proving inspirational and few images remain as potent as a pram careering down a staircase, still widely referenced today, at the climax of the massacre of Odessa's civilians. Potemkin's perennial freshness owes much to Eisenstein's improvisation when he realised the potential of those steps, and of the battleship itself, as a cockpit for the stirring of revolutionary emotion, and with Meisel's music it's as powerful as ever."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Battleship Potemkin plays at selected cinemas nationwide from 29 April and forms the centrepiece of Kino: Russian Film Pioneers at the BFI Southbank which starts on Friday 6 May.

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