
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 24 Oct 2004 08:36:28 GMT

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continuous film footage. The movie appears to have been intended for a Western audience, since all the credits appear in English. However, the dialog is entirely in Russian and subtitled. That's not a problem though, even if you don't speak Russian. Because the dialog is very simple, and the main focus is on the sights and sounds. It shows the art of the Palace and the music of the era when it still was home of the Tsars. I thought the movie had a strange feel for the first few minutes. It is narrated by two ghosts, one Russian and one French. It is shown through the eyes of the Russian ghost, who follows the French ghost through the museum. The dialog between them is a rather condescending exchange where the Frenchman taunts the Russian about the quality of life and art in Russia. But the two are obviously connected, and the chemistry between them is interesting. But more than that is the way Sokurov was able to show 300 years of history, culture and art in this 90 minute uninterrupted walkthrough of the Hermitage Palace in St. Petersburg. The "making of" section of the DVD is nearly as interesting as the film itself, so be sure and watch that too.

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 24 Oct 2004 12:06:04 GMT

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That's what that was! I saw that on one of the pirated cable channels and I remember it perfectly, the two guys tour an art museum and discuss the various paintings, tying them in to their respective eras and their commentary on the social and political events of that time. I was absorbed. However I could never find it again. Thanks Wayne, something to look forward to.

Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Sun, 24 Oct 2004 22:01:31 GMT

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Just bought a copy from an Amazon-affiliated vendor - \$18.52 brand new. Can't understand why Amazon features links to sellers who undercut their price right on the same page as the item listing.

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 24 Oct 2004 22:49:45 GMT

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Probably some kickback thing. How did you like the movie?

Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Mon, 25 Oct 2004 10:11:27 GMT

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I mean "just" bought it - as in read the post, thought it would be very interesting, and went and clicked at Amazon. I'll try to remember to post something after I see it.

Posted by [lon](#) on Tue, 26 Oct 2004 02:01:43 GMT

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I saw this a while back on VHS. I hope the local library bought a disk copy as well (though I don't have a player.) I'll be getting one. Russian Ark is great-- I do not recall how I got tipped off to it. I was slack jawed at the end. One take. The fact that it was done on video makes it a little easier to grasp. So now that we are talking about 'arty pictures' I'd recommend the work of Peter Greenaway, in particular for this discussion "Drowning By Numbers." In the film there are images of the numbers 1 thru 100 placed cleverly as the story unwinds. For me, the first one is always hardest--I had to get 'tip' on that.

Subject: "Drowning by Numbers"

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 26 Oct 2004 07:29:11 GMT

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Sounds interesting Lon, thanks! I did a search on Amazon, and found it on VHS but the DVD version has been released yet. They show that it is being made though, and is currently listed as a pre-release. So it should be available soon. Drowning by Numbers, VHS Version Drowning by Numbers, DVD Version
