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 sibtitled. 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 throuh 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 uninterupted 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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Thats what that was! I saw that on one of the pirated cable channels and I remmember it perfectly, the two guys tour an art museum and discuss the various paintings, tieing them in to their respective era's 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 whay 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 librarybought 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 itwas done on video makes it a little easier to grasp. So now that we are taking about 'arty pictures' I'drecommend the work of Peter Greenaway, in particular forthis discussion "Drowning By Numbers." In the film thereare images of the numbers 1 thru 100 placed cleverly as thestory 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 VersionDrowning by Numbers, DVD Version