

Igor Smirnov (or Smirnoff)

Titles: 1 Sources: 1 Stills: 2

Born: U.S.S.R.



Little ray of sunshineski – Igor as the ever cheerful crippled boy Lyonya

Source: Classics of the Foreign Film

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Alyosha Lyarsky:

“Mark Donskoi’s trio of films based on Maxim Gorki’s autobiographical trilogy, produced by the Moscow Children’s Film Studio within a few years of the great writer’s death, is one of the glories of the Russian cinema. Its first two parts, in which the dogged, puzzled Lyarski plays the hero, are unforgettable. (The older Young Gorki of **"MY UNIVERSITIES"** is rather wet by comparison.)...

Notable among the other boys in **"DETSTVO GORKOVO"** are Igor Smirnoff as the little bedridden cripple Lyonya, indomitably sunny with his white mouse and his games, and the two weasely cousins (V.Khoroshenichikov and Y.Mamayev), plus the multi-ethnic gang of locals that Aleksei roams the fields with. Smirnoff appeared two years later in **"YAKOV SVERDLOFF"** and in the Soviet youth classic **"TIMUR I YEVO KOMANDA"...**



Smirnov right, with Alyosha Lyarski as the great man writ small

Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

Excerpt from **Classics of the Foreign Film** analysis of "DETSTVO GORKOVO":

"...Now Alexei, living with his impoverished grandparents and going to school, strikes up a friendship with the local gamins, those "boys of the road" whose reformation has been a prominent theme in Russian and Italian films. Reduction to abject poverty is the most touching theme in this film; it sears, and wilts the very heart, but the heart is revived with the lifeblood of gaiety. This gaiety is the sweetness and goodness of what we may be allowed to call

"natural man": the grandmother, the sunny young peasant employed in the dye works, the little orphan, a cripple, who believes "a mouse can be fed to the size of a horse" - *there* is Russian romanticism for you!..."

Caption to still overleaf:

"A sunny little cripple pinpoints the film's dramatic mixture of the world's sordid gloom and poverty with humour and innocent [*sic*] goodness."

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
38		DETSTVO GORKOVO	as Lyonya (or Lenska)
		with Alyosha Lyarski, V. Khoroshenichikov, Y. Marnayev	
40		YAKOV SVERDLOFF	
- -		TIMUR I YEVO KOMMANDA	
		with Livi Shchipachev, Vitya Seleznyoff	