

Lyutyi

("The Fierce One")

U.S.S.R : 1973 : dir. Tolomush Okeyev : Kazakhfilm

: 96 min

prod: : scr: Andrey Mikhalkov-Konchalovski & Eduard Tropinin

dir.ph.: Kadyrzhan Kydyraliev

[Kambar Valiev](#)

Suymenkul Chokmorov; Karagandai Satayev; Aliman Jangorozova; Nurmukhan Ikhtimbayev

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω	□	€	Z	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

International Film Guide 1975 review:

"Okeyev's enthralling new film carried forward the qualities of his previous features and rises to fresh heights. As with **"SKY OF MY CHILDHOOD"**, he captures with compassion and understanding the sufferings (and the joys) of a boy undergoing an incredibly harsh childhood in a remote country area. As in **"BOW TO THE FLAMES"** he depicts even the least sympathetic characters as victims of social circumstances rather than dyed-in-the-wool villains.

The boy in the new film (played by the same young actor who featured in **"THE SKY OF**

MY CHILDHOOD") is an orphan living in primitive conditions in a wild mountainous region of Kazakhstan at the turn of the century. His uncle, a poor sheep farmer, while not deliberately ill-treating him, is determined to bring him up "tough". His grandmother, although loving, is too old to do much, and in any case this is all to evidently a man's world.

Desperate for affection the boy adopts a wolf-cub which his uncle is about to kill with the rest of the litter - much against his uncle's inclinations, for wolves are a shepherd's main enemy. The wolf eventually rejoins its pack but becomes wounded and returns to the boy's home. It is now a mature and ferocious animal

and the boy is badly mauled. This exciting story, embodying many ferocious encounters, is told with a fierce realism that makes no concessions to sentimentality, yet maintains a steady flow of human concern.

The photography of wildlife - including actual shots of wolves savaging sheep - is quite extraordinary and the life of the peasant families is very convincingly reconstructed. Scr: Andrey Mikhalkov-Konchalovski & Eduard Tropinin, from a story by Mukhtar Auezov. Dir.ph: Kadyrzhan Kydraliev. For his fourth film, Okeyev is turning for the first time to a theme from contemporary life."

- Nina Hibbin

"...Konchalovski scripted one of the most gifted films from the non-Russian republics - **"LYUTY"** ("The Fierce One"), made by the Kirghizian director Tolomush Okeyev in Kazakhstan. The creative film-making vitality of the non-Russian republic continued to soar..."

18th London Film Festival (1974) programme guide review:

"In recent years, it has become clear that some of the most interesting Russian films now being made are those from the various Soviet Republics (witness the success of **"PIROSMAN"** in London this year). This film, from the Kazakh Studios, is part written by a famous name, Mikhalkov-Konchalovsky, and made by a newish director, Tolomush Okeyev.

The setting is the open, mountainous countryside in pre-revolutionary times; the main protagonists a small boy and a wolf cub he befriends. Any thoughts of Disneyish

sentimentality are soon dispelled in Okeyev's fierce depiction of man-animal relations in the story's progression through violence to a beautifully controlled climax of felt, but not forced, compassion.

All the scenes with the wolves - both gentle and savage - are filmed with an almost frightening directness (and some are not for the squeamish), and Okeyev makes good use of the village settings, the dusty roads and the sinister, wolf-filled nights. A young Kazakh schoolboy, Kambar Valiev, is remarkably assured and controlled as he deals with both men and beasts."

- John Gillett

[no listing in "Speelfilm Encyclopedie"]



Exhibited at the Locarno, Cannes and London Film Festivals 1974. Then forgotten.

Nothing else is known of Kambar Valiyev, nor do I know the original title of **"THE SKY OF MY CHILDHOOD"**. It's clear however that this film – similar, perhaps, in tone and setting to **"PADRE PADRONE"** - is of primary interest to the archive. The only other entry currently hailing from that region is the tongue-defeating **"WSZYTKOI CONAJWAZNIEJSZE"** (Poland 92), about a boy deported with his mother in 1939 by the Russians to a labour camp in Kazakhstan, and based on the memoirs of poet Aleksander Wat's son.

Do they play Scrabble in Poland, one wonders?

See subject index under **ANIMALS, EASTERN EUROPE/SOVIET BLOC, FARMS & FARMING, HISTORY** and **ORPHANS / ADOPTION**.

