

Burnt by the Sun

(original title unknown) [Utomlennye solntsem]

Russian Federation / France : 1994 : dir. Nikita Mikhalkov :

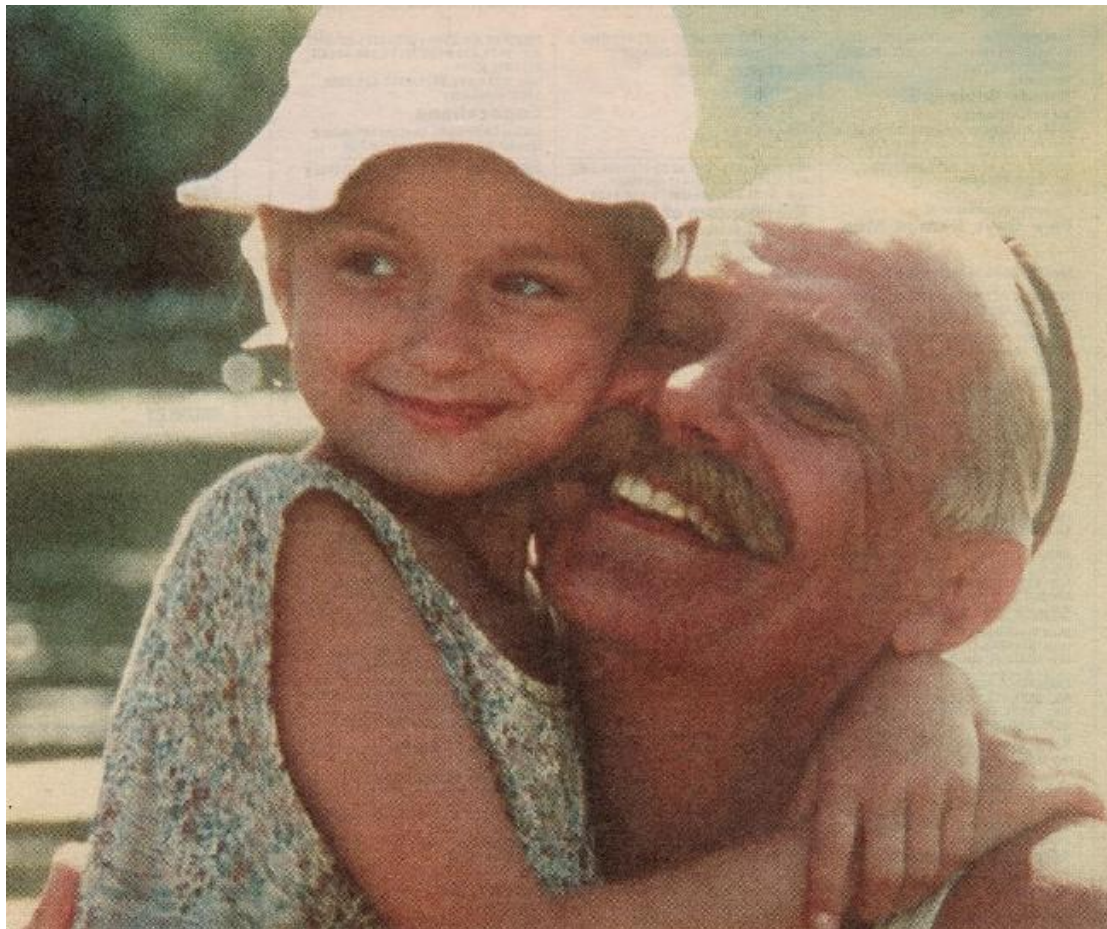
: 152 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Nadia Mikhalkova](#)

Nikita Mikhalkov; Oleg Menchikov; Ingeborga Dapkounaite; Andre Oumansky

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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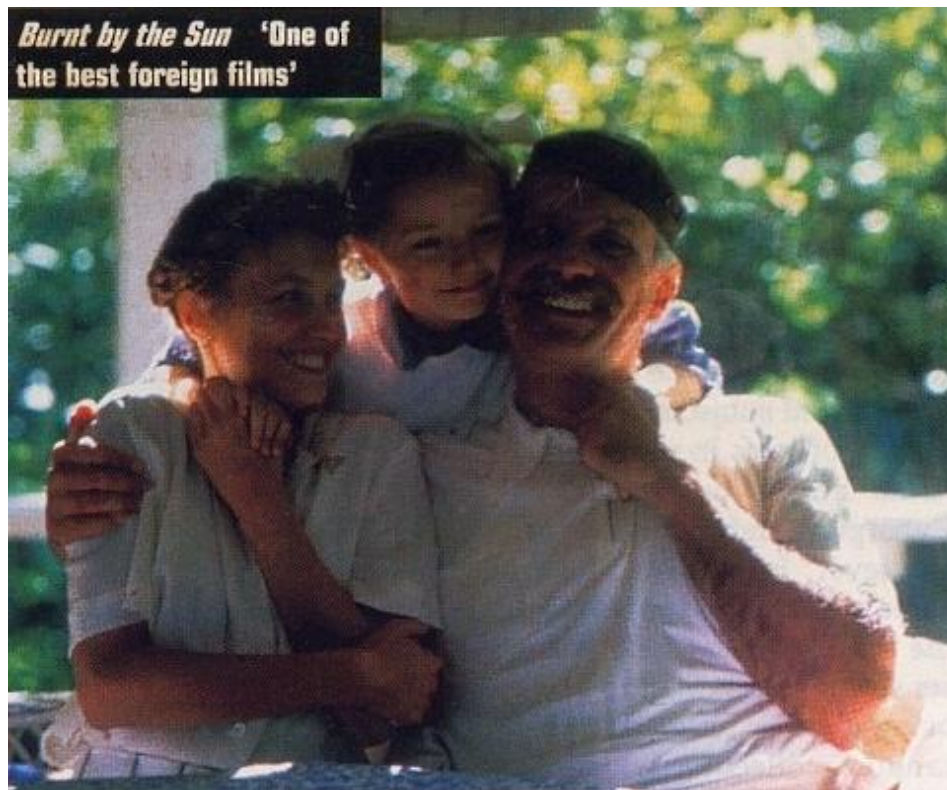
"Surely the most charming film about the horrors of totalitarianism ever made"

Source: Sunday Times

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
1996 review:

"The year is 1936, and Sergei Kotov (played by director Mikhalkov) is an aging hero of the Bolshevik Revolution whose eyes are closed to the present-day tyranny of Josef Stalin. All of this is about to change upon the arrival of his wife's ex-lover, who is employed by Stalin's governmental police. Provocative and moving meditation on the political and social realities

of life in Stalinist Russia deservedly earned a Best Foreign Film Academy Award. Sergei's daughter, Nadia, who has a key role in the story, is played by Mikhalkov's real-life daughter, Nadia. *** "



Source: Film Review Nov 95

Film Review - Nov '95 – reader's letter:

"I'd like to thank Nigel Robinson for giving "BURNT BY THE SUN" five stars. Indeed it is "truly marvellous cinema"! It's a work of pure art. Gripping from the start, it keeps you spellbound until the last, inevitable, harrowing moment. It is highly original, giving one an insight into life in Stalin's Soviet Russia in the Thirties. Full of compassion, humour, heroism, imagery, true love and sadistic evil, the film lingers in the mind long after you're safely at home! The recurring theme song, "Burnt By the Sun", is a real and famous song about unattainable love, well-known in Eastern Europe. One of the best foreign films I've ever seen."

- Julian Richmond, Isleworth, Middlesex

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "International Film Guide 1994", "International Film Guide 1995" or "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995"]

Sunday Times review:

"Sergei Kotov, a hero of the Russian revolution, and his family are spending the summer of 1936 at his dacha. There are tanks in the wheatfields, Young Pioneers marching along the tree-shaded lanes and Stalin's portrait born aloft under a balloon. Then Dimitri (Oleg Menchikov), a former lover of Sergei's wife, arrives to arrest Sergei and take him to an unknown fate in Moscow. Mikhalkov's moving film, which he co-wrote, produced and directed, as well as giving a finely-judged performance as the lead, was this year's best foreign film at the Oscars."

"Last year's Best Foreign Picture Oscar-winner, in which a peaceful family idyll is threatened by the arrival of a member of Stalin's secret police. Surely the most charming film about the horrors of totalitarianism ever made."

No further information currently available. Parallels with the 1985 Yugoslavian film "**OTAC NA SLUZBENOM PUTU**" ("When Father Was Away On Business") seem pretty clear. Nothing else is known of Nadia Mikhailkova, but the same year her father released an intriguing documentary feature – "**ANNA OT SHESTI DO VOSEMNADTSATI**" ("Anna from 6 to 18") – which chronicled the development of her sister Anna by interviewing her every year with the same five questions. As chance would have it, Anna's growth through late childhood and early adolescence coincided with the economic collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of a new (but not necessarily better) Eastern Europe, rapidly acquiring all the social diseases of the West. Director Mikhailkov could not have asked for a more dramatic backdrop to what is in essence an experiment in mapping his child's psychological growth.

See subject index under [ALL IN THE FAMILY](#), [DEPRESSION ERA \(1930s SETTINGS\)](#), [EASTERN EUROPE / SOVIET BLOC](#) and [OSCAR WINNERS / AWARD WINNERS](#).