



COURIER photo/Gabriel Fenoy

Claremont resident Dmitry Trakovsky has recently completed his first feature length film titled *Meeting Andrei Tarkovsky*. The essay documentary, which is filmed in Italy, Sweden, the United States and Russia, examines Tarkovsky's legacy through interviews with the filmmaker's colleagues and admirers.

Budding filmmaker focuses on real life topics

Dmitry Trakovsky, 24, quickly found out he had a talent for making movies. After shooting a film about Buddhism for a college course, his professor urged him to apply for a school grant so he could buy a video camera.

Three years later, Mr. Trakovsky's first feature film, a documentary about his favorite director Alexander Tarkovsky, has won awards and is screening this weekend at the Laemmle Theater in Claremont.

Entitled *Meeting Andrei Tarkovsky*, the documentary follows the lives touched by the acclaimed Russian director, even 20 years after he passed away. Scenes for the film were shot in Italy, Sweden, the United States and Russia.

Andrei Tarkovsky is one of Russia's most celebrated directors whose films pushed the boundaries on topics like religion and culture in the Soviet Union. Some of his iconic films include *Andrei Rublev*, *Solaris*, *The Mirror* and *Stalker*.

"Filmmakers like Tarkovsky treat their audience like their peers," he said. "He made films for himself and didn't dumb it down for the audience like many mainstream movies."

Meeting Andrei Tarkovsky premiered in 2008 at the Sao Paulo International Film Festival in Brazil and was awarded with Jury Special Mention. It has been shown at film festivals in Sweden, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Romania and Slovakia. Most recently, the film made its US debut at the Film So-

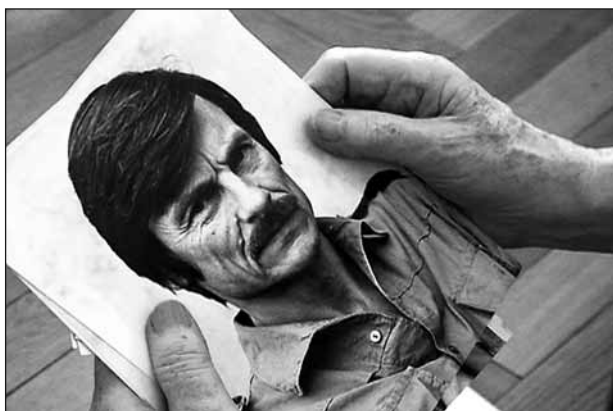


Image courtesy of Trakovsky Film Swedish-born actor Erland Josephson holds a photo of Andrei Tarkovsky in this still image from Dmitry Trakovsky's new film *Meeting Andrei Tarkovsky*. Mr. Josephson appeared in several Tarkovsky films.

ciety of Lincoln Center in New York.

"I think it's an authentic and personal exploration of some of the most fundamental things we deal with as humans, such as our lives on earth together and death," Mr. Trakovsky said. "Too many films close their eyes to such themes. Tarkovsky had the most success in addressing such issues through his movies."

The budding filmmaker shares some similarities with the subject of his first film. Both are natives of Russia and enjoy exploring metaphysical and spiritual themes in their work. Despite their similar sounding names, the two are not related.

Born in Moscow, Mr. Trakovsky moved to the



Image courtesy of Trakovsky Film Italian-born actress Domiziana Giordano reflects on the life of Andrei Tarkovsky in this image from *Meeting Andrei Tarkovsky*. Ms. Giordano played the role of Eugenia in Tarkovsky's celebrated film *Nostalghia*, which won the FIPRESCI Prize at the 1983 Cannes Film Festival.

United States with his family when he was just 3. His mother, Emilia Trakovsky, was a well-known biology teacher at Claremont High School for many years until she recently retired.

After graduating from Claremont High School, Mr. Trakovsky studied biology and art history at University of California Santa Cruz, where he began making films.

The first subject in his documentary was a chance encounter at a monastery in Northern California. There to get some practice with his new video cam-

MEETING ANDREI TARKOVSKY
continues on page 7