

Podranki

("Orphans")

U.S.S.R : 1976 : dir. Nikolay Gubenko :

: 92 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.: Aleksandr Kalyagin

[Alyosha Cherstvoff](#); [Natalya Gundareva](#)

Yuozas Budraytis; Jeanna Bolotova; Nikolay Gubenko; Georgi Burkov; Aleksandr Kalyagin;
Zhanna Bolotova; Rolan Bykov

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Alyosha Cherstvoff

Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"A successful writer goes in search of his two brothers, from whom he was separated as a child. He relives his painful youth as an orphan with various foster families and will ultimately find his two brothers again. A rather heavygoing but honest and intense autobiographical drama. One of the few Russian films which had a relatively successful cinema release in Europe. *** "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Cherstvoff:

"The central narrative of Nikolai Gubenko's fine "PODRANKI" - generally known as "ORPHANS" in Britain and the USA - is a flashback into the narrator's past life as a war orphan at a children's home after World War Two: a tough establishment with an honestly portrayed mixture of good and bad teachers.

As the young hero fighting injustice, Alyosha Cherstvoff is superb, the suspicion born of experience making a sensitive and passionate nature. The smaller but no less impressive role of the vengeful Valya Ganedin, who blows

himself up while attempting to lob a home-made grenade into an enclosure of German prisoners – a performance of painful intensity – is in fact taken by a girl, the remarkable Natalya Gundareva.”

NAMBLA Bulletin vol. 4/4 – May 1983 – media note:

“...Award Films has come out with 2 new tapes: **"THE ORPHANS"** [is] a Russian story I had some trouble following. The key boy is rather handsome, and there are several good group scenes - beach, gymnastics, orphanage, etc...”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Additional credits from the *International Film Guide 1978*. Successful or not in its day, it lies buried now in that mass grave marked “old foreign films” – while older American films of more dubious worth are recycled on our television screens year after year. Cherstvoff was about 13, and appeared again the following year in **"A U NAS BILA TISHINA"** (“It Was Quiet Over Here”).

See for comparison **"PUIKA"** (“The Boy”, 77) an autobiographical account of a Latvian writer’s turn-of-the-century rural childhood, or **"L’ENFANCE NUE"** (“Naked Childhood”, 68) based on French director Maurice Pialat’s own boyhood of shuttling from foster home to foster home, but more directly there is another Soviet film in the archive, the title of which eludes me momentarily, set in a post-war orphan camp, where a boy with Germanic name and appearance must defend himself against the very understandable wrath of his fellow inmates.

See subject index under **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TITLES, DEATH / DYING CHILDREN, EASTERN EUROPE / SOVIET BLOC, ORPHANS / ADOPTION / CHILDREN’S HOMES, WAR** and **WOMEN AS BOYS / GIRLS AS BOYS**.