

The Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives cordially invite you to a

PUBLIC TALK AND PRESENTATION OF A NEW FILM BY ALEXANDER MARKOV

Introduced and moderated by Oksana Sarkisova

Found-footage Propaganda:

Introduction to "Our Africa" Series

DATE: 2017 MAY 10 AT 6:00 P.M.

VENUE: BLINKEN OSA ARCHIVUM, ARANY JÁNOS UTCA 32.



Soviet documentaries of the 1960s responded to changing boundaries of ideological control during the so-called "Thaw" period. Many of the Soviet filmmakers worked and filmed in various "socialist-friendly" countries in Africa and their footage shows a genuine curiosity in the "otherness" of African reality. My film does not aim at duplicating the official propaganda discourse, my idea is to deepen the poignancy of Soviet newsreels and documentary films by exposing the propaganda clichés and offering a new way of seeing them by exposing and highlighting their message. My review offers a fast-paced survey of the entire corpus of Soviet films about Africa in which I identify the most important and recurrent themes and motifs. In the process of this research, I trace how Soviet views of Africa evolved over three decades, later falling into oblivion.



Alexander Markov is documentary filmmaker, film historian and video artist. He teaches documentary directing at Saint Petersburg State Institute of Film and Television, and works as an independent curator. His video installations were shown at Sharjah Biennial, Calvert 22, Iwalewahaus, africa.cont. Markov's films have participated and were awarded at Berlinale Talents, DocPoint, Sheffield Doc, Film Africa, Message To Man, NYAFF, Artdocfest, Cinefest, Stalker, and Temps De Images, among others.