

Extract from "El País": Review of the Rosendal Festival:

https://elpais.com/.../08/12/actualidad/1565590053_350214.html

"Dmitri Shostakóvich cruza la frontera"

One of the great moments of this Festival has been, without any doubt, the screening on Friday night of the film *New Babylon* (1929), by Grigori Kozintsev and Leonid Trauberg, carefully restored by Marek Pytel and with the recovery of the Original piano music composed by Dmitri Shostakóvich, a regular of film music, especially in his youth. The latter interpreted with surprisingly perfect synchronization to the images, by the Ukrainian pianist Sasha Grynyuk, who amazed all attendees and who took one of the longest, sincere and enthusiastic applause of these days. While playing a single continuous piece for more than an hour and a half, Grynyuk adhered to and brilliantly shaped the two principles that, according to Shostakovich himself, had guided his work: that of obligatory enlightenment (music reveals the true intimate meaning of the images) and that of contrast (the music contradicts what we see on stage). Full of quotes, always so dear to the composer, at times vulgar, sometimes deep, polystylistic and always linked to these visual wonders.

Photo: Liv Ovland

