

Title: Rocking Past the Red Tape: The Rock-n-roll Film and the late Soviet Film Industry
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As a general rule, new film genres depend as much on changes in film production and distribution practices as they do on the whims of popular taste. The Soviet rock-n-roll film aptly exemplifies this dynamic in its production history and stands out as one of the most striking instances of late Soviet rogue cultural currents transforming an official film industry from the inside out. With this paper I will trace how the introduction of rock-n-roll into the Soviet cinematic sphere aided in gradually dismantling the seemingly impermeable bureaucratic infrastructure of the Soviet film industry, giving rise to critically successful and high-grossing films and ushering in a new model of film distribution. Drawing heavily on archival documents from Soviet Union's largest and most centralized film studios and interviews with Perestroika-era directors, this paper will explore the often tumultuous dynamic that existed between official bureaucratic control of film production and the need for innovative marketing strategies in late Soviet cinema.