

Interview with V. Egorov, Dec. 21, 1987  
Head, Literary-dramatic department.

No. of personnel 160 + Egorov in Moscow  
budget: c. 1 million r. for creative people. That includes  
directors, editors, etc.

6 subsections

1. artistic-publicistic (what artist/lit people think)
2. literary-artistic (about art)
3. theater performances (spektakly)
4. television original performances
5. entertainment programs (humor)
6. production section: e.g. music, costumes, art for other programs

The Film industry has most money. Directors, writers, etc. go there first, and then to Gostel.

Original dramas

Source of initiatives:

Theater directors or dramaturgs bring ideas to tv. The fee for theater and tv is same. Beofre Gostel paid 500 r for an original play; Now they pay 5,000 r, which is fee that other media pay.

Plan:

For made-for-television dramas, plan 12 per year, each will be 1 ½ hours.

Department has total of 300 hours per year on first program, with repeats, and on 2nd program, could give them roughly 600 hours [this figure is vaguest estimate]

Source of initiative:

Look at theater sources: if see interesting theme, can do play. perhaps too late--perhaps movie got it; perhaps will be given to tv, in which case, tv can assign co-author from department to work on it. Rarely do in-house people write the plays entirely. Most directors are in-house.

Yes, they do want to influence the tendency; do want to define it and do choose to push it. Priority: most interesting for audience. Rest of this discussion reflected desire of this department to supplement and implement official governmental initiatives.

Coordination:

press, radio, tv: are coordinated by Propaganda Department of Central Committee of Party--but this happens not on a frequent basis, but especially when a big event is looming.

Example of finding a play, etc.

William Gibson (Two for the Seesaw) wrote a play, "White Rose, White ---- [will find]. Pozner read it in America and found it interesting. Brought it to department, which translated it and got director. Andizianu [sp?]. Gostel might know 20 talented directors. Gave script to several. A. said he'd read it and

decide. Then determined that he knew how to do it. Found 2 excellent actors. Pozner found Gibson's wife (at Harvard) and arranged interview. [Will] get tape of this show + this interview following show when return to USSR] Play is anti-war. Took two months. Fees: actor and directors all receive the same and all receive the same for all media: 50 r per rehearsal.

#### Filming theater plays

Some are done in studio; some are done on stage. They are done not only in Moscow, but also in some republics. Once a year, there is a theater festival. This year was in 3 cities, with finals [i.e. best were chosen] in Leningrad. There, 18 theater collectives performed--best in country. Department represented there to see the best theater productions from country.

A large number of plays already taped [fond]. Criteria for choosing to film a play--have to see if already have it; or if a new version of something they have. If, for example, decide to do a play that is being done by a theater collective in Kuibyshev, then can send money to that city for tv studio there to tape it. Each Sunday this year, there was a performance from a national studio [i.e. sub-federal]. They are translated, if not in Russian. One example: Yakut theater got State Prize. All 20 people had studied at the Maly Theater [Moscow]. Did excellent work; filmed for tv. TV pays its people to go around the country to see theater productions.

#### Entertainment, Humor department

Vokrug smekha [Around humor]: special poet-satirist. This department deals with adult literary [as opposed to musical] entertainment.

#### Igra v dektektiv [detective play]

comedy, plays: process is same: look for director of own or outside and get several actors from best theaters.

#### Mini-series from original--for television

There is one, "The Experts Investigate" [sledvie vegut znataki], which has been on 10 years, now twice a year. can't take it off. inundated with letters. fixture.

Egorov was chief editor of Instructional TV before this post.

Next year: 50 hours more will be given to this department. Will have larger budget.

In the past, most attention was paid to news and public affairs. Entertainment received less. It was "typical of that period." Entertainment "got what was left." Expansion will take place in broadcast day, which will increase its total number of hours by 1½. Every year it will increase. A third national network will go into operation beyond Moscow--presumably to begin with beginning of next 5-year plan.