

CINEMATOGRAPHIC TREASURY OF KHERSON

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Kherson is a city of contrasts. Here you can find magnificent locations for filming: urban landscapes, the sea nearby, beautiful green sceneries, the forest and even the desert! The opportunity was not missed by many film directors who used our city as the backdrop in many of their films.

For example, in 1974, the director Alexander Svetlov shot some scenes of his film «**Three Hours' Stop-Over**» at the Kherson Glass Factory. The moving picture tells of a worker from Kaunas Jonas Budris, who voyaged along the Volga and during a stop in a city on the Volga found the house where his old friend Peter lived. The protagonist learned that after Peter's death his wife was taken to the hospital and their eldest son was in prison for theft, whereas the younger one quit school altogether. Jonas decided to interrupt the voyage and stayed at the friend's house to somehow help his comrade's family.

Part of our city, namely the hotel «Fregate» on the waterfront at the end of Ushakov Avenue, «The Ukraine» cinema, the railway station and the brewery (which functioned in the city until 1984) can be seen in the film under the title «**American Boy**» by Boris Kvashnev. Of course, the names of Kherson's institutions and addresses were changed in the film, except for the brewery. According to the plot of the film, a former orphan Nikolai goes to the United States for permanent residence after Afghan captivity. There he begins to work as an instructor in a sports club and after a while comes to visit his homeland. Nikolai wants to see his former comrade-in-arms Sergey, with whom he fought in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, a few days before his friend's arrival, Sergey was killed by local bandits. Within a short time the friend's wife dies. Nikolai decides to avenge both of their deaths.

The director Andrew Ladynin chose Kherson for the movie «**5 Minutes of Fear**». It is a Soviet detective film, based on the novel by Sergey Vysotsky

«**Anonymous Customer**». Locations for it were the streets of our city: St. Lutheran Street, University (Heavenly Hundred) Street and Potemkinska Street.

Small episodes of the film «**The Hunter for Caravans**» were filmed in the Kherson Helicopter military unit. The motion picture tells the story of a secret operation by Soviet spies during their military presence in Afghanistan.

Kherson oblast, namely Oleshky, is featured in the drama «**Commissioner**». It is a Soviet feature film shot in 1967 by Alexander Askoldov based on the story by Vasily Grossman «In the City of Berdichev». Despite the talented production of the director, the film was banned for more than 18 years, and the director was fired from the studio with a stamp «professionally unsuitable», he was expelled from the party, deprived of the opportunity to practise his profession.

In addition to the above films, Kherson became the background for «Angel Day», «Invasion», «Lost in the Sands», «Elusive Avengers», «A Young Man from a Good Family», «A Girl and the Sea», «Oleko Dundich», and «Where is 042? ». As a result, Kherson has been recorded for the future generations.

The cinema in our city has a tendency to revival. «The First Kherson Film School» has been operating for several years. Meetings with famous artists and actors have been held there. Kherson's residents joined the marathon «Cinema for 48 Hours», and the best works have been presented at the «Multiplex » cinema in the «Fabrika» mall. The availability of equipment for shooting and the development of the Internet allow each talented newcomer to find his viewer and get prospects for further career growth.

Based on:

«Херсон і кіно» by Natalia Rozhkova

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