

Pyotr Todorovsky, Filmmaker Who Broke Taboo, Dies at 87

By [The Moscow Times](#)

May 23, 2013

The  **Moscow Times**

Pyotr Todorovsky, an Academy Award-nominated director whose films explored World War II and broke a Soviet-era taboo against portraying prostitutes, died Friday after a long illness. He was 87.

Several of Todorovsky's more than 20 films drew on his experience as a platoon commander during World War II. *Voenno-Polevoi Roman* ("Wartime Romance," 1983), which tells the story of lovers separated by war, was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

But perhaps his best-known movie is *Interdevochka* ("Intergirl," 1989), a slang word for a prostitute who caters to foreigners, which included the first portrayal of a prostitute in Soviet pop culture. The film was a box office hit and its gritty realism seemed to capture the zeitgeist of the perestroika era.

"The death of Pyotr Yefimovich Todorovsky is a tremendous loss for Russian culture. There were few filmmakers as authoritative as Pyotr Yefimovich. His films can be considered a chronicle of eras in the history of our country," Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky said, RIA-Novosti reported.

Todorovsky is survived by his wife Mira and son Valery, a prominent film director.

Related articles:

- [Filmmaker Balabanov Dead at 54](#)
- [2 Children Die in Perm Region Building Collapse](#)
- [Sergei Alexeyev, Co-Author of Constitution, Dead at Age 88](#)

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2013/05/23/pyotr-todorovsky-filmmaker-who-broke-taboo-dies-at-87-a24338>