

Contact (1978 film)

Contact or **Kontakt** (Russian: Контакт) is an award-winning 1978 Soviet animated short film.

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Plot

A painter leaves the town and walks around countryside. While he is resting on the grass, humming the melody of *Speak Softly Love*, a large spaceship lands near him. An alien exits the spaceship, photographs the environment and tries to contact the painter by changing his appearance to resemble nearby animals and objects and by touching him. The painter is frightened and tries to run away, but becomes tired, falls from a cliff and lies on the ground, imagining that the alien is going to lock him in a cage and torture him. The alien approaches the painter and tries to hum the same melody that the painter hummed earlier, but makes some mistakes. The painter understands that the alien is friendly, teaches him the correct melody, and they walk away together hand in hand.

The film has no dialogue in any language. All communication is made using music, gestures and gazes; the alien also tries to communicate by shapeshifting. Director Vladimir Tarasov explored this theme of universal communication in his other films; he considered animation "the Esperanto of all mankind".^[1]

Influence and recognition

Even though *The Godfather* films were not distributed in the Soviet Union, the theme music was familiar to Soviet people thanks to this short film.^[1]

Contact received awards at the following festivals:^[2]

- XVIII Festival of science fiction films in Trieste, 1979
- VIII Festival of short and documentary films in Lille, 1979

References

1. Есть "Контакт"!.., Андрей Щербак-Жуков (http://fandom.rusf.ru/about_fan/kino/_st09.htm) (in Russian)
2. Information about Vladimir Tarasov on animator.ru (http://www.animator.ru/db/?p=show_person&pid=562&sp=1) (in Russian)

Contact



Directed by	Vladimir Tarasov
Written by	Alexander Kostinsky
Music by	George Gershwin, Nino Rota
Edited by	Natalia Abramova
Distributed by	 Soyuzmultfilm
Release date	1978 (USSR)
Running time	9 min 46 sec
Country	Soviet Union

External links

- *Kontakt (1978)* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0803764/>) on [IMDb](#)
- Information about the film Contact on animator.ru (http://www.animator.ru/db/?p=show_film&fid=2789) (in English)

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