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Abstract

The subject of the article is the film *Attack and Retreat*, the first Italian-Soviet film in co-production, signed by the director Giuseppe De Santis. In particular, I would like to point out the differences between the film and the original script and the numerous scripts by Sergei Smirnov and De Santis himself, preserved both in Moscow and Rome. Corrections, cuts and compromises show that writing a text that would bring Russians and Italians in agreement was not easy; the diversity of views reflected the delicate economic, political and cultural balances between the two countries at the time. The analysis of the various scripts allows us to recognize their literary value and understand the mechanisms with which ideology becomes literature.

Keywords: Cinema and culture, Italy-Russia relationships, De Santis.