

Ingmar Bergman referred to Andrei Tarkovsky as “the most important director of our time,” and *Mirror*, his masterpiece, is undoubtedly one of the greatest works in film history. IFilm is proud to present it. For those unfamiliar with Tarkovsky’s work, viewing this film, often referred to as a “film poem,” may seem a daunting task. Of course, it is our sincere hope that you enjoy it in the way you please, but we invite you to read the comments of Tarkovsky himself as a bit of a preamble to the film. The quotes are taken from Tarkovsky’s autobiography *Sculpting in Time* and are translated from the original Russian by Kitty Hunter-Blair.

### Tarkovsky on *Mirror*

“I had the greatest difficulty in explaining to people that there is no hidden, coded meaning in the film, nothing beyond the desire to tell the truth. Often my assurances provoked incredulity and even disappointment. Some people evidently wanted more: they needed arcane symbols, secret meanings. They were not accustomed to the poetics of the film image. And I was disappointed in turn. Such was the reaction from the opposition party in the audience; as for my own colleagues, they launched a bitter attack on me, accusing me of immodesty, of wanting to make a film about myself.

“In the end we were saved by one thing only – faith: the belief that since our work was so important to us it could not but become equally important to the audience. The film aimed at reconstructing the lives of people whom I loved dearly and knew well. I wanted to tell the story of the pain suffered by one man because he feels he cannot repay his family for all they have given him. He feels he hasn’t loved them enough, and this idea torments him and will not let him be....

“*Mirror* was not an attempt to talk about myself, not at all. It was about my feelings towards people dear to me; about my relationship with them; my perpetual pity for them and my own inadequacy – my feeling of duty left unfulfilled.”

### Tarkovsky on his responsibility as an artist

“I see it as my duty to stimulate reflection on what is essentially human and eternal in each individual soul, and which all too often a person will pass by, even though his fate lies in his hands.”