



Русские новогодние фильмы. Russian New Year Movies.

Movies are a big part of the New Year period in Russia. As you probably know, we have a big vacation in January, and this is when everybody watches all kinds of old movies.

I am a little annoyed that everybody knows only “The irony of fate”, so I’ve prepared a list of wonderful New Year movies that would brighten up your holiday time:)

How to watch them? If you are upper-intermediate in Russian already, you can watch them all on YouTube without subtitles. For others, I recommend this website – <https://sovietmoviesonline.com/ru/> It is a subscription based resource with hundreds of Soviet and Russian movies with Russian and English subtitles. You can watch the first part of the movies for free and then decide if you are interested or not. Also, you can download the files as well.

Here are my favorite New Year movies:

1. ЧАРОДЕИ / Wizards (1982)

Watch here – <https://sovietmoviesonline.com/ru/comedy/90-charodei.html>

A Soviet romantic fantasy musical film directed by Konstantin Bromberg.

Plot:

Ivan Puhov is in love with a very kind and friendly girl, Alyona. Alyona works





as a witch in a research institution that researches magic called NUIINU (Scientific Universal Institute of Extraordinary Services, a NIICHAVO subsidiary in Kitezggrad). The couple is about to get married when Alyona's jealous and scheming co-worker, Sataneev, tricks Alyona's boss, Kira Shemahanskaya, the institute director, into putting a spell on Alyona. The spell makes Alyona undergo a severe personality change, become unable to control her actions, and forget about Ivan. Ivan and Alyona's friends must figure out a way to break the curse while simultaneously protecting the institution's latest research development, a magic wand.

2. КАРНАВАЛЬНАЯ НОЧЬ / Carnival Night (1956)

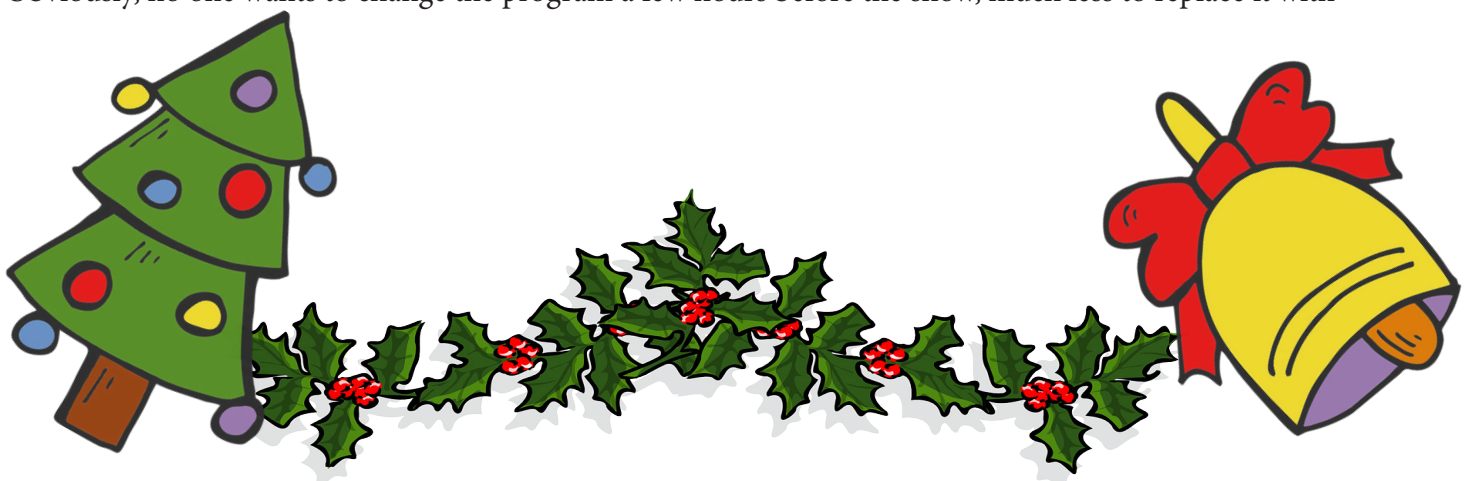
Watch here – <https://youtu.be/3jg21SZJ8g8>

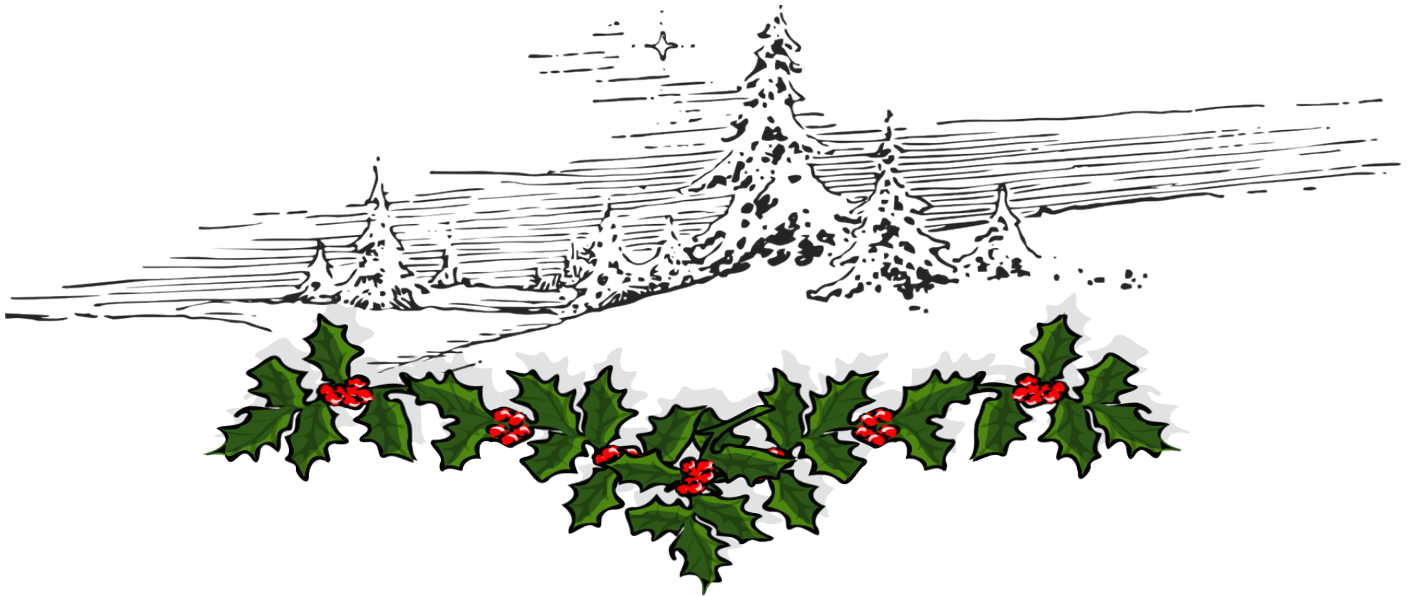
It is Eldar Ryazanov's first big-screen film, Lyudmila Gurchenko's first role and also one of the most famous films starring popular comedian Igor Ilyinsky. The film became the Soviet box office leader of 1956 with a total of 48.64 million tickets sold.

Plot:

It is New Year's Eve and the employees of a House of culture are ready with their annual New Year's entertainment program. It includes a lot of dancing and singing, jazz band performance and even magic tricks. Suddenly, an announcement is made that a new director has been appointed and that he is arriving shortly. Comrade Ogurtsov arrives in time to review and disapprove of the scheduled entertainment. To him, holiday fun has a different meaning. He imagines speakers reading annual reports to show the club's progress over the year, and, perhaps, a bit of serious music, something from the Classics, played by the Veterans' orchestra.

Obviously, no one wants to change the program a few hours before the show, much less to replace it with





something so boring! Now everyone has to team up in order to prevent Ogurtsov from getting to the stage. As some of them trap Ogurtsov one way or another, others perform their scheduled pieces and celebrate New Year's Eve.

Fun fact: the actor who plays Ogurtsov, is my husband's relative (something like his great grandmother's brother).

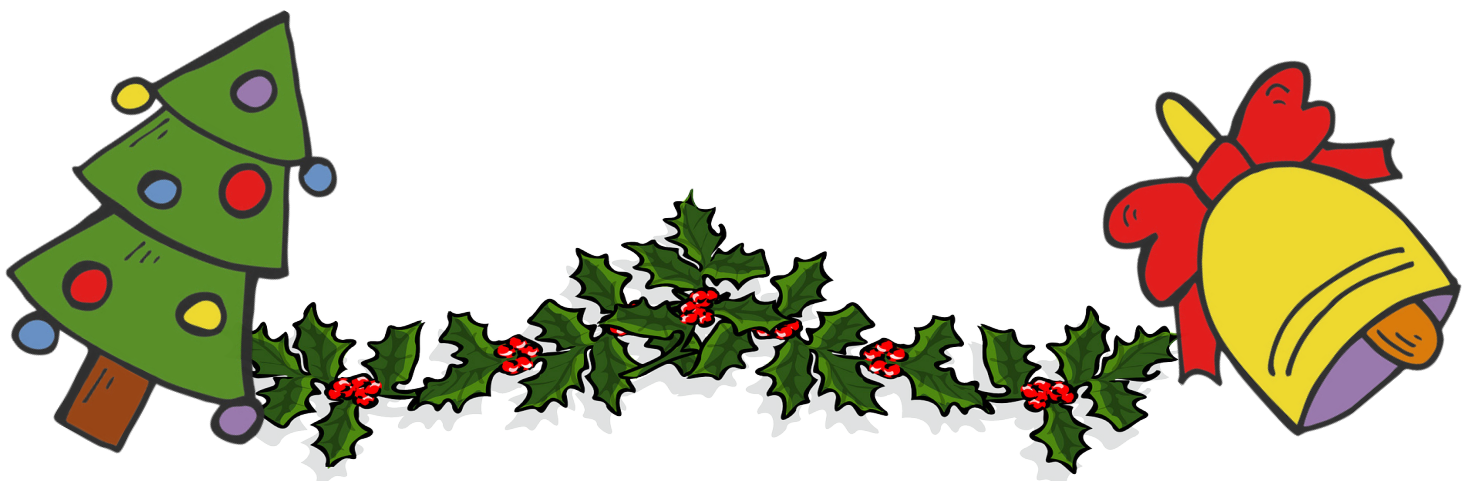
3. МОРОЗКО / Jack Frost (1964)

Watch here – <https://sovietmoviesonline.com/ru/fantasy/33-morozko.html>

A Soviet romantic fantasy film made by Gorky Film Studio. It was based on a traditional Russian fairy tale Morozko.

Plot:

This is a story about the love between a boy and a girl, who have to go through the strangest situations to be with one another, including being transformed into a bear, being bedevilled by the witch Baba-Yaga, and befriended by Grandfather Frost.





4. ДЖЕНТЛЬМЕНЫ УДАЧИ / Gentlemen of Fortune (1971)

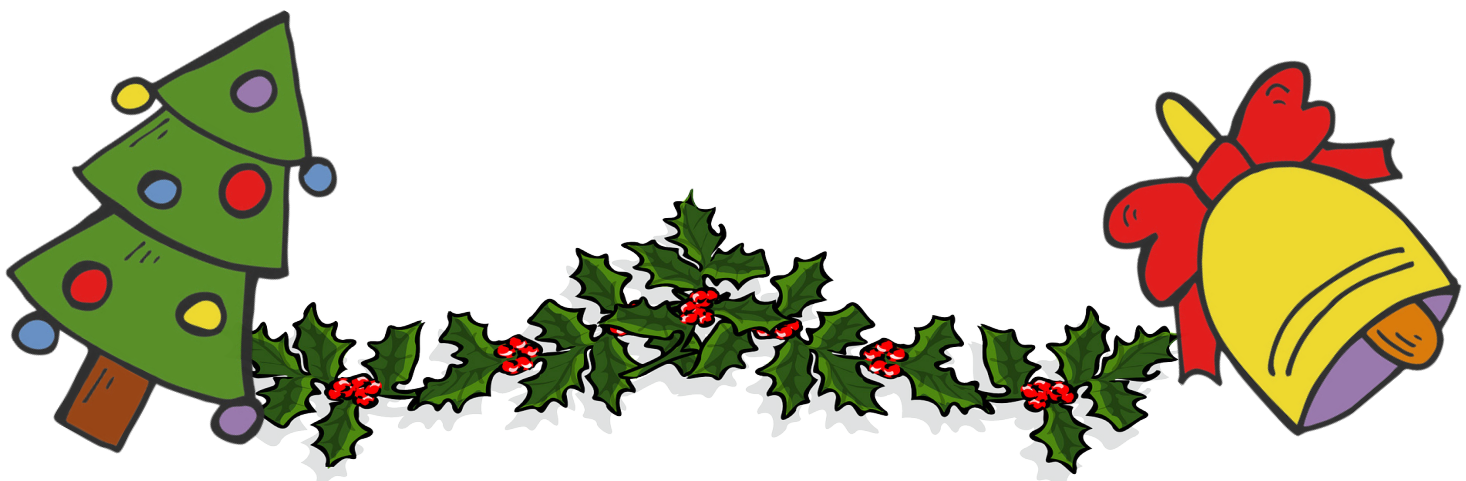
Watch here – <https://youtu.be/8tJPKSz6Gaw>

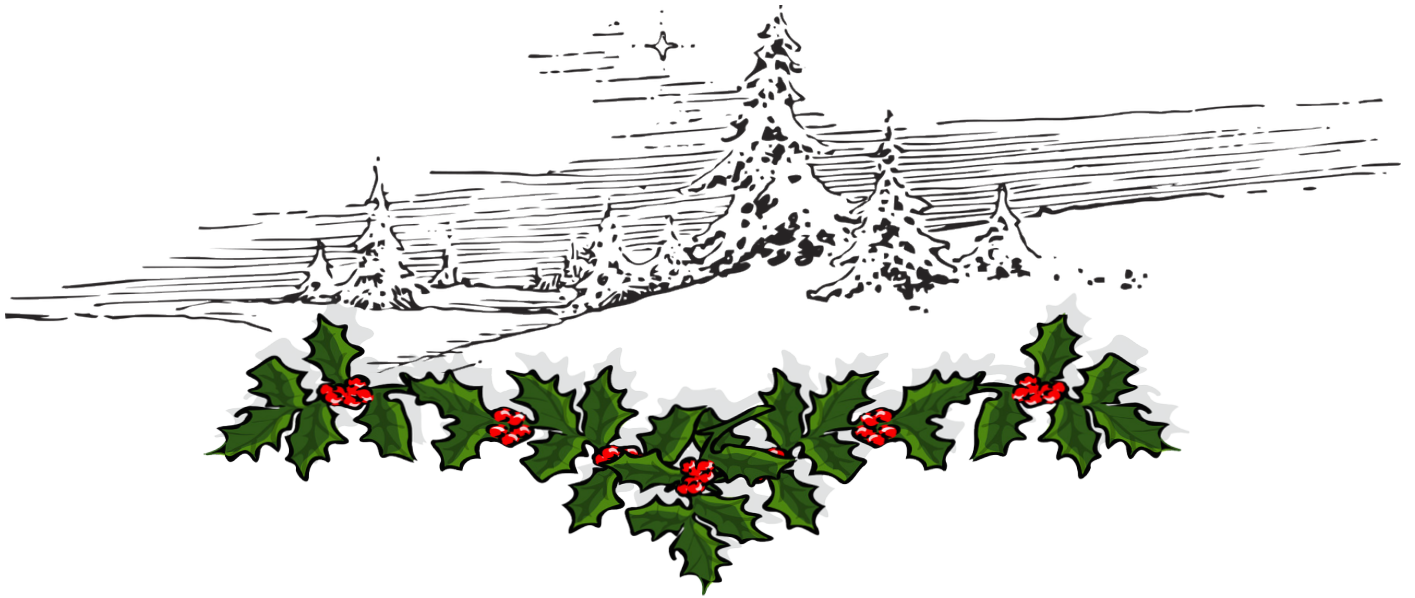
It is a 1971 Soviet crime comedy film, filmed at Mosfilm and directed by Aleksandr Sery. The stars of the film include famous Soviet actors such as Savely Kramarov, Yevgeny Leonov, Georgy Vitsin, and Radner Muratov.



Plot:

The movie follows the story of an amiable kindergarten principal named Troshkin who looks exactly like a cruel criminal nicknamed Docent (Доцент, literally associate professor) that has stolen Alexander the Great's helmet at an archaeological excavation. Docent and his gang are caught by police, but Docent is imprisoned in a different jail than his mates. Since Troshkin looks identical to Docent, the police send him undercover to prison with the real criminals to get information about the stolen helmet. He must pretend to be the real felon Docent, so in order to be convincing, Troshkin, a well-educated and good-natured man, has to learn slang and manners of criminals.



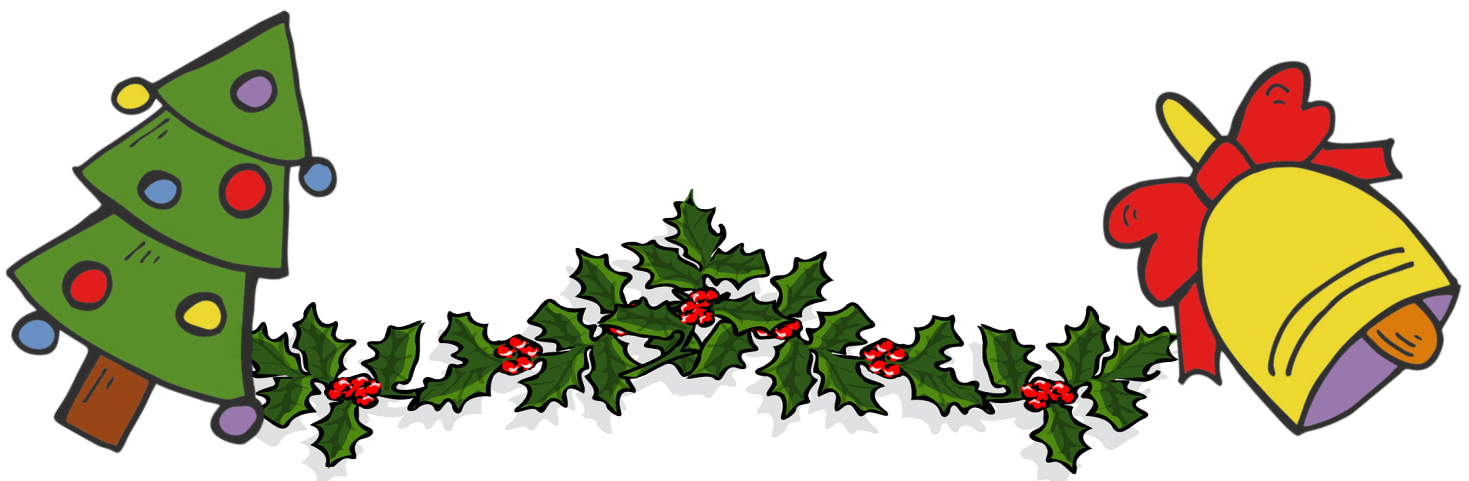


5. ИРОНИЯ СУДЬБЫ́ ИЛИ С ЛЁГКИМ ПАРОМ / The Irony of Fate (1976)

Watch here – <https://sovietmoviesonline.com/comedy/137-ironiya-sudby-ili-s-legkim-parom.html>

Plot:

A group of old friends have a tradition of going to a public bathing house on New Years eve. Incidentally, too much vodka and beer makes two of them unconscious. The problem is that one of them (Sasha) has to go to Leningrad but another one (Zhenya) goes. Zhenya wakes up at Leningrad airport. Believing that he is still in Moscow he takes a taxi and goes home. The street name, building and even apartment number, the way an apartment complex looks the same and the key coincide completely - just typical Soviet-type 'economy' architecture. Imagine the surprise of Nadya when she enters her apartment and finds a man without trousers in her bed. What's more - Nadya's fiancé also finds him there...





And a couple of modern movies about the New Year:)

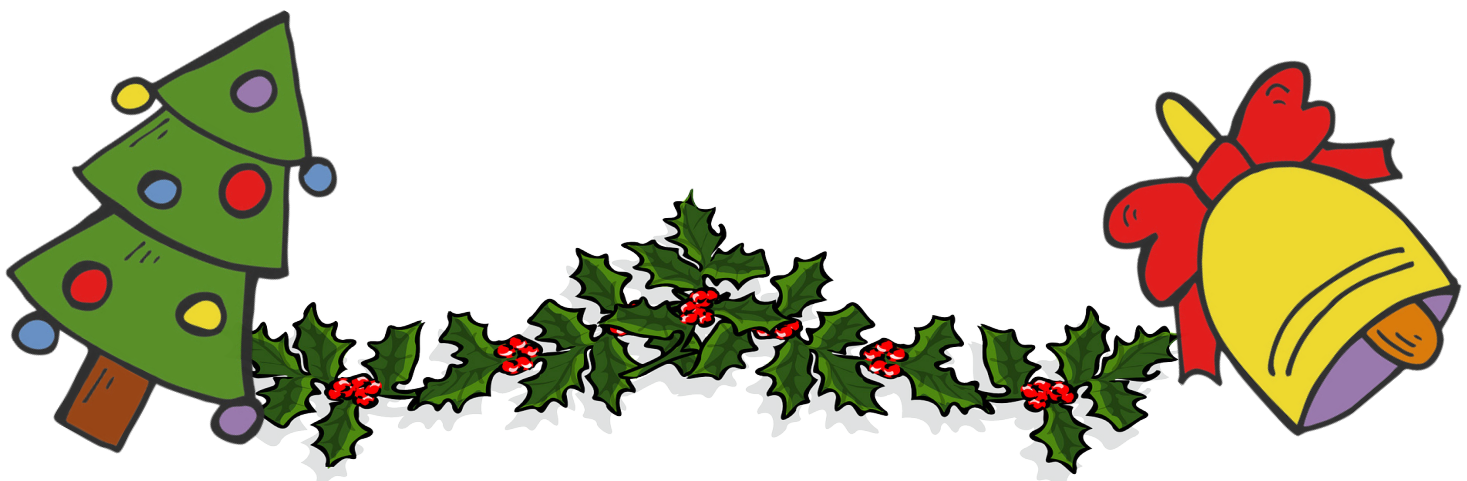
1. ЁЛКИ / Yolki / Christmas trees (2010)

Watch here – <https://youtu.be/7MH-cqCADyA>

Plot:

One of the biggest Russian hits in years, this epic comedy shows how the largest country on the planet can come together on New Year's.

This movie shows the interconnecting episodes of different people just before the New Year in different parts of Russia, which is by the way the most important holiday in Russia. “Yolki” attracts by its kind and sometimes a bit naive plot, on eternal values like love, friendship, compassion, which works surprisingly well.





2. ИРОНИЯ СУДЬБЫ. ПРОДОЛЖЕНИЕ / The Irony of Fate. The Sequel

Watch here – <https://sovietmoviesonline.com/comedy/844-ironiya-sudby-prodolzhenie.html>

The Irony of Fate. The Sequel with English Russian subtitles is a 2007 Russian romantic comedy film directed by Timur Bekmambetov based on a screenplay by Aleksey Slapovsky produced by Channel One and released by Mosfilm. It is a direct sequel of the first The Irony of Fate.



Plot:

Zhenya and Nadya go their separate ways. Nadya stuck with her bureaucrat boyfriend, married him and had a daughter, also called Nadya. Zhenya married and had a son, Konstantin. Both later divorced. More than 30 years later, Konstantin ends up drunk in the flat where the younger Nadya finds him. He is there as part of a convoluted ruse by his father's friends to get Zhenya back into the arms of the woman with whom he shared a magical night. The waylaid son is the bait to get Zhenya back to Leningrad, now called St. Petersburg. One romance is rekindled and another between the son and daughter is struck up.

HOMEWORK: Select a movie to watch and tell about your experience in Russian:) Did you like it? What is your favorite scene? Character? What didn't you like and why?

