

Forest People - title cards

Based on translations of the Russian text kindly provided by Riitta Heino and Alex Pravda, Oxford.

Timings relate to the film as it is included in a television programme hosted by the Russian scholar Alexander Deriabin and viewable on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADyG_YRvn6A

- 6:01 [Film begins]
- 6:07 U.S.S.R [on map, followed by various more precise locations in the Far East].
- 6:21 Forest People – the Ude [on the arrow].
- 8:37 Borderless, impenetrable, dense.
- 9:01 The Ussuri Region - thousands of miles of forest.
- 9:29 The forest people - the Ude inhabit the centre of this mountainous region, Sikhote Alinya.
- 9:53 They number 1,327, male and female.
- 10:52 All families live as nomads, in camps.
- 11:55 Whether an Ude is hunting, catching fish or bringing in flour...
- 12:10 he shares with his neighbours.
- 12:23 The Ude live in yurts made of tree bark.
- 12:34 To stop the bark warping or the destruction of the yurt by storms, it is weighed down by branches.
- 13:25 The Ude put fish, meat and everything precious in a storehouse.
- 13:54 The Ude travel by river in dugouts which they build in early spring.
- 15:01 A dugout is ready in two days.
- 15:36 There is a strict division of labour between men and women.
- 16:18 All work around the yurt falls on the women.
- 16:57 A man's work is to catch fish; a woman's work is to prepare it.
- 17:32 However much work a woman has, her husband will not help.
- 17:47 Men, women and children – all smoke tobacco.

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- 18.16 Ude women engage in the struggle with nature as much as the men.
- 18.47 “I killed a wild boar over there, go and fetch it ...”
- 20.00 The Ude have no writing or numbers, but they do have a system of forest signs.
- 20.36 Tracking the forest signs...
- 21.42 ALL READY ...
- 22.24 HOME.
- 23.14 A woman is about to give birth. There is no room in the communal yurt.
- 23:46 Some days before the birth...
- 24.08 The husband does not visit.
- 24.23 Other women bring food but they do not go in.
- 24:46 The mother stays in the birth hut with the child for ten days and nights. Only after this quarantine ...
- 25.19 When the child has grown a little, the mother puts him into another cradle
- 26.03 a-ba-ba
- 26.35 The struggle with nature starts from an early age.
- 27.16 THE BRIDEGROOM
- 27.20 The Ude manage without special ceremonies.
- 27.39 THE BRIDE.
- 28:24 THE RELATIVES.
- 29.06 Granny completes the ceremony.
- 29.42 A marriage is often also completed by an exchange of children.
- 29:57 HUSBAND AND WIFE.
- 30.16 Before leaving to hunt...
- 31:07 SHAMANISM...
- 31.25 To ensure the favourable disposition of the spirits, the session begins with dancing by young hunters.

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- 32.52 The form of the dance (as practised by the Amulenko clan shaman Doke Insi).
- 33.52 The shaman envelops himself in smoke, ingests the spirit, goes into trance.
- 34.27 They shamanised all night without a break.
- 35.19 The Ude hunt bears, embodiments of their distant ancestors, whose meat only men can eat.
- 37.58 The eating of the bear's head is a festive occasion.
- 38.25 FAVOURITE SON-IN-LAW...
- 38.37 Etiquette demands that the son-in-law refuse to carry out his honorary obligation to share out the bear's head.
- 39.00 HE IS PERSUADED...
- 39.19 The custom is to divide up the bear's cheek according to the number of guests.
- 39:52 After this, all eat the bear's head.
- 40.43 When all parts of head have been eaten, the women are admitted and the festivities continue.
- 41.12 Yurts are gradually losing their importance and the Ude begin to live 'like Russians' and become sedentary.
- 42.48 At a meeting, they decide to send an envoy to the Committee of the North, to petition for cattle, horses, ploughs, and a school and hospital.
- 43.57 TO VLADIVOSTOK...
- 44:23 [On door plate] ARSENEV
- 45.34 [The request to the Committee of the North]
- 46.07 FIRST VISIT TO A CINEMA.
- 47:07 [Film title on the cinema screen] THROUGH THE USSURI REGION
- 47.38 The Committee fulfilled the Ude request.
- 48.34 [The letter from the Committee].
- 49.37 The Ude received cattle, ploughs. They will have schools and hospitals and towns, but they will not forget how to hunt wild animals.
- 51:03 Director – ALEXANDER LITVINOV

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51:14 Cameraman – PAVEL MERSHIN

51:26 ? – V. K. ARSENEV

51:43 PRODUCTION – SOVKINO

51:54 THE END