

**Dear friends,**

**For this 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victory in World War II,  
let us plunge into the atmosphere of the period.**

<http://movies.nytimes.com/movie/131100/The-Accompanist/trailers>



In Claude Miller film “Accompagniatrice” (The Accompanist), based on the Novel by Nina Berberova\*, French actor Richard Bohringer (The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover) stars with his award-winning daughter Romane Bohringer (Savage Nights) and Elena Safonova (Ochi chernye).

A collaborator in occupied Paris, merchant Charles Brice sees the war as an opportunity to increase his wealth - and ensure the devotion of his wife, Irene, a beautiful singer. But his moral compromise is mirrored by his wife’s attraction to a leader of the French Resistance. Caught in the middle of their emotional whirlpool is an awkward young pianist, the highly impressionable Sophie, who becomes obsessed with Irene, taking on the role of maid as well as accompanist, living life vicariously through Irene's triumphs and romantic affairs.

## \*Berberova



Nina Berberova was born in St. Petersburg on August 8, 1901, and left Soviet Russia in 1922 with her poet lover Vladislav Khodasevich, lived in Germany and then drifted further around Europe as part of Maksim Gorky's entourage, eventually settling in Paris in 1925, where she wrote prolifically for the democratic émigré press. There, among other works, she published many stories and novels about the Russians who had settled in Paris, particularly in the working-class district of Billancourt, after the Revolution.

In 1950 Berberova emigrated yet again, this time to the United States, where she taught at Yale and later at Princeton and where she continued to write. Her autobiography, *The Italics Are Mine*, published in 1969, has become a standard work for the study of twentieth-century Russian émigré culture.

After 1986, Berberova's works began to be published in the Soviet Union, and in 1989 she herself visited the country she had never thought she would see again.

In the latter part of her life, as her fiction began to be published in English, Berberova achieved considerable critical acclaim in the United States, and she became a perennial best-seller in France, a country she loved but where she had spent twenty-five years in virtual anonymity.

Berberova died at a nursing home in Philadelphia on September 26, 1993.

Marian Schwartz