



**Critical Acclaim For
“MY PERESTROIKA”**

By Robin Hessman

“A work of such exhilarating depth and humor as to make it seem impossible at times to appreciate, fully, the scope of the history it manages to encompass along the way. . . . Robin Hessman has extracted a picture of these [Russian] lives and their times extraordinary for its vitality and color.”

— **Dorothy Rabinowitz, *The Wall Street Journal***

“Enthralling. . . . *My Perestroika* gives you a privileged sense of learning the history of a place not from a book but from the people who lived it. Watching it is a little like attending a party in an unfamiliar city and discovering the place’s secrets from the guests.”

— **Stephen Holden, *The New York Times***

“Quietly powerful. . . . An impressive documentary debut. . . . Hessman’s subjects introduce us to a side of Russia few of us have probably seen.”

— **Betsy Sharkey, *Los Angeles Times***

“A warm, gorgeous quilt of memories from the last generation of Russians to have grown up under communism. . . . An exquisite human resizing of an epic chapter of history.”

— **Glenn Garvin, *McClatchy Newspapers***

“A captivating film that puts a human face on childhood under communism and the confusion and even nostalgia that can ensue when an all-controlling way of life vanishes before your eyes.”

— **Kevin McDonough, *United Feature Syndicate***

“An intimate epic. . . . never fails to be engrossing.”

— **David Lewis, *San Francisco Chronicle***

“A documentary of considerable charm and nonjudgmental insight. . . . Home movies and vintage propaganda footage fill out this lovingly crafted pic’s engrossing progress.”

— **Denis Harvey, *Variety***

“A documentary so good at breaking the rules of historical docs that it makes you question why anyone ever follows them.”

— **Mary Anderson Casavant, *Filmmaker Magazine***

“An intimate and lovely documentary. . . . playful, insightful, hypnotic, and, ultimately, superb.”

— **Bilge Ebiri, *New York Magazine***

“In spirit, Hessman’s movie is close to the *Up* documentary series. . . . The difference is that, in *My Perestroika*, it’s not just the kids who face the perplexities of growing up. It’s an entire nation.”

— **Mark Jenkins, *The Washington Post***

“Lively. . . . Enlightening.”

— **Stanley Kauffmann, *The New Republic***

“Extremely likable.”

— **Roger Catlin, *Hartford Courant***

“If you remember how Soviet life was represented in the American media during the 1970s and 1980s, *My Perestroika* will come as a bit of a shock.”

— **Aaron Barnhart, *Kansas City Star***

“With its then-and-now home-movie footage and period newsreels the documentary is almost a companion piece to Michael Apter’s *Up* series. Top Pick.”

— **Gloria Goodale, *The Christian Science Monitor***

“The great hallmark of Hessman’s film is its intimacy; her subjects . . . casually tell their own stories over vodka and home movies, with no top-down narration or intervention.”

— **Karina Longworth, *The Village Voice / LA Weekly***

“Offers a chance to eavesdrop on kitchen table conversations as Russians ponder what has become of their world.”

— **Clifford J. Levy, *The New York Times***

“A terrific documentary . . . arrives at a comprehensive, powerful summation of the perennial instability of Russian life as a whole.”

— **Robert Levin, *AM New York***

“Tender, engrossing and utterly brilliant.”

— **Stuart Klawans, *The Nation***

“Profoundly insightful and overall stupendous. . . . *My Perestroika* must be considered one of the year’s best documentaries.”

— **Stewart Nusbaumer, *The Huffington Post***

“*My Perestroika* takes us inside Russia for true stories about real families unlike anything Americans have ever seen from the former Soviet Union.”

— **David Crumm, *ReadTheSpirit.com***

“A powerful and surprisingly humorous examination of life under government control and a welcome insight into the day-to-day lives of a particularly captivating group of Russians.”

— **Chris Kompanek, *Flavorwire.com***

“Tender and revealing. . . . humanizes a subject that is so often treated with distance and an emotional measure of remove.”

— **Mike Tully, *Hammer to Nail.com***

“Hessman possesses an East-West street cred that pays off in spades with her honestly reflective and unselfconscious subjects. . . . Thrilling viewing.”

— **Lauren Wissot, *Slant Magazine***

“Four stars. . . . My favorite film of the young year.”

— **Ethan Alter, *NYCFilmCritic.com***