



FROM VERSE TO SCREEN: ALEKSANDR FAYNBERG'S CREATIVE JOURNEY

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ABSTRACT

Alexandr Arkadevich Fainberg (1939–2009) was a celebrated Soviet and Uzbek poet, translator, and screenwriter of Russian descent whose work created a lasting cultural bridge between Uzbek and Russian literary traditions. Through poetry, translation, and cinema, he became one of the most versatile and influential literary figures in modern Uzbekistan. This article offers an overview of his life, artistic achievements, and enduring legacy

Early Life and Education. Born on November 2, 1939, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Fainberg was the son of parents who had moved from Novosibirsk in 1937. He grew up in one of Tashkent's historic neighborhoods, then known as Zhukovsky Street. After completing seven years of schooling, he studied at the Tashkent Topographic Technical School. Following military service in Tajikistan, Fainberg enrolled in the journalism faculty at Tashkent State University (now the National University of Uzbekistan), graduating in 1965. This academic foundation would later shape his literary voice and professional career.

Poetic Contributions. Over the course of his career, Fainberg published more than thirteen collections of poetry, many of which became landmarks in Soviet and Uzbek literature. Among his most notable works are: *Etyud (Etude)* - (1967), *Soniya (Second)* - (1969), *She'rlar (Poems)* - (1977), *Olis ko'priklar (Distant Bridges)* - (1978), *Ijobat (Seal of the sky)* - (1982), *Qisqa to'lqin (Short Wave)* - (1983), *Yoyma to'r (Spread Net)* - (1986), *Erkin sonetlar (Free Sonnets)* - (1990). His poetry combined philosophical depth with emotional sincerity, weaving together Eastern mysticism and Western modernist influences. Through his lyrical voice, he explored themes of humanity, peace, and the unity of cultures.

Translation Work. Fainberg played a vital role in introducing Uzbek literary heritage to Russian-speaking audiences. His most ambitious work was a ten-volume translation of the ghazals of Alisher Navoiy, Uzbekistan's greatest medieval poet. He also translated the works of prominent Uzbek poets such as Erkin Vokhidov and Abdulla Oripov. Critics praised his ability to preserve not only the poetic beauty but also the cultural essence of the original texts — making them resonate deeply with readers across linguistic boundaries.

Cinema and Screenwriting. Beyond literature, Fainberg made significant contributions to cinema. He wrote scripts for four feature films, including: (1) *Ko'k osmon ostida*, (2) *Qaynoq*

quyosh ostidagi uy, (3)Qandahorda kuyganlar, (4) Ularning osmondagi stadioni (1999) — dedicated to the victims of the 1979 air disaster that struck the Pakhtakor football team. He also authored scripts for eighteen animated films, often blending poetic narrative with visual artistry to engage both children and adults.

Awards and Recognition. Fainberg's cultural impact was recognized with numerous honors:

➤ In 2004, he was awarded the title O'zbekiston xalq shoiri (People's Poet of Uzbekistan).

➤ In 2008, he received the prestigious Pushkin Medal from the President of the Russian Federation for his role in promoting Russian culture and literature abroad.

Legacy. Aleksandr Fainberg's work stands as a testament to the power of art to transcend borders. His poetry, translations, and screenwriting not only enriched Uzbekistan's cultural heritage but also strengthened the literary bond between Uzbek and Russian traditions. Through his translations, classical Uzbek literature became accessible to millions of Russian readers. Through his poetry, he offered a vision of harmonious coexistence. And through his films, he brought stories to life for new generations. Even today, Fainberg's words continue to inspire — a reminder that literature can serve as both a mirror of its time and a bridge between worlds.

Conclusion. Aleksandr Fainberg's creative work left a distinctive mark not only on Uzbek literature but also on Russian and global literary heritage. His poetry, translations, and screenwriting served as a cultural bridge between Uzbek and Russian traditions. Fainberg's works are not only aesthetically and intellectually valuable but also address universal themes such as humanity, peace, and intercultural harmony. Through his translations, he introduced classical Uzbek literature to a wide Russian-speaking audience, while his poetry reflected contemporary societal issues. Thus, Fainberg's contributions significantly enriched modern literature and cinema, and his legacy continues to inspire future generations

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