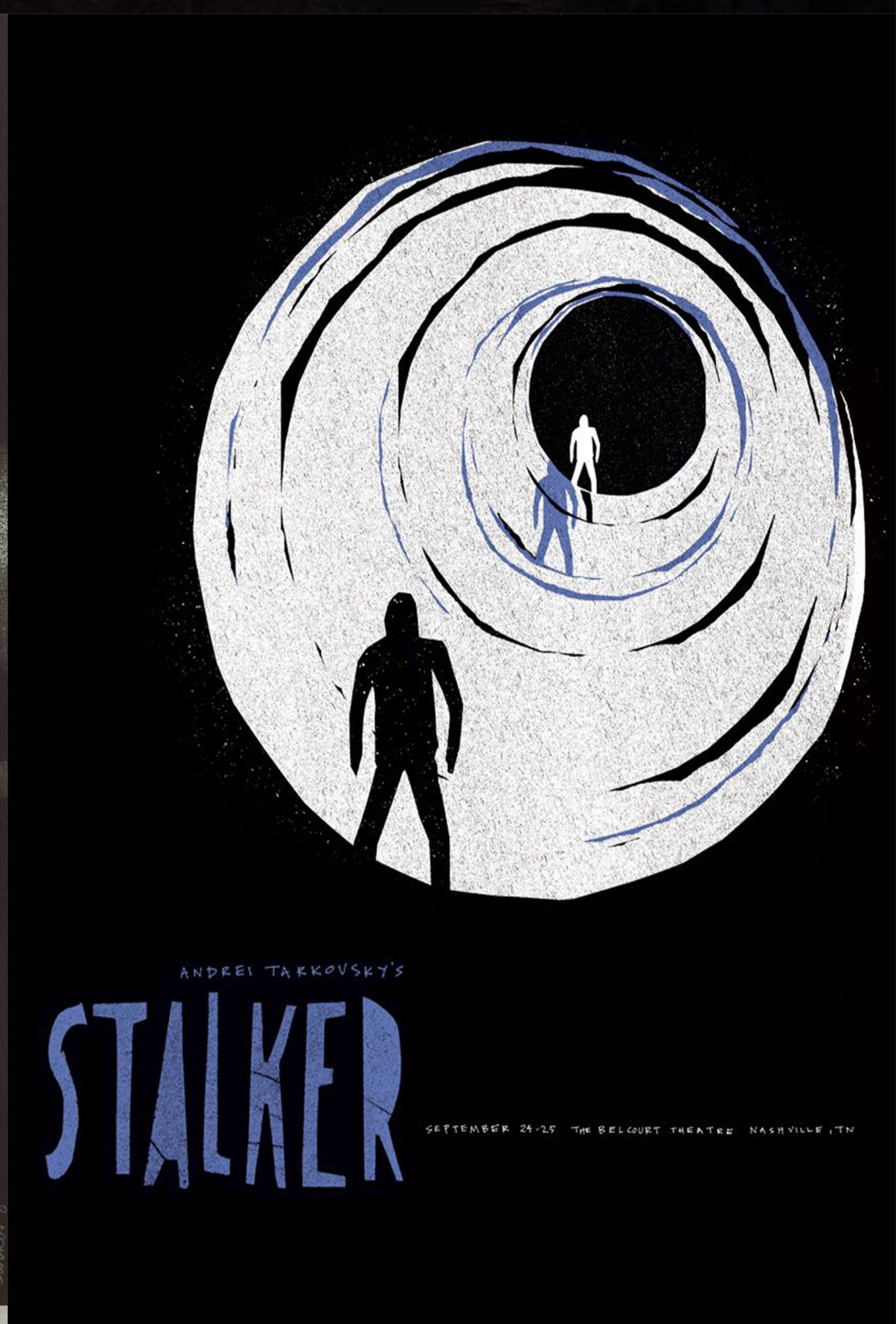
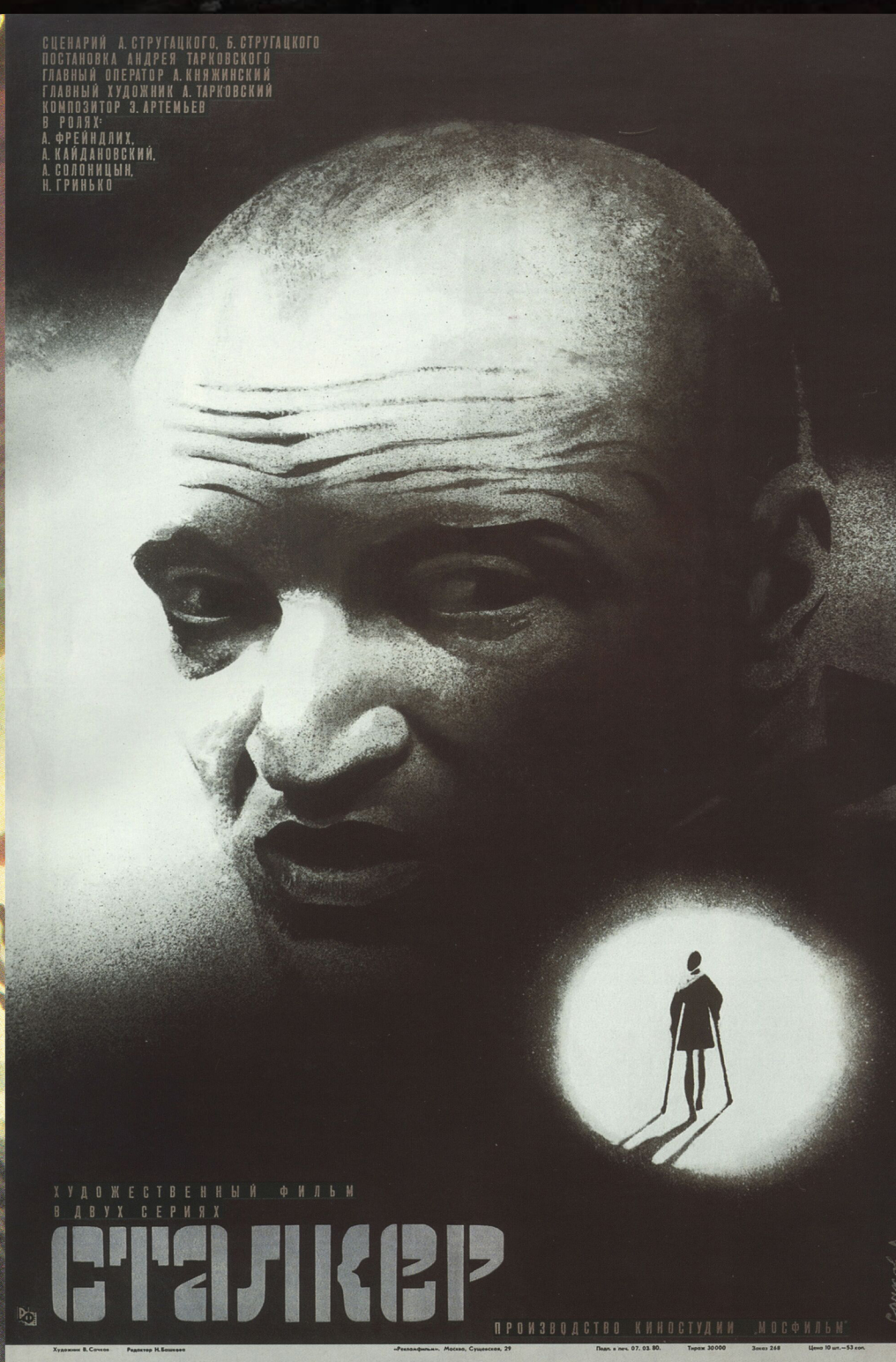
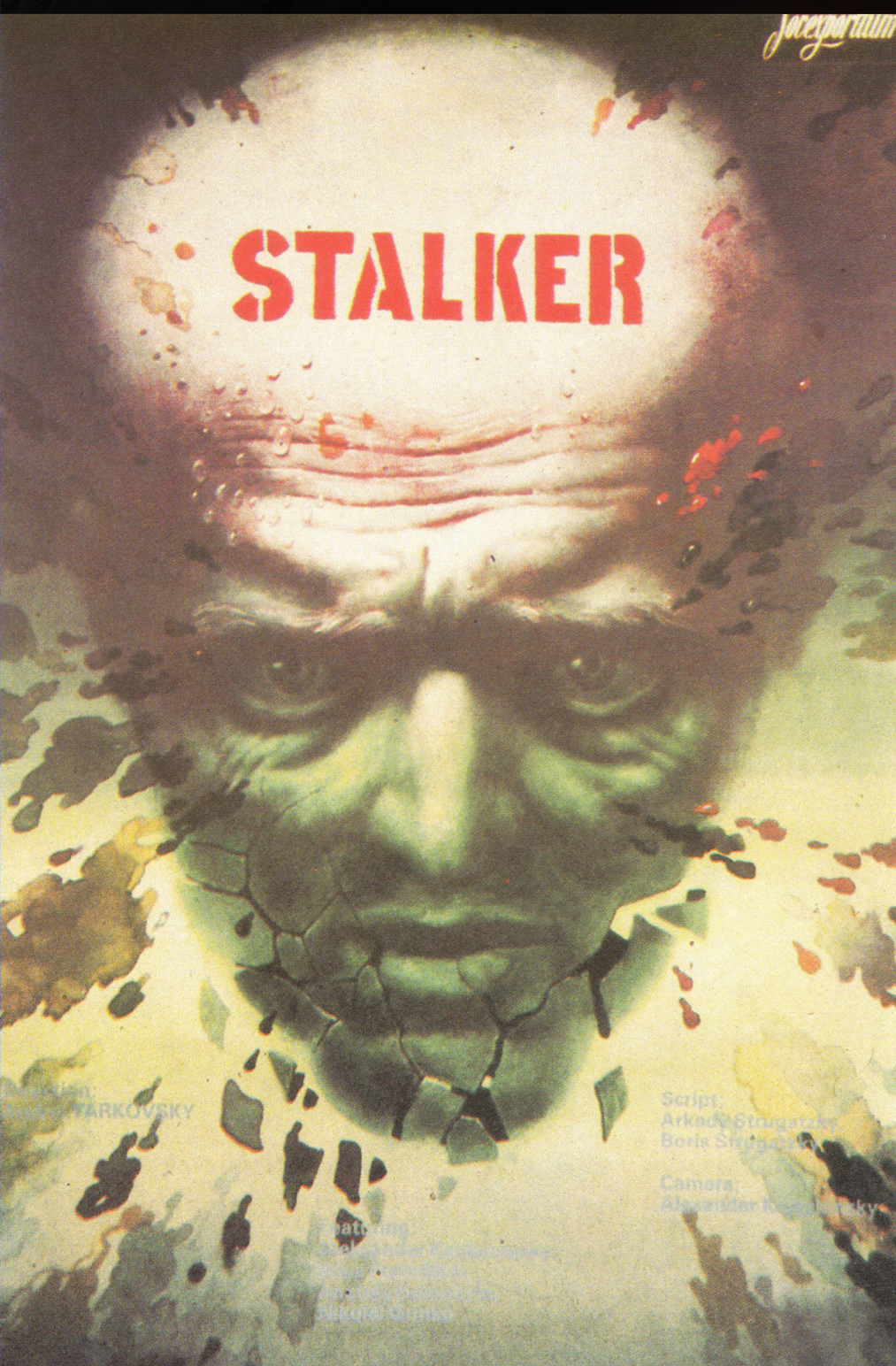
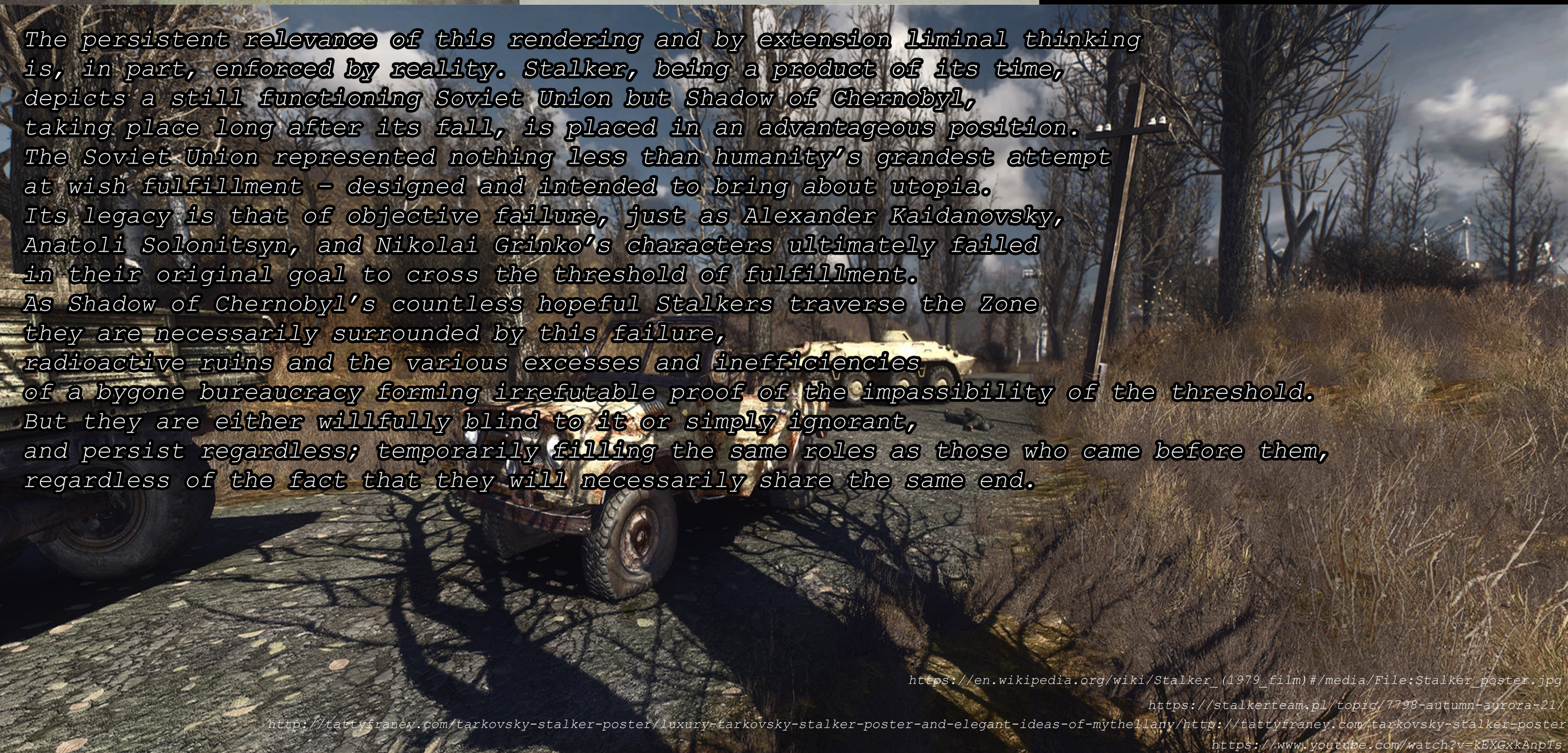


STALKER & The Persistence of Liminal Thinking

All pain stems from the world not being as it "should" be. Human beings are plagued by the sensation that they are on the cusp of their wishes being fulfilled, that they are on the threshold of resolving their pain but - of course - that peace never comes. Both Andrei Tarkovsky's 1979 film *Stalker* and its 2007 interactive digital adaptation *Shadow of Chernobyl* by GSC attempt to render this pain of perpetual ambiguity by creating a space where unresolvable psychological pain and desire is made literal; a world where there exists an object that can fulfill any desire, but attempting to reach the object carries dangerous consequences, the least of which is death.



The persistent relevance of this rendering and by extension liminal thinking is, in part, enforced by reality. *Stalker*, being a product of its time, depicts a still functioning Soviet Union but *Shadow of Chernobyl*, taking place long after its fall, is placed in an advantageous position. The Soviet Union represented nothing less than humanity's grandest attempt at wish fulfillment - designed and intended to bring about utopia. Its legacy is that of objective failure, just as Alexander Kaidanovsky, Anatoli Solonitsyn, and Nikolai Grinko's characters ultimately failed in their original goal to cross the threshold of fulfillment. As *Shadow of Chernobyl's* countless hopeful Stalkers traverse the Zone they are necessarily surrounded by this failure, radioactive ruins and the various excesses and inefficiencies of a bygone bureaucracy forming irrefutable proof of the impassibility of the threshold. But they are either willfully blind to it or simply ignorant, and persist regardless; temporarily filling the same roles as those who came before them, regardless of the fact that they will necessarily share the same end.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalker_\(1979_film\)#/media/File:Stalker_poster.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalker_(1979_film)#/media/File:Stalker_poster.jpg)

<https://stalkerteam.pl/topic/7798-autumn-aurora-21/>

<http://tattyfraney.com/tarkovsky-stalker-poster/luxury-tarkovsky-stalker-poster-and-elegant-ideas-of-mythellany><http://tattyfraney.com/tarkovsky-stalker-poster>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEXGxkAnTs>

Colin Brynildson, May 28th 2018 <http://www.fogmeetings.com/491/tarkovsky-stalker-poster.html/fine-tarkovsky-stalker-poster-and-incredible-ideas-of-reviews-posters-12>