



Gagarin: First in Space
(DVD 2013, #7613059804845)

This very impressive movie by Oleg Kapanets (General Producer, 2013) salutes Juri Gagarin's historic flight on 12 April 1961.

It is the Russian version of the "right stuff" – and it is good!

With a Hollywood-like budget of 9.5 Mio\$ Oleg Kapanets shows Gagarin's background, his flight career and cosmonaut training at original locations as well as the technological and political significance of this enterprise. It culminates in the very realistic reconstruction of the actual flight and Gagarin's triumphant reception at the Kremlin, illustrated with documentary footage.

Having experienced this first space flight as high-school student a lot of back-ground information is provided by filling in details not known at the time of the actual flight by meeting Sergei Korolev as tenacious chief designer and his dedicated technical and operations teams.

The scene I liked most is the reentry and Gagarin's parachute landing, literally "falling out of the sky" – just beautiful pictures!

The sound track contains classical music for the cosmonaut(s) and a lot of patriotic songs going well with the scenario.

The movie is a must for "space-oldies", remembering the "good old times" where the conquest of space was undisputed and unhampered by budget restrictions.

See the official [trailer](#) on YouTube

April 2015, Joachim J. Kehr)(Editor SpaceOps News