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John Ortega Owner and Publisher

I would have preferred to have invented a machine that people could use and that would help farmers with their work—for example, a lawn-mower.

Mikhail Kalashnikov, 2002

#### It's a crab time!

The Fith "Festival of Crabs" in SIRENA from July 21st to August 20th

In many countries, dishes from sea delicacies are so popular that restaurants annually hold special "thematic" festivals. Crabs are especially appreciated in the gastronomic world: the gentle meat of a crab melts in the mouth and gives pleasure with its unique taste and almost invisible yet tangible sea aroma. During the festival at Sirena, three kinds of crabs are used. Stefano Vomero's menu enables guests to try each different kind of crab. For example, the well-known, huge, Kamchatka crab is served with avocado under rucola leaves, has become the main component of the popular "home-style" crab salad. The birthplace of the French crab shows its aristocratic origins.



This French crab is stuffed with juicy rice and vegetables on salad leaves.

The menu at the festival has been compiled from recipes and dishes which have already become "hits". Stefano Vomera has also produced a few new dishes, which guests can sample at the festival. You are welcome

### **Moscow Village Fete**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September Games and Fun for One and All! St Andrew's Anglican Church

Voznesenskiy Pereulok 8/5



### **Indonesia in Moscow!**

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Moscow in cooperation with the Independent Academy of Wine and Gastronomy (IAWG) in Moscow held, on a magnificent summer early evening on the 13th of July, an "Indonesian Gastronomic Treat".

Indonesian chefs Mr. Suratman Dulman and Mr. Arima demonstrated the intricacies of preparing some quite amazing dishes: "Amaya Bambu" which is prepared by cooking chicken in bamboo and stuffed with water, then covered with tapioca leaves. The taste was unusual, and well appreciated by the hungry public.



The chefs also showed how to prepare Udang Bumbu Kuning; a delicious crab dish served in a yellow source, and Kue Lampu-Lampul sweet pies made with rice flour.

In between the master classes, guests sampled five wines, from the Argentinian Caracter Chardonnay-Chenin 2009, which was the author's favourite, to a charming, but rather bitter Slovakian wine: Palava 2008. Belgian Beer and French Camus V.S.O.P Elegance congac was served as a Deuch An Dorus, which confused some, but few people actually left as an amazing Indonesian band got the audience dancing, and we danced the evening away to 1960s and 1970s hits. Altogether, the



evening was a charming, romantic, gastronomic adventure.

Cover painting by Sonya Hallett

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**Book Reviews** 

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### Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> Nataliya Uzhvi

(organ music, Russia)

The extremely young and supremely gifted student of Chaikovsky Moscow Conservatory, Nataliya Uzhvi, is probably more popular outside of Russia than at home. With the help of the Dutch organ guru, Ben van Oosten, she started giving solo concerts in Austria, France and Germany. Today Nataliya Uzhvi is one of the most promising young Russian organ musicians.

Muzey Muzykal'noy Kultury imeni Glinki (Glinka Musical Culture Museum), 19:00 www.qlinka.museum

### Thursday, 5th

### Iggy Popp & The Stooges (rock, punk, USA)

All the 26 characters of the alphabet aren't enough to introduce Iggy Popp properly. Punk rock star Iggy, raised in the 1960s, has never ceased to be in the limelight throughout his long career. The unstoppable lover of stage-jumping lavish and unpredictable freaky extravaganzas is always up to new tricks. Perhaps that is what being a creative person is all about. Having tried his hand at acting, writing an autobiography and other pursuits, Iggy Popp has now also become a singing video game character, and is on his way to shooting an autobiographical movie.

Milk Club, 21:00



### Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> (and 6<sup>th</sup>) Jamie Davis (jazz)

Jamie Davis holds a position amongst the pantheon of great male vocalists with a full, deep baritone voice that has been paired with some of the world's most famous talent. Davis was named the "chocolate baritone" by Sir Michael Parkinson, the BBC's arbiter of important international jazz, after Jamie's performance in London with the BBC's sixty-four piece Orchestra and Big Band. Clint Eastwood enthused by

Jamie's performance at the Monterey Jazz Festival, said, "Jamie Davis is one of my favourite singers".

Jazz Club Union of Composers ww.eng.ucclub.ru



### Saturday, 7th

### British Women's Club in Moscow: Saturday Coffee mornings

Monthly coffee mornings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month, but for expatriate working women unable to attend weekday meetings there are now Saturday Coffee Mornings held at Le Pain Quotidien. Coffee mornings are a good opportunity to find new friends and connect with other women in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

www.bwcmoscow.co.uk

Le Pain Quotidien, Novinsky Boulevard 7, 10:00-12:00

### Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> Apocalyptica

(hard rock, Finland)

This band's musical fame as well as their concert in Moscow or elsewhere would never have happened if a bright idea to perform Metallica on four cellos hadn't somehow come into these guys' heads in distant 1993. Hanging out after classes in the Helsinki Academy of Music, the four friends first decided to play their favorite music their way and it worked. Since then, the musicians have kept experimenting with music, converting it from symphonic heavy metal to neoclassical rock. Having just released their new album, 7th Symphony, Apocalyptica is now on a world tour, ending up in Moscow's B1 Maximum.

B1 Maximum, 21:00



### The secret life of George Frideric Handel

This is a show portraying Handel's life, as represented in jokes and letters of the time, illustrated with arias from his many operas, including Rinaldo, Ottone, and others. Soloists from Moscow's best opera theatres, dressed up in magnificent costumes, to the accompaniment of a chamber orchestra; members of which are also suitably attired, will entertain all who love Handel.

Ostankino Theatre, www.prozrchny.com IN ENGLISH

### Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> The Three Musketeers (fencina)

An extraordinary performance, even for those well-versed in the Moscow region's entertainment environment, will be presented in Kolomna. This is another off-shoot of the Year of France in Russia project, given by the French La Celle-Saint-Cloud and finished off in Russia. This theatrical fencing project, which interprets Alexandre Dumas' famous novel emphasizes not only the spectacular side of events but also the issue of safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of France in Russia.

Kolomna, 19:00, also on August 14 to 18 More information on www.russiafrance2010.ru

### Wednesday, 25th

U2 (rock, Ireland)

Russian U2 fans were extremely happy to find out that U2 is finally landing in Moscow. The first-ever U2 concert in Moscow is a part of the 360 Degrees world tour supporting the group's 12th album, No Line on the Horizon. The four Irish guys, who started their road to fame performing at school talent shows, in Dublin pubs and parking lots, have been in the musical spotlight for over 30 years. Starting with simple instrumentals and post-punk, the musicians developed into something many-sided with elements of funk, rock and dance music.

Luzhniki arena, 19:30 Till Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup>



### What's On in August

### Friday, 20th

### Nazareth (UK)

The latest group of ancient rockers from Great Britain—actually Scotland, and if you want to live to tell the tale, you'd better not call them English—is Nazareth. The group was formed in 1968 out of the ashes of a local group The Shadettes. This group produces surprisingly good music, and is one of the quality line-ups that made British rock great in the '70s and '80s.

B1 Maximum, 20:00

### Monday, 26th to Sept. 14th

### Flower Festival in 'Kuzminki'

The 10th annual Flower Festival has attracted some of the best flower-bed designs by professional florists. This year's exhibition is dedicated to WWII veterans. The designers found inspiration from the Great Patriotic War, with the motto "All the flowers are for the veterans". Right up until September, the avenues of Kuzminki Park will be surrounded by a coloured palette of flowers and adorned with vertical flower beds, arched flower designs and traditional flower beds. At the end of August, as part of the festival, there is also to be a contest for florists, when the author of the best design will be

awarded with a statuette of Goddess Flora

Park Kuzminki

http://www.flowershow.ru/content/ view/404/173/



### To Sunday 15th

### **Annette Messager's Art-Work Exhibition**

If the phrase "modern art classic" has meaning, it can be applied to Annette Messager's works. This French female artist is known the world-over for her shocking art installations, which combine photography, prints, paintings and videos. For her surrealistic and at the same time topical works, and for her unique creative imagination, Messager was recently awarded the Venice Biennale Grand Prize. The Moscow public will see a retrospective show of

her most characteristic works, compiled specially for the occasion.

Ekaterina Cultural Fund (Фонд Культуры Екатерина), 11:00-20:00

www.ekaterina-foundation.ru

### Kama Sutra Spoon (Painting, photography, installation, video art, performance)

Artists: Timofey Caraffa-Corbut (Moscow), Sasha Demin (Moscow), Ben Charles Edwards (Great Britain), and many others.

A panorama of printing pleasures presented in the Kamasutra Spoon is intended to tickle the nerves a brokenhearted libertine with a fresh offer of perversions by young experimenters.

"Sexual protest is a potential chance to develop a heroic and integral personality away from the bleating of society. Yet this project is not a protest against all. Its main task is to develop the spectators' ability to integrate the set of presented symbolic systems, and to synthesize it with their personal experiences."

- from the mmoma site's write up

Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Petrovka St 25



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### By Maria Barleben

What made U2 change their minds and agree to play a concert in Russia remains unknown, but a long-time dream of local promoters and spectators has come true. Romantics say Bono's decision to shut his eyes to previous ideological barriers, and realists say that the band is short of earnings from CD sales. Anyway, the tour that supports U2's twelfth studio album has been extended, and cities that missed out on the 2009 show, such as Moscow are on the list.

The show is called 360 Degree Tour, after the huge stage structure. It looks like a spaceship in the centre of venues where the band have played. The four Irishmen, having landed at the audience's planet cross a space-bridge into the arena. The visual part of the show was originally based on making fun of entertainment media institutional formats and Reality TV's ambiguities. Now they have become institution in their own right.

One of Ireland's best-known bands, U2 became more than a rock band a long time ago. In a world that demands more than just social position for selfrespect, Bono, the group's soloist has become synonymous with bitter struggles for truth and legal issues, including those concerning the environment and political borders. These activities have provoked accusations of being naïve and acting solely for publicity. However, Bono has also been credited with sincerity and attempts to change the world for the better. The position of those who strive for the betterment of the poor is closer to the latter.

The Luzhniki stadium program includes hits such as: I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For, Desire, Bad, Until the End of the World, Angel of Harlem, The Unforgettable Fire, Ultraviolet (Light My Way), New Year's Day, Stay (Faraway, So Close), Sunday Bloody Sunday, Pride (In the Name of Love), Where the Streets Have No Name, and Mysterious Ways. Some will remind you of attracted you to U2, other songs are more recent favourites: Walk On, Electrical Storm, Beautiful Day, City of Blinding Lights, If God Will Send His Angels, In a Little While, Elevation, Sometimes You Can't Make It on Your Own. New numbers include: Breathe, No Line on the Horizon, Get on Your Boots, Magnificent, I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight, Unknown Caller, Moment of Surrender.

One of the 360 Degree Tour shows, in Californian, was streamed live over You-



Tube, and became the most-watched live video in the site's history.

The band is used to such statistics, and in this they live up to their name: U2, which was the name of a spy plane whose main advantage was the height that it reached. It is not the number of people that is the essence of their concerts: it is the experience itself of viewing life, the world, ourselves, from a great height.

With special thanks to Sergey Stepanov

### **Design Act at Winzavod**

Design Act is a festival of industrial design which takes place in Moscow every August following the steps of its counterparts, 100 % Design in Tokyo and London, Design Week in New York and Vienna, I Salone in Milano and the Miami Gift Show.

In Russia this is the only event of its kind, and has been running now for four years. Launched on the initiative of professionals, it has become an attraction for thousands of people who consider design an integral part of their lives, involving not only design solutions but music and pleasure in general.

At Design Act, the winners of the Innovation Design contest that was held in 2010 in Moscow will be announced.

Master classes and courses by leading design companies will be held as well as personal exhibitions by Gro Design (Netherlands), Valentin Vodev (Austria), Khodi Feiz Design Studio (Netherlands), Noatwilms (Italy), Luis Eslava (Spain). Many of these are winners of the prestigious Red Dot award.

Design Act's advantages lie in its varied approach, aimed at differing social and age groups, but ultimately at everyone interested in the objects that surround them and make their lives more comfortable.



Winzavod August 30 – September 5 www.winzavod.ru www.designact.ru

### Great pages of the classical operetta: a musical homage to Yevgeniy Svetlanov



Classical operetta, rich in lyrical melodies and gorgeous orchestral pieces. has always attracted not only large audiences but inspired great soloists and conductors. The fantastic performances by Yevgeniy Svetlanov, who passed away in 2002, are well remembered. Yevgeniy was an extremely talented conductor and pianist who conducted at the Bolshoi Theatre and was later appointed principal conductor of the USSR State Symphony Orchestra, and principal guest conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. The main concert hall in the House of Music in Moscow is named after him.

Pieces by Johann Strauss, Franz Lehár and Imre Kálmán will be performed during this homage concert. Sergey Leyferkus, the leading baritone at the Mariinsky Theatre and the main guest soloist at the London Royal Opera and the New York Metropolitan Opera, will be performing together with Svetlana Skripkina, a young soloist from the Novaya Opera Theatre, Moscow.

> Moscow House of Music, Svetlana Hall September 7 19:00

### Lyrics in landscapes

Alexander Kiselev (1838-1911) was a landscape painter, a member of the Wanderers group, a professor at the Imperial Academy of Arts and a brilliant teacher of many well-known Russian painters.

He never imposed his opinion on his apprentices though he usually said to them: "Listen to what I say, but paint so that it looks different from what I paint."

Kiselev participated in the artistic life of the two capitals of Russia, Moscow and Saint Petersburg, contributing equally to both. In the detailed diary he kept from 1876, describing Russian culture of that time: artistic soirees at Mamontov's and Polenov's flats, theatre productions at the Bolshoi and Maly theatres, along with descriptions of the scenery etc...

The end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries was an exciting pe-



riod when one "...ism" in the visual arts replaced another regularly.

Yet as Kiselev's contemporaries always noted, the painter was so full of love for life that his paintings were a "triumph of light".

State Tretyakov Gallery Open: 10:00 – 19:00 except Monday www.tretyakov.ru Till February

### **Greek Orthodox religious** paintings



For Orthodox Russia it is difficult to overestimate the role icons have always played. For many they are the most memorable symbols of Russian Christianity, from whole walls of icons, called iconostases, which separate the nave from the sanctuary in a church, to miniature icons inside cars, purses or pockets.

Different theories exist as to how icons came about. Icons are paintings on flat panels of wood, not statues or frescoes. Some historians state that early Russian priests fought against paganism and idols so much that any form of statues depicting a holy being would not be acceptable. Others say that it was easier to save icons from fire if they were small and transportable. Most early Russian churches were constructed exclusively out of wood, unlike in Europe where stone was used. Be this as it may, the Byzantine tradition of depicting Jesus, Mary or the Saints, and venerating images as holy beings, took deep root. The current exhibition at the Private Collections department of the Pushkin museum features Greek religious paintings from the 15th to the 20th centuries.

Since the 15<sup>th</sup> century Mount Athos, its monasteries and sketes, have been the destination for pilgrimages and the source of inspiration for religious painters. As a result, the Russian icon school actually developed simultaneously with the Greek school and Cretan schools.

Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts
Private Collections department
August 1-September 26
Open: 11:00 – 19:00, every day except Tuesday

### The Hot Breath of the Planet



While millions of passengers suffered this April from the aviation chaos caused by the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano, there was at least one person, Lev Granovsky, scientist, volcanologist and photographer, who was actually enjoying this volcano. He was one of the few people whom the Icelandic authorities allowed to hire a helicopter to fly around the volcano and take photographs. As a scientist, the volcanic process interests Granovsky. As a photographer, he looks for unique compositions, lighting and subjects. Thus we see works that could illustrate scientific papers, but which are at the same time artistically interesting.

According to Granovsky, photography is the reflection of what a person remembers seeing in a landscape. His current exhibition is entitled: The Hot Breath of the Planet. He has been visiting such "hot" spots for four years now. His photographs are as rare as the lava streams and ornaments the volcanoes they produce. The exhibition is divided into three zones, Kamchatka, Hawaii and Iceland, to reflect three eruptions of different magnitude.

Manezh Open: 11:00 – 20:00, daily except Monday www.mdf.ru



## There are masterpieces among the Masterpieces

### Budapest Fine Arts Museum at the Pushkin Museum



Murillio (Jacobs Dream)

### by Olga Slobodkina-von Bromssen

The Budapest Museum of Fine Arts fascinated me when I was traveling around Hungary back in 1991, so I was really pleased to take the opportunity to see its collection, From Raphael to Goya, which is on display at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts a few days ago. This collection is without doubt really great, boasting such names as Velasquez, Murillio, El Greko, Rubens, van Dyck and others.

After my visit I came to two general conclusions. First, there are masterpieces and masterpieces. The world's masterpieces shake you as revelations, while others, although masterpieces, seem to be almost mediocre in my opinion. Secondly, worldly artists seem to have captured the nature of man, be it common or sophisticated, much better than the divine nature of saints or the supreme nature of the higher spiritual forces.

As I went from one painting to the next in the Oval Hall, I immediately made mental notes about Portrait of a Young Lady, attributed to Giovanni De'Busi, A Loving Couple by Altobello Melone and Giovanni Battista Moroni's Portrait of Jacob Foscarini. But the real tops are, from my point of view, Albrecht Durer's Portrait of a Young Man, Albrecht Altdorfer's Crucifixion, Joos van Cleve's The Virgin with the Wine-Drinking Christ and Velasquez's Peasants at a Table. Goya's Water Carrier, which has become the symbol of this exhibition, is also very masterly and expressive.

Durer's (1471-1528) Portrait of a Young Man (1504) displays the natural-looking face of a fair-haired young man wearing a black net over his head, which men used to use as head gear in those times. Against a red background, the head seems to be so alive, moving and inexplicable. The young man is good looking, but not entirely handsome. The net points to the fact that the sitter must have been friendly with the artist, since he agreed to take off his hat and remain with the net over his hair. Some researchers suppose he was the painter's relative.

Albrecht Altdorfer's (c. 1480-1538) Crucifixion (1520) struck me not only because of the master's ability to portray people perfectly in all sorts of different angles, but because of its fes-



Peter Paul Rubens (Battle of the Amazons)

tive mood. Against the golden background (as in an icon), the bright colors of the figures and the general impression is a far cry from grief. It rather gives you an insight into the meaning of the Major Gospel Event, which redeemed all people from Adam to the last man on Earth through the Great Sacrifice. This painting created on a wooden board is displayed in a special climatically-controlled case.

Velasquez's (1599-1660) Peasants at a Table (c. 1620), painted in the manner of Caravaggio, shows two simple men and a simple woman in a tavern. Although the whole composition is gorgeous, the woman at the centre seems to be painted best. Her pose and the facial expression, so familiar, shows her tension as she is pouring wine from a jug into a glass, as if this action is the most important thing and the meaning of her whole life. The portraits of Anthony van Dyck and Peter Paul Rubes displayed in the Column Gallery are superb.

Another canvas to which my eyes were glued in the room across from the Oval Hall was done by a less famous, but no less masterly, artist Jan Lievens (1607-1674). Head of a Young Girl (1633) amazed me not only with the elaborate image of a young girl with an unusual expression. She is either stunned by something or praying, and her exquisitely painted garments, but also with its extraordinary light.

The Budapest Museum was opened in 1906. At first it kept only works of old masters from the collection of the House of Esterházy, a noble family in the Kingdom of Hungary since the Middle Ages, and some 19<sup>th</sup> century Hungarian artists. However, the Museum has constantly enlarged its collections, which are in many departments today: Egyptian and antique art, paintings of the European Schools as well as a rich collection of graphical works—7,000 drawings and 10,000 engravings from Leonardo and Raphael up to Cezanne and Gogen. The most famous and the most frequented part of the Museum is the Old Painting Gallery.

The collection displayed at the Pushkin Museum made me feel like going back to Budapest and renewing my impressions of the Fine Arts Museum of the Hungarian capital.

### Sand Castles in Moscow

### by Olga Slobodkina-von Bromssen

Incredibly, all of these figures are made of-sand! Don't be surprised. This exhibition, called Holy Russia, presents monumental sand sculpture. It is very easy to find, being located right next to the Cathedral of Jesus Christ Our Savior in Vsekhsvyatsky Proyezd.

The exhibition was organized by the Association of Professional Artists. As the director of the association, Dmitry Kalinichenko, told me, the first sand sculptures were created on the shores of Australia by Russian sculptors at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today competitions and exhibitions of sand sculptures are very popular and are held throughout the world.

This particular exhibition was created by 11 top masters from six countries. It only took them two weeks to create monumental figures of legendary heroes of old Russia: Prince Vladimir; icon painter Andrey Rublev; warlords Dmitry Donskoy and Alexander Nevsky; popular Russian saints Serafim of Sarov and Sergius of Radonezh. The exhibition was blessed by the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kiril. The exhibition is supported by the World Federation of Sand Sculpture and the World Academy of Sand Sculpture. The exhibition is participating in the World Sand Sculpting Championship.

The central piece of the multi-figure composition which enjoys a prominent place in the exhibition, is a sand version of the Church of the Virgin's Intercession on the Nerl built in the 12th century. Its facade has the famous icon of the Holy Trinity painted by Andrey Rublev, in 1411 or 1425-27, with the icon-painter himself sitting in front of the Church facing the viewer. The sand-sculpture of the church was created by sculptor Vadim Gryadov from Ekaterinburg, and the figure of the icon-painter was created by master Vladimir Kuraev from Moscow. Vladimir Kuraev is one of the top five best sand and ice sculptors in the world, and the leader of the whole project, while Roman Podgorny, the project's art designer, did all the sketches for the figures and the church.

All in all, there are 100 known sand sculptors in the world, 20 of whom are considered to be professionals.





"The figures done by the Russian sculptors look Russian," says Dmitry Kalinichenko. "The faces of those done by our foreign colleagues are different." Indeed, Alexander Nevsky, created by Ray Villafane, the US master, does not look exactly Russian, but heroic anyway. "Our priority was not to have a Hollywood star instead of our Russian legendary commander," laughs Dmitry.

Fortunately, all the figures look great and but for this remark I would have never noticed the difference. In this scene, Alexander Nevsky is fighting and defeating Teutonic and Livonian Knights in the famous battle on the ice (1242). The knights were created by Roman Podgorny and by Pedro Mira, a Portuguese sculptor. When you enter the 450 square meter pavilion, the first thing you see is a fallen knight in armor going down the hill, his head first, his body following.

The sand used in this exhibition contains 7-8% of clay. The large sculptures, such as the Church on the Nerl, which





took 1.5 tons of sand, and would be impossible to construct if no clay at all was used. Every day a special technician sprinkles the sand figures with water and clay using a special pump.

It is a pity the exhibits will all be destroyed at the end of September when the exhibition is over. I asked Dmitry how the sculptors feel about it, he says, "They've made money and had a hearty welcome here, which is very important, and now they are elsewhere in the world creating other things."

As for their creations' immortality, he comments that this is inherent in this kind of art, "Sand figures will eventually break up anyway."

The exhibition "Holy Russia" is open daily until the end of September from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (no lunch breaks). Entrance fee – 200 roubles. Photographing is free.

Located in Vsekhsvyatsky Proezd next to the Cathedral of Jesus Christ our Savior, Metro Kropotkinskaya. Tel. (495)227-1043; 227-1063

### Clubs update

### by Miguel Francis

First off I'd like to thank everyone for the positive feedback and support for my article in the July issue of PASSPORT magazine. I sincerely hope I was (and will be) able to shine some light and expose those hidden paths within the labyrinth of Moscow's nightlife. You're more than welcome to submit feedback, comments, suggestions, and of course your own findings to miguel@upcity.ru

In this edition let's move away from clubs and talk a little bit about the all-time favourite, karaoke! The perfect preclub activity. It seems Muscovites have really made something pompous out of their karaoke experience. Nowhere else in the world have I seen the idea of a karaoke bar/restaurant/club get transformed into a glamorous celebrity hive for a unique show-time experience available to just about anyone.

There are a few types of "karaokes" in Moscow. There are places where you can easily get in and enjoy a delicious dinner, drinks and sing for free. There are places where you can enjoy a dinner and drinks but you would be a charged Moscow's







standard price of about 300 roubles (US\$10) per song. Furthermore, there are places that are filled with the jet-set crowd, including ex-pats, and sometimes there are special guest performances by major Russian celebrities. Then there are places which are filled with a more "Russian"-oriented crowd singing fairly melancholic songs about love, friendship and well, more love again. Let's indulge into some of the best places in town for your creative outlet!

Prado Cafe (Savyanskaya Ploshad 2. Metro. Kitai Gorod) is one of the oldest and perhaps the most chic karaokes in town. You walk into something beautiful, bright, definitely Italian. As you venture down the stairs into the karaoke hall you are exposed to that jet-set hideout. The karaoke area carries excitement and mystique, setting you into a cozy atmosphere of singing. This is one of those places that charges you 300 roubles for a song, and on the weekend it's a 10,000 rouble deposit for a table (US\$300+). The drinks and food are great. Moscow's exclusive widely acclaimed continental cuisine is superb.

The next pick is Jimmy Poy, located just up the street from Prado Cafe on Lubyanskiy Proezd 15. In a sense, this is an updated version of Prado. It's got a great cuisine, an awesome selection of alcohol, and guest performances by celebrities such as Leonid Agutin and Angelika Varum (The Russian Gavin Rossdale and Gwen Stefani, basically). The place has a very light & bright feel to it. The furniture

is white, the surroundings are cozy and the staff is great. Lots of ex-pats come here it seems. If you can't get into Prado (usually for capacity reasons) then simply take it a few blocks up the street to get into a very similar exciting karaoke.

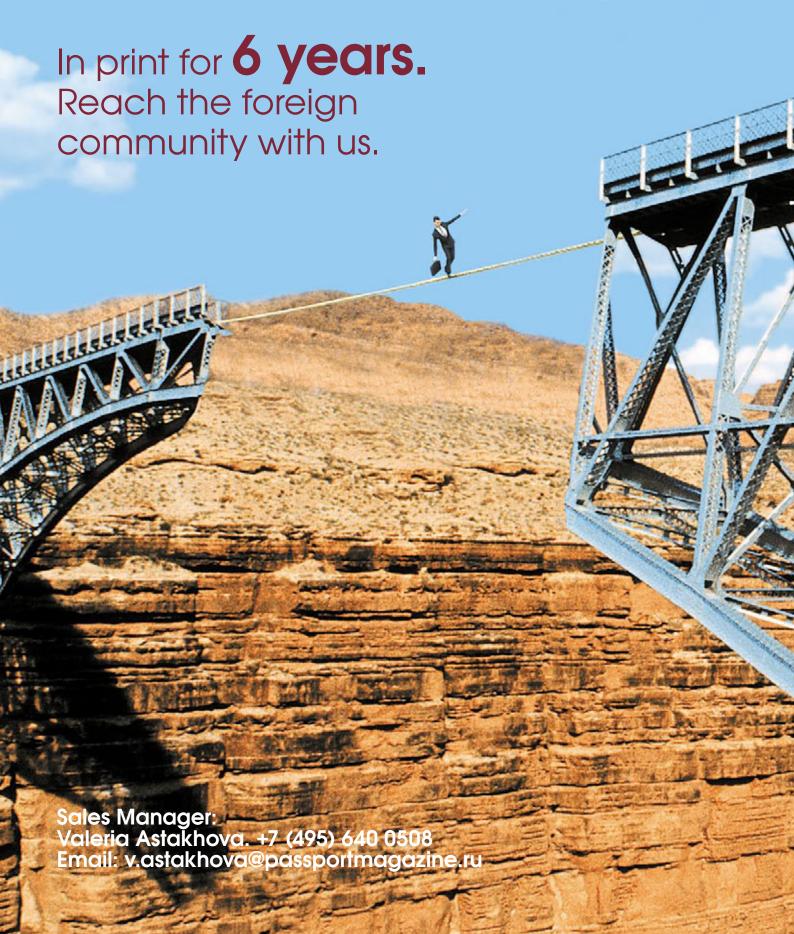
Last but not least comes Isterika, located conveniently at the Evropeiskiy Mall on Ploshad Kievskogo Vokzala 2 (metro Kievskaya). This place in my honest opinion, is one of the best places in town. Designed like a spaceship, conveying glamor, prestige and excitement, the futuristic interior brings out the best in your voice. You can also dine and drink out here. The only difference is that you do not need to pay US\$10 per song, simply sing all you want! The staff are nice and the place has a really cool stage to play on!

The two pretty back-up female singers can sometimes do wonders, but not always, as you can see in my case. I decided to sing Little Things by Britain's grunge band Bush. But honestly, doesn't this look like a real show instead of a karaoke?

That's the magic of Russia. Karaoke is perhaps one of the best pre-club moves. From personal experience and feedback from many friends, karaoke will warm up the atmosphere among your party and get everyone ready for the adventure in Moscow's nightlife.

The editor apologises for miss-spelling the name of the great club: "We Are Family" in the July issue of PASSPORT magazine.







### Soviet Art of the 1960s, Part II

by Olga Slobodkina-von Bromssen

The cultural life of the 1960s Moscow underground artistic elite was a unique home-grown phenomenon. In the language of the belle époque, it was a kind of 'art salon', opposed to official art. The creators of this samizdat art could not count on mass audiences. Apart from homes, the then cultural centres, they could only display their art in students' clubs or hostels. Poets would recite to friends while artists organised exhibitions in their flats, in rooms of only ten 10 square metres, even. The circle of organisers was restricted, its priority being just to support the artists and their art and show it at least to somebody. The pioneers were poet-translator V. Bugaevsky, composer A. Volkonsky, pianist S. Richter, literary critic L. Pinsky, actor A. Rumnev and art critic Tsirlin.

Such closet activity of course goaded the repressive authorities and soon Tsirlin, the head of the arts department at the Institute of Cinematography, was fired. He died in the prime of life. New figures appeared, starting with collector, Georgy Kostaki. He had already acquired works by Mark Chagall and Vasily Kandinsky, whose fame was coming back to their motherland from the West. Kostaki was a Greek born in Russia and working for the Canadian Embassy. He was one of the first collectors and purchasers of the new Soviet art, followed by younger collectors Evgeny Nutovich, Alexander Gleiser and Leonid Talochkin. A very strange art life evolved, self-sufficient in the manner of a medieval village.

Having quite different aesthetic credos, the creative energy of these enforced loners multiplied by the lack of interest on the part of the arts establishment, the freedom of the renegade, gave birth to a unique phenomenon, the Moscow underground school of the 1960s-1970s. The inevitable confrontation with the authorities came in 1967, four years after Khrushchev's visit to the famous display at the Manezh exhibition hall. The showdown started with the exhibition by 12 artists at the Druzhba (Friendship) Club on Shosse Entusiastov. Until the Moscow Union of Artists (MOSKH) delivered the first blows at the underground it had been quite idyllic. The leaders of the so-called left MOSKH, N. Andronov, P. Nikonov and V. Polyakov created a Group of 8 inside MOSKH. They opposed academicism, being adherents of the French school of painting, Russian Cézannism . It was they who were Khrushchev's targets at the Manezh. Later on they lost their ideology and dissolved into the official MOSKH.

Something similar happened to the first Studio of Abstract Art led by E. Belyutin at the Polygraphic Institute. This talented and inspired teacher opened new vistas for his students, criticising academic art and the socialist realism taught at the official art schools. After the bull Khrushchev visited the Manezh china shop both the Group of 8 and the First Studio of Abstract Art were smashed. After the wreck in the Manezh, Belyutin's students sought refuge in design and polygraphy. They introduced their fresh vision into the applied arts and enriched the general cultural perception of



the arts. Thus Belyutin's lessons were not in vain. However, only B. Zhutovsky, who is still true to the traditions of abstract art today, kept ties with Moscow's underground movement. The leaders of the Group of 8 and Belyutin's students hoped to adapt their work to the mainstream of official art. Their favourite book was *About Realism Without Shores* by the French communist Roger Garaudy. They connected their social dreams for the arts with a book published for scientific libraries.

Another tight circle of artists, connected with the Manezh, had their own ideas and hoped for change: Ernst Neizvestny, Yulo Sooster, Yuri Sobolev, Vladimir Yankilevsky. These very different artists were united by their absolute faith in positive knowledge. Art for them was a form of cognition of material existence, similar to science. As the popularity of new ideas in nuclear physics, genetics and cybernetics was growing, so did their influence on the artistic habitat of these artists. Their faith in science had coincided with the faith in progress encouraged by Khrushchev's thaw. All of them also fell victim to Khrushchev's tantrum at the Manezh. However, they went on working and gradually became underground artists. Sooster died at the beginning of the 1970s and Neizvestny emigrated but Yankilevsky stayed in the Soviet Union and perfected his system.

Underground artistic life made several nests. One of them was the so-called Lianozovo group (see Passport, July 2010). Lianozovo was a train station near Moscow. There in a onestorey cabin lived Oscar Rabin with his family. The members of the group were his relatives and friends: poet and artist E. Kropivnitsky, artist O. Potapova (Rabin's wife Valentina's parents), L. Kropivnitsky (her brother), Nikolai Vechtomov, Valdimir

Nemukhin and his wife Lidia Masterkova as well as poets Igor Kholin, Genrich Sapgir and Vsevolod Nekrasov. The poets considered themselves to be students of E. L. Kropivnitsky. These artists and poets did not share a common vision, although the creativity of Rabin and Kholin was moulded by the poetry of the absurd, the so-called poetry of obscurity. Both Rabin and Kholin were barrack-room mythologists. Their art is an opposition, the other side of the medal, to the art of socialist realism. The expressive world of an army base at night covered by snow, surrounded by rubbish dumps and hungry cats, was portrayed by Oscar Rabin as well as the laconic poetry of Igor Kholin.

On the other hand L. Kropivnitsky, Lidia Masterkova, Vladimir Nemukhin and O.A. Potapova were trying to break beyond the boundaries of everyday reality. They were one of the first to rediscover abstract art at that time.

On Sundays they organised displays of Rabin's paintings, lyrical meditative compositions by Potapova, expressive abstractions by L. Kropivnitsky, rhythmic and colourist works by Masterkova and Nemukhin. Lianozovo was at once the apex of sharp social criticism of so-called reality, and the central core of avant-garde thinking.

At that time there was nothing more disgraceful than abstractionism in the eyes of official society. The pluralism of Lianozovo made it a special cultural underground shrine, and attracted not only underground artists. Lianozovo was frequented by writer Ilya Erenburg, pianist Svyatoslav Richter and poet Boris Slutsky as well as the world famous publisher A. Skira. Artists of different groups and specialism cross-fertilised with each other in Lianozovo.



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EXHIBITIONS



### The Way It Was



### Exit from Afghanistan

By Helen Womack

Helen Womack, who many readers may know for her work as Moscow correspondent of The Independent and Moscow Times columnist in the 1990s, was working for Reuters in 1989. Here she gives a personal account of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, which she and only a few other Western journalists were allowed to cover.

Hearing today's debate about Afghanistan, I have flash-backs to another era when troops who had "fulfilled their international duty" thought the time was right to call it quits and start the long journey home. Indeed, when the first Soviet tank convoy left Jalalabad in May 1988, I was riding with them, an "embedded journalist", although we didn't use the word "embedded" in those days.

I was working for Reuters and had been sent to Kabul to cover the withdrawal, ordered by Mikhail Gorbachev. For most of the period of Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Western reporters had only been able to get into the country by going over the mountains with the Mujahidin. Suddenly there was an opportunity for us to see Afghanistan alongside the Russians, through their eyes.

The army showed us their barracks and I remember the empty beds with black ribbons in memory of those who wouldn't be going home. We also went to Mikrorayon, the officers' suburb, which looked like any Soviet housing estate.

A few days into this visit, I was approached by my Soviet Foreign Ministry (MID) minder and told there was a chance to ride in the first convoy out of Afghanistan. It would set off from Jalalabad in the east. MID warned us that outside Kabul, they would be powerless to protect us. If we chose

to go on the trip, we might face battle conditions because the rebels hadn't accepted a ceasefire.

I thought about it. I was newly married and my then husband, Costya Gagarin, had been against me going to Kabul, let alone Jalalabad. For myself, I was afraid and excited in equal measure.

The chosen journalists, who included four women, were all assembled on the tarmac of Kabul airport, waiting for the military flight to Jalalabad. The officer in charge took one look at our group and said: "I'm not taking those women."

We girls protested, saying we had a job to do.

"Get on that plane then," commanded the officer.

"Now what have we got ourselves into?" the four of us whispered.

The plane took off, shooting out flares to deflect the Mujahidin's heat-seeking Stinger missiles. I found myself sitting next to Marco Politi of Italy's *Il Messaggero*. He took my hand.

"I'm sorry, it's a bit sweaty," I said.

When we landed, the night air was full of the scent of flowers. We went straight into a press conference. Nearby, we could hear the sound of shelling. In Moscow, Costya read the wire reports and worried.

I spent the night in a small room, shared with Scandinavian colleagues. They offered me whisky to calm my nerves but I preferred fear and a clear head. Before dawn, I stood under a trickle of water from the rusty shower. I caressed my arms and legs, wondering if I would still have them the next day.

We attended a dawn ceremony on the parade ground after which we were taken to the convoy and allotted our vehicles. Marco and I were put on a personnel carrier manned by pro-Soviet Afghan soldiers.





We were told the road ahead, running through the mountains to Kabul, was mined and there might be snipers along the way. We could choose to sit inside the APC or on top. Inside, we would be safe from snipers but goners if we ran over a mine. On top, we could roll to safety from a mine blast but would be easy targets for snipers. We preferred the fresh air on top.

Crowds of Afghans waved us goodbye, some throwing flowers. Among the bouquets were other small gifts. I was hit in the mouth by a piece of dried camel dung. Nothing worse was to happen to me and the withdrawal from Afghanistan turned into a wonderful adventure holiday.

The ride, through spectacular mountain scenery, was exhilarating. Occasionally, the Mujahidin did shoot at us but they were in the distance and every time their little puffs of gun smoke came from the mountain-sides, Soviet helicopter gunships clattered up to protect us.

We relaxed. The movement of the APC was gentle—"like a gondola", said Marco—and at one point, we even fell asleep. When we woke, the Afghan soldiers offered us packed lunches of flat bread and hard boiled eggs, washed down with water. Plenty of water...

Suddenly I understood why the officer at Kabul airport hadn't wanted to take women. It had nothing to do with sexism. The men, you see, could urinate over the sides of the moving tanks but under Mujahidin fire, the convoy wasn't making any comfort stops for ladies.

I crossed my legs and tried to imagine arid landscapes. All my previous thoughts of mortality were driven away by this desperation.

And then, for some reason, the whole convoy ground to a halt. I think one of the vehicles ahead of us must have broken down. I seized my chance, jumped down from the APC and hurried behind a rock. I prayed the convoy wouldn't start up again, leaving me with my knickers down in rebelheld territory. Luckily, it didn't.

We reached Kabul by evening. The next day, the soldiers had to listen to tedious speeches from the top brass at a farewell ceremony on the city's main parade ground. We hacks stood to the side and at quite a distance from the men, who were lined up with their vehicles.

One soldier on a tank caught my eye and threw a bouquet in my direction. Normally, I am clumsy, myopic and hopeless at sport. But I was in such a state of flow that I stretched out my right arm and caught the bouquet in one hand, like an ace cricketer. The convoy erupted in applause.

After that, the convoy left to trundle on for a further four days to the Soviet border. MID didn't waste the journalists' time with this monotonous journey. Instead we were flown by military plane to Termez in Uzbekistan to prepare the welcoming party for the troops.

As on the flight to Jalalabad, we sat facing each other in two long rows. The central gangway was filled with red paper flags for the arrival ceremony. I felt we were in a flying waste paper basket, highly inflammable.

A Soviet officer opposite me lit a cigarette. I had been quite brave up to that point but now all my adrenaline had run out and I was my real, cowardly self. I started to cry.

"Please put that cigarette out," I said.

Fortunately, without any display of machismo, he did and we landed safely.

With our load of red flags, we were ready to cheer when the convoy crossed the bridge over the Amu-Dar'ya River. In Termez, the Uzbek women had prepared a huge picnic of plov and water melon.

Unfortunately, I couldn't sit around enjoying it for long because I had a story to file. Magic happened to me throughout my time in Afghanistan and it didn't desert me at the end. I had a two-kopeck coin in my pocket. Unbelievably, I found a public telephone and got straight through to Moscow, breaking the news that the first Soviet soldiers were on home soil.

1989 saw the beginning of the end.
The election of a parliament made the dismantling of the Soviet apparatus possible. The mighty Soviet Union sank not because of war, strife or even great hardship. The ship with the red star was scuppered as we Westerners egged the captain on. Gorbachev, Yeltsin and other reformers did more to wreck the cause of Soviet Communism in the space of a few years than decades of anti-Soviet propaganda and the Cold War put together.

Even as the Soviet Union went down, the out-lying reaches of the empire rushed for the exits. The speed of it all was breath-taking. Suddenly the Berlin Wall was rubble and leaders who had been feared only a few months earlier were ridiculed, exiled and even shot. This time, spring (unlike that in Czechoslovakia in 1968, which ended with Soviet tanks rumbling down the streets of Prague) really had come.



### By John Harrison

By 1989, glasnost or openness had created an atmosphere where the West (whatever that was, it didn't matter at the time) was good and anything to do with Communism was bad. Towards the end of 1989, Gorbachev was accused of dragging his heels compared with the new knight in shining armour, determined to deliver the country from the evils of Communism: Boris Yeltsin. Now Gorbachev was seen by many to be part of the old system. The more opposition Gorbachev faced, the more he was fêted abroad, and the more he was accused of being a showman by Russians at home. The stronger Yeltsin became—although he was, in fact, more of a showman than Gorbachev—the more pressure Gorbachev faced to get radical. It was at about this time that he started making serious political blunders.

Yeltsin himself said: "It seems to me that if Gorbachev had not had a Yeltsin, he would have had to invent one." Whether they preferred the emotional Gorbachev or the impulsive Yeltsin, the point was that Russians no longer supported the Communist Party and the old ways. The bickering between the two helped to bring the Soviet Union down.

Nobody seemed to care too much, in 1989 at least, whether Gorbachev or Yeltsin had a coherent economic policy. Whether or not a more gradual change would have been better for everyone was not important. Gung-ho, seismic change had started and there was no going back.

By the winter of 1989-90, milk, tea, coffee, soap and meat had vanished from many state shops, particularly in Moscow. Sugar was scarce. "You promised us improvements; then why do we have to queue for basic things to eat?" was written in the sky in vast thought bubbles whenever Russians went to the shops in search of something edible, let alone tasty. Millions of Russians puzzled it out in their own way, coming to the conclusion that they wanted more radical change. Gorbachev did too but always with a delay, "clinging to the dying embers of the Communist faith," as Timothy Colton put it.

Both Gorbachev and Yeltsin used the shortages to press for the further decentralisation of industry. But the transfer to private retail and semi-private production caused problems which neither was able to handle well because power had also been decentralised. When Gorbachev saw that the co-ops he'd encouraged weren't bringing about the desired results, he started talking about the need to create a "socialist market economy", an oxymoron in Russia.

The Law on the State Enterprise (1987) empowered workers to elect their own managers and led, naturally enough, to wage inflation and an increase in the cost of living. The newly formed cooperatives were popular when they started in 1988 and 1989 but people soon became disillusioned.

Robert Service wrote in A History of Modern Russia, "The co-ops aggravated the shortages in the shops and raised the cost of living, and were generally disliked. They also added to the problems of law-breaking since their owners had to bribe local government officials in order to be allowed to trade; and often they could not get enough raw materials and equipment without colluding with factory directors illegally. They [the co-ops] often had to function for days at a time without anything to sell: cartons of milk

destroy it. But from an economic point of view, it was difficult for Gorbachev to keep on funding the Soviet Union. There was no turning back.

Meanwhile, the empire continued to fall apart. In January 1989, Estonia and Lithuania joined Latvia and awarded their own languages official status along with their own pre-Soviet flags, anthems and public holidays.

In February 1989, the last remaining Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan.

April turned out to be a cruel month in Georgia. Sensing that the situation in the Baltics was spinning out of control, hardliners in the Interior Ministry turned nasty and ordered troops to open fire on a mostly female crowd in Tbilisi. That day, 19 were killed and several hundred injured. Twenty-one people were struck by soldiers wielding sharpened shovels. Many linked the violence directly to Gorbachev and the issue was brought up at the first session of the newly-elected





disappeared from time to time, and the staff had nothing to do but explain to an ill-tempered public that they had nothing to sell."

But there were deeper economic problems behind the collapse of the economy. Gorbachev had been printing money on a large scale since 1985, stoking inflation. Export revenues were down and his anti-alcohol drive from May 1985 to 1988 inflicted serious damage on the budget. The Finance Ministry relied heavily on alcohol-related taxes, which was one reason why the anti-alcohol campaign was abandoned. Another was that the campaign adversely affected Gorbachev's popularity at home.

Beyond all that, oil prices had plunged from a high of around US\$49 a barrel in spring 1980 to less than US\$9 in 1988, falling by 50 per cent in 1986 alone). Oil and gas constituted only 18 per cent of exports in 1972 but a whopping 54 per cent by 1984. Only in armaments was the country keeping up. Paradoxically, industrial production had actually risen by 11 per cent between 1983 and 1985 thanks to Yuri Andropov's disciplinarian methods. Gorbachev was Andropov's heir and his original goal had been to modernise the Soviet Union, not

parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, which ran from 25 May to 9 June. Almost daily, high-ranking state officials, including even Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, were harangued as they spoke. Gorbachev watched silently and coldly. The Congress was televised and workers watched in disbelief as their leaders, recently above all criticism, were verbally attacked and sometimes ridiculed. Work stopped in factories and offices when sensitive issues were debated. The conservatives accused Gorbachev of giving radicals too many opportunities to speak while the reformers felt brushed aside. Dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov, recently allowed home from internal exile, called for the scrapping of Article 6 of the Constitution, the one that enshrined the "leading and guiding role" of the Communist party. But his proposal was rudely rejected by Gorbachev. Sakharov died shortly after, in December.

The Congress proved to be Boris Yeltsin's big come-back. He won a seat in the Congress on a brilliant city-wide Moscow ticket, where he grabbed 89 per cent of the popular vote. His entrance to the 450-seat upper house, called the Supreme Soviet, was blocked by unfriendly deputies de-

### The Way It Was

spite his popular mandate of five million Moscow citizens. Only when Aleksei Kazannik, a lawyer from Omsk, gave up his seat was Yeltsin able to secure a position in the upper house. Gorbachev, worried that the public would ridicule the whole parliament if Yeltsin were excluded, approved. Many historians argue that Gorbachev underestimated Yeltsin, and that this was one of his most serious mistakes. Gorbachev basically considered Yeltsin to be too uneducated, unrefined and populist to present a major threat. He could hardly have made a bigger miscalculation.

Yeltsin had already become the darling of the intellectuals by agreeing, in 1988, to join the supervisory board of the anti-nationalist Memorial Society. He was chosen for this honour on write-in ballots by readers of the newspaper Literaturnaya Gazeta and the magazine Ogonek, both publications famous with the Russian intelligentsia. Meanwhile, Gorbachev rejected the advice of his chief aid, Georgy Shakhnazarov, to post Yeltsin to some far-off embassy.

Yeltsin cunningly boosted his Everyman image by signing himself out of the Kremlin health clinic and into City Polysix new Central Committee commissions came into being but they mattered little because the authority of the Party itself had come into question.

On 25 April, 74 full Central Committee members and 24 candidate members were bullied by Gorbachev into resigning. Stalin, of course, would have had them all shot. These included household names such as Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister who had been known in the West as Mr. Nyet, and, at the United Nations where he was constantly vetoing Security Council resolutions, the Abominable No Man. Premier Nikolai Tikhonov also passed into history.

In July 1989, coal-miners in a pit in western Siberia went on strike, following a string of miners' strikes in the Don basin. Their strike spread like wildfire to other mines in the Siberian Kuzbass and Vorkuta in the north. The miners demanded improved living and working conditions, better supplies, greater control over their work place and, interestingly, curbs on the co-operative movement. Fearing unrest, Gorbachev met most of their demands. However, overall conditions remained



appalling. Brezhnev or Khrushchev would have used force against anybody daring to strike. On 9 October, the Supreme Soviet finally recognised the right to strike, thus breaking with the Soviet sophistry that no such right was necessary or possible because workers in a workers' state could not go on strike against themselves.

On 23 August, the 50th anniversary of the 1939 Soviet-Nazi pact that had allowed Soviet annexation of the Baltic states, over one million Balts joined hands in a human chain that ran from Tallinn through Riga to Vilnius. Despite this, Gorbachev still refused to believe that the three Baltic republics could really leave the Soviet Union, considering that ultimately they would be too dependent on Russia to make it on their own.

On 14 December, Andrei Sakharov died at the age of 68. Yeltsin earned respect for walking behind the bier in a sleet storm, speaking briefly at the Luzhniki stadium and then going to the funeral. This was an occasion for a nation-wide display of genuine grief, mingled with fear lest the precarious liberties so recently won might equally speedily be withdrawn. P

clinic No. 5. Naina Yeltsin did her part by shopping in neighbourhood grocery stores not reserved for the elite. Be this as it may, Yeltsin's popularity only overtook Gorbachev's in mid-1990. Meanwhile, Gorbachev cemented his position by appointing himself Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR during the first Congress. Now nobody could vote him out of power, as happened to Khrushchev.

By April 1989, resolutions passed at the 19th Communist Party Congress in June 1988 came into force. The number of Central Committee economic departments went down from 20 to nine. The remaining ministries had to report to the new Congress of People's Deputies. From now on, the economy was to become more and more self-regulatory.

In a clear message to Eastern European satellite states that they were on their own now, the special Department for Relations with Communist Workers' Parties of Socialist Countries was amalgamated into a general International Department. Power was drawn away from the hallowed Secretariat of the Central Committee, the office through which resolutions of Central Committee members were implemented. In its place,

# Corporate Governance and Cultural Education

### Ian Mitchell

Many fascinating thoughts were provoked and discussed at a recent seminar held jointly by the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce and the National Council on Corporate Governanace. On Tuesday 22nd June, a dozen delegates and a gross of attendees, gathered at the Baltschug Kempinski Hotel to discuss a document presented by the Governance Council entitled Modern Corporate Governance in Russia as seen by Foreign Businessmen and Experts. The debate was chaired by the venerable Roger Munnings, CBE, sometime head of KPMG in the CIS and currently Chairman of the Audit Committee Institute in Russia.

Surprisingly, this unpromising format produced a very interesting debate about the important issue of "Russian exceptionalism". Is Russia part of the world economy on the same basis as most other countries, or is it going to try to set its own rules and avoid full integration into the wider economic environment? Many Russians still cling to the "exceptionalism" which makes dealing with them both fascinating and frustrating, often both at the same time. They do not seem to realise that to play their full part in the global economy, Russia will have to accept the rules of the global business community. A debate is going on today in the Russian business and legal communities which mirrors the nineteenth century divide between the so-called Westernisers and the Slavophiles. "Russian exceptionalism" has a long history.

Alexander Ivakhnik of the Governance Council opened the debate by summarising the contents of his document. He gave a refreshingly frank assessment of the state of Russian business attitudes which could be summarised by the old school report cliché: "Good, but could do better".

The good was obvious: more compliance with international business norms, while the darker side of this was the fact was much of what has been achieved has come about only due to pressure from foreign funding sources, principally the London and New York Stock Exchanges. In other words, Russians are often conforming only under protest. Many are not participating in the general spirit of global economic endeavour. They are torn.

The depth of their dilemma was beautifully illustrated by the first two delegate speakers. A succinct summary of the legal environment was given by Doran Doeh, the Pickwickian gaffer at Denton Wilde Sapte, the oil-orientated legal firm. Mr Doeh emphasised the German roots of the Russian legal system and the Anglo-Saxon roots of the international business environment. He described how that could give rise to confusion. But more important, he said, was that the problem that "people in Russia do not trust each other, and they do not trust their government."

This is fundamental, as all business is ultimately founded on trust. (The motto of the London Stock Exchange is Dictum



Meum Pactum, or My Word is My Bond.) This is a practical problem of enormous importance, but was dealt with by the second speaker with an excursion into Russian philosophic idealism.

Evgeniy Kogan represented Third Rome Investment Solutions (the name itself surely reflecting a semi-mystical approach to fianance?). Gospodin Kogan, who looked like one of the more genial executives in Dr No's underwater kingdom, concentrated less on practical organisational issues like how to build trust in a commercial context and more on what he called "cultural education".

The problem was that Messrs Doeh and Rogan were not just talking two different languages, English and Russian, but in two completely different ways. They both had intelligent and interesting things to say about the same subject, but they could not find a common conceptual framework. Things did not improve as the morning wore on. In the end, it reminded me of a recent account of the weird atmosphere at the Regan-Gorbachev summits in the 1980s.

While Gorbachev presented a philosophical and theoretical analysis of superpower differences to the Gipper, Reagan regaled his bewildered Soviet counterpart with homely anecdotes of Hollywood and life in Middle America. "Он балтает ещё," Gorbachov muttered crossly at one point ("He is waffling again"). Reagan responded by saying, sotto voce, to his interpreter, "He doesn't get it, does he?"

The exchanges at the Corporate Governance meeting were not quite as much at cross-purposes as that, but nearly. Yet at the same time, there was a strange symmetry between the two opposing sides. The "Western" (if I may generalise for simplicity) criticism of Russian business was that it obeyed the rules only when it was profitable to do so. Yet the Russian criticism of Western business is that it only comes to Russia on Russian terms when money is to be made. Both obey local rules when the profit motive calls. Not much difference there.

Perhaps Russians have to believe in improvement, if only for the sake of morale. Perhaps Western businessmen have to say they believe in philanthropy, if only to cloak self-interest while operating in democratic societies. These are necessary fictions. Both sides have them. We are similar under the skin.

But it is not enough to say that. Unless we can arrive at a common conceptual framework for discussions about even such a simple, practical issue as corporate governance, no serious compromise between the two different approaches to business is going to be possible. Relations between Russia and the West will boil down to a trial of strength about whose images and necessary fictions are the ultimately the more appealing. Does the world prefer Mr Pickwick or Dr No? To put it in Reagan-Gorbachov terms: will the global market vote with its credit cards for philosophy or for Hollywood? And if, as seems likely, the world plumps for Hollywood, what is the point of "cultural education"?

# A grey shadow of Soviet Man

By Elena Rubinova

A recent study by an American watchdog organisation, Freedom House, showed that in the past decade, no country in Europe has undergone a sharper decline in democracy than Russia. This might be a surprise to some, but not to sociologists at the Levada Analytical Centre. Their study "Soviet Man, 1989-2009", concluded that the regeneration of archaic political mechanisms is possible in Russia because Soviet-era personality traits persist in the current generation of Russians.

When Gorbachev's reforms were in full swing, a new society was emerging from the ashes of the gigantic Soviet experiment in social engineering. In 1989 Yuri Levada, a prominent sociologist, formed his Levada Analytical Centre, and initiated





painting: Ulitsa Shvernika 1987 by John Harrison

a unique large-scale study titled "Soviet Man". The mythical anthropological species "Homo Sovieticus" seemed to have become extinct at the end of the 1980s, but today we realise what an enduring legacy he has bequeathed us. Levada was the first pollster in Russia to conduct "longitudinal" studies of public opinion, in which the same 200-300 questions were asked in five surveys between 1989 and 2009 to identify the dynamics of social development.

The first wave of studies reflected the advanced state of decay of Soviet Man over the decades before the collapse of communism. By the late 1970s or so, the creative potential of socialist ideas had been exhausted. Instead of the declarative if largely mythological traits such as altruism, patriotism, collectivism, spirituality and indifference to wealth that were obligatory for Soviet Man, the real citizen demonstrated a capacity for submission, enslavement, aggression, asocial individualism and double standards in everyday life. Principles of equality had not produced solidarity, but rather a group egoism which was a cover-up for unlimited private interest rationalised in terms of the public good. In those days, propaganda stressed that "Soviet Man" possessed an exceptional character; that he was special and superior to lesser mortals of other societies. The imperial consciousness divided the world into "us" and "them", "national" and "alien". Soviet Man had a mindset that implied state paternalism reciprocated by unwavering loyalty to the state. But already by 1993, Levada could identify qualities such as "the ability to be dependent on the social system and regime without actually doing anything to support it".

### What do Russians think of themselves today?

In his 2005 essay, Censorship and Self-Alienation in Russia, a UK-based Russian writer, Zinovy Zinik wrote, "The entire communist universe, like a Soviet Atlantis, sank into oblivion. We are no longer sure what country under the name of Russia we are dealing with".

Searching for a new identity has continued for over a decade, but nostalgic feelings towards the Soviet past have been gradually fading. In 2008, 40% of adults polled by Levada did not think that life in Russia before 1985 was any better than in 2008, and 36% did not regret the collapse of the USSR at all.

"Our 2008 studies showed that people stopped labelling themselves Soviet, down from 25% to 12% in four years", said Boris Dubin, Head of Social and Political Research at the Centre. "But that does not mean that the remnants of Soviet mentality ceased to exist."

When talking about themselves, many Russians are self-critical. When asked about the heritage of the Soviet mentality they most often identify traits such as intolerance, hostility to the West, belief that problems can be resolved only by force, aggressiveness, the cult of the state, lack of respect for the law and envy of the rich. Not only negative points appear in this part of the survey. Russians also believe that some of the best qualities are also inherited from the socialist times, such as self-dignity, readiness to help, peacefulness and patience.

The Soviet Man study shows that real changes in public consciousness are very slow. Soviet era signs and markers are devoid of surface external symbols and are found only when delving into the depths of consciousness.

### **Back to The Empire**

According to the fifth wave of studies, in 2008, "social identification of being Russian is turning back to the Soviet past and the imperial glory of Russia in pre-revolutionary times. These two eras are becoming fused in public consciousness, but totalitarian factors such as purges or the stagnation of Brezhnev times are somehow erased", explained Boris Dubin.

The ideas of Russia's greatness and its destined superpower status have been used as a centrepiece of the seemingly continuous Russian identity. The notions of derzhava and gosudarstvennost (a powerful, established country, and statehood) associated with strong statehood and great power, match this prevailing view.

"In 2009, answering the question whether you would prefer to live in a huge country that is feared and respected or in a small, cosy country that cannot do any harm, 75% of Russians chose the first variant," he continued.

### Sly Man v State Games Continue

In Soviet times, there was a popular saying: "We pretend to work, and the State pretends to pay us." The economy has changed in 20 years, but "sly state-citizen games", as Yuri Levada called them in the early 1990s, continue. One can hardly be surprised that civil society did not see any rapid development in Russia: relationships where citizens do not feel responsible and alienate themselves from the state have been re-established. If in 1989, "absolute responsibility for their government's action" was recognized by 22% of the over 55s and by 11% of the youngest respondents, by 2003, the respective figures were only 13 and 9 percent. In 2008, 91% of those polled said that they could not influence what was happening in their country.

As in pre-Gorbachev times it is again the norm to dissociate oneself from power structures. An ever growing number of Russians consider it right not to fulfil their responsibilities to the state. In recent years, according to Levada Centre statistics, half of those polled saw little wrong in dodging military service, while the concealment of income to avoid taxes was defended by 46%. Then there are common compromises with one's conscience such as riding on a bus without a ticket or not paying alimony after a divorce.

### Mythology of "A Special Way"

"In Russia the myth of a special way does not disappear, but resurfaces at every new stage" said Boris Dubin. "When we started our study in 1989 there was no 'mythology of a special way' in public discourse. On the contrary, the general viewpoint was that Russia finally had a selection of choices of which way to go. The idea of belonging to a Soviet-type civilization was like a stigma, a spell that brought the country to a disaster. Then, the image of an external enemy ceased to exist and up to 50% of people in the study blamed their own leaders for mistakes, not other countries."

As described by Levada, from 1998 the thesis that there is a special quality of Russian/Soviet man was heavily used to promote policies of Russian exclusiveness and international isolation and to rebuild the spectre of an external enemy. Thus by 2009, 39% believed that their country needs "a special breed of democracy", while 26% were convinced that democracy is not suitable at all for Russia.

(to be continued)

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If showing a hairdresser a picture of a magazine model doesn't get the results you may be after, try these phrases:

#### What does it cost?

Сколько у вас стоит...

- ...женская / мужская стрижка? a women's / men's haircut?
- ...окрашивание волос? hair dying?
- ...укладка? to have my hair arranged/ blow dried?

Можно записаться на стрижку / окрашивание / укладку? – Can I make an appointment to have my hair cut / dyed / done?

### How daring will you be?

Пожалуйста, просто подровняйте мне волосы – *Just a trim, please.* 

Я хочу сохранить длину – I want to save the current length.

Уберите 10 (десять) сантиметров – Take 10 centimeters off

Подстригите меня коротко – Cut my hair short

Я хочу стрижку как на этой фотографии
– I want a haircut like in this picture

Я хочу кардинально изменить стиль, что бы вы мне посоветовали? – I want to change my style dramatically, what would you suggest?

### **Changing colours:**

Покажите, какие у вас есть цвета – Can I see the choice of colours?
Я хочу цвет светлее / темнее, чем сейчас – I want to go lighter / darker
Я хочу покраситься в чёрный/ русый / каштановый / рыжий – I want to dye my hair black / light / brown / red
Сделайте, мне, пожалуйста, тонирование / мелирование – I want my hair low-lighted / highlighted

### A few extras:

Выпрямите мне волосы –

Straighten my hair

Сделайте мне завивку – Curl my hair

Уложите мне волосы как на этой
фотографии – Do my hair like in this picture

Courtesy of RUSLINGUA www.ruslingua.com



### Green parts - north west

Our summer breath of fresh air in Moscow's expansive green lungs takes us further this month, to the celebrated holiday islands upstream of the city.





Text and photos by Ross Hunter

### Serebryanyy Bor

The Silver Forest Park is a unique place, for several contrasting reasons. It is the largest island in the Moscow river. With its long, crenulated coastline and being reached by only one bridge, it has an exotic ambience. Silver Forest? Sylvan it certainly is, with a glorious mixture of trees, including the most splendid oak I have seen in Russia. There are a few shiny birches and grey-leaved willows near the entrance, but the greater part of the island is clothed in elegant redbarked Scots pines, adding a slightly Highland or Yosemite feel to the area.

This is one of Moscow's favourite resorts. The river is broad enough to feel like a lake. There are sandy beaches around the island and exciting muddy mangroves to explore in the crinkly indented creeks. Access is limited by the bridge and restricted parking, so a fleet of shuttle buses ferry the folk to nearer the beaches. There are even electric 'eco-taxis' which whirr quietly around for a modest 20 roubles a seat. And the people do come! There is a continuous line of towel-clad families and friends at the week-



end. On site, there are plenty of places to cook the shashlik, play volleyball, badminton or football, or simply build sand castles. Sunbathers may be found sleeping, chatting, sitting, standing or swimming. When the weather is chancy, the parasol doubles as an umbrella, as mere rain does not dampen a decent day's leisure.

Swimming is of course essential. Some hardy types swim right across the river, braving the cruise liners and power boats. The young and daring do acrobatic dives or simple 'bombs' off the footbridges into the pools, while the sedate settle for a gentle paddle and dip. A refreshing sight is the large number of towels hanging up on the many No Swimming notices, studiously being ignored. Being well upriver of the city, the water is clean enough and pleasantly free of flotsam and jetsam. A place for the masses to relax. A bicycle or, if you must, a motor scooter are ideal ways to cover more ground more quickly. Cycling round the island with a swim at the end is a most agreeable afternoon's excursion, and gives you the widest choice of beaches. Take a little care, however, as emerging from a deserted forest trail into a naturist colony is a bit of a shock, and may cause a wobble or two.

The bigger picture is more equivocal still. If the littoral is jammed with people, it is partly because a lot of the island is not merely fenced off but hidden behind high walls, often only centimetres back from the beaches. Here are luxury elite homes, standing somberly quiet behind vigilant Okhrana guards. Maybe these spawn the people buzzing about with power boats and jet-skis, missing the point of a spot of peace and quiet, while also terrorising the water birds guarding their chicks.

This piece of paradise is not without controversy. Across the river lie Rechnik and Fantasy Island, making a trio of battlegrounds between the competing ambitions of politicians, developers and residents. These are stormy waters, dangerous to drift into. If it is tricky to judge where right lies, it is easy to see the attraction of these locations, wonderful oases of nature only a short hike from the centre.

Serebryanyy Bor is certainly worth a visit, or several. There is perfect peace in the forest. The beaches are jolly rather than refined. Even if out of earshot, there is a battle going on behind. Meanwhile, the people swim and zizz and the motorboats whizz by. So does time.



### How to get there.

By standard Moscow river cruise boat, from the city to the beaches, or round the island.

By car out along Zvenegorodskoe Shosse, WNW from Moscow. Parking on the island is limited.

By Metro, purple line to Shchukinskaya, then tram or cycle. Shuttle buses ferry people onto and across the island.

(You can take bicycles on the Metro, not a problem especially at weekends. Depending on how officious the clerks are feeling you may need to pay for the bike and/or remove the front wheel for as long as it takes to pass through the barrier).

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### A Walk Around Moscow's Boulevard Ring



Text and photos Katrina Marie

On a steamy summer day, look for cooling beauty no further than the lush tree-lined Boulevard Ring. The pedestrian-only boulevards offer stunning period architecture, a translucent pond at Chistiye Prudi, and a walk through Moscow history.

The Boulevard Ring occupies what was once the medieval white wall that guarded the Bely Gorod (White City) until 1760. Beginning at the southwestern Gogolevskiy Boulevard and ending at the southeast Yauzsky Boulevard, the "ring" stops short of being a full circle. Plans to complete it have periodically been proposed, but it remains decidedly horse-shoe shaped. Most of the ring was completed in the 1820s, after the infamous fire of 1812

that gutted most of the surrounding buildings.

The following route covers highlights from Strastnoy to Pokrovsky boulevards, which can be walked in about an hour, including a stop for Moscow's summer mainstay: ice cream.

### **Strastnoy Boulevard**

One might never guess that this calm oasis was at one time a busy hay market by day and den of vicious highwaymen by night. Named after the Strastnoy Convent (destroyed by Stalin), it's colloquially known as Shakmatny Bulvar (Chess Boulevard) as evidenced by the weekend chess champions absorbed in the fine art of strategy and domination, while the modern statue of Sergei Rachmaninoff

looms above them. The great composer lived and worked at No. 5 from 1905-1917, which was then a women's music school.

At 9, a rather unassuming house was the scene of a notorious murder mystery in the mid-1800s. Blood stains were allegedly found in the house after the body of its French housekeeper was discovered outside the city. The aristocrat and playwright owner was convicted and served several years in prison before later being acquitted.

At 15/29, the now crumbling mid-1800s palace with weeds growing from its gutters once belonged to the noble Gagarin family. It was used by the posh English Club, Napoleon's Army, and was even featured in Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Having suffered massive fire damage, it was restored in 1826 and then became the New Catherine Hos-



pital, later the Moscow State University hospital, where Anton Chekhov trained early in his career. It was transferred to the city in 2009, but currently appears closed.

Adjacent to the house is a statue of the actor and anti-Soviet rock bard, Vladimir Vysotsky. Some consider it defiant, others a grotesque caricature of the artist, but it is rightly provoking.

### Petrovskiy Boulevard and Trubnaya Square

The prime attraction is the immense Petrovsky Monastery, believed founded in the early 1300s by Saint Peter of Moscow, who transferred the centre of Russian orthodoxy from Vladimir to Moscow. The large cathedral on the site dates from the 1500s. In the 1600s, the Narysh-

kins (the powerful boyar family related to Peter the Great) added a family burial place, monastic cells, and a bell tower.

The boulevard leads into Trubnaya Square, where construction partially obscures the continuation of the Boulevard Ring. Dominated by a tall statue of St. George atop the Trubnaya metro station, the square is flanked by the large School of Modern Drama.

Trubnaya is the perfect stop for a perusal of Soviet art at the charming Shishkin Gallery at 29/14 Neglinnaya ulitsa (see Passport article, June 2010), or much-needed sustenance at Coffeemania just opposite, before embarking on the steep ascent up Rozhdestvensky Boulevard and convent.

Rozhdestvensky Convent, or Convent of the Nativity, founded in the late 1300s, is an active convent that resumed work reportedly the inspiration for the famous painting, The Unequal Marriage, by Vasily Pukirev, after a scene the artist witnessed at the church: the marriage of a young bride to a much older wealthy man.

At the head of the boulevard is a gaunt figure of Nadezhda Krupskaya, Lenin's wife. Krupskaya worked at the adjacent 6/1, previously the Commissariat for Public Education. Built in 1899-1902, this magnificent landmark once belonged to the Rossiya Insurance Company. The famous writer Mikhail Bulgakov worked in this building.

### **Chistoprudny Boulevard**

The grand dame of the Boulevard Ring must certainly be the arty Chistoprudny, with its manicured gardens, summer art exhibits, and sprawling pond. The pond once served as the dumping grounds scribed as the "beasties" of children's lore. At 19a is the elegant and popular Sovremennik Theater, now occupying a former 1914 film cinema. At 23 the renown film director, Sergei Eisenstein, lived from 1920-1934.

### **Pokrovsky Boulevard**

A few short steps from Chistoprudny feel like another Moscow. Less show, more grit, literally, as the paved boulevard gives way to a sandy path.

№ 1 was built in 1936 for employees of the NKVD, precursor to the KGB. 3/1, the boulevard's primary attraction, is the Pokrovsky Barracks, formerly occupying this large pillared building. In the late 1790s, Tsar Paul promised the Pokrovsky residents that, in exchange for money to build the barracks, they would not be





in the 1990s. Historically, Russian women were often forced to take the veil instead of divorcing. One of the more famous residents here in the 1500s was the first wife of Prince Vasily III. In the 1900s, the convent was also home to an orphanage.

No 12 was once a secret meeting place for the Decembrists. In 1825, its owner was exiled to Siberia. Renovation in the late 1800s added 50 rooms to the estate, then owned by a wealthy tea merchant.

### **Stretensky Boulevard**

Though the shortest part of the Boulevard Ring, Stretesnky is not without drama. The ornate white 17<sup>th</sup> century church of the Assumption of the Mother of God in Pechatniky at the boulevard's junction, was

for a nearby slaughterhouse before 18<sup>th</sup> century. Prince Menshikov demanded the ponds be cleaned, hence the name.

At 14 is the fabulously strange 19<sup>th</sup> century Figured House, covered in white images of what can only be de-

obligated to fulfill mandatory military conscription. The arrangement was short-lived, however, as Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812. The subsequent fire destroyed much of the barracks, which were restored in the 1830s.

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### How to rent accommodation the right way—legal tips

### By Elizaveta Fedyunkina, Penny Lane Realty

Every day, several hundred people in Moscow rent accommodation. This includes those from far-away countries and people who have arrived from nearby regions, young families who have decided to live separately from their parents, or people who want to live in leased accommodation whilst their own apartments are undergoing major refurbishment. In order to eliminate the possibility of any problems arising with renting, at the beginning, in accordance with law, a lease agreement must be concluded. Vadim Lamin, the Head of Penny Lane Realty's Division for Renting Elite Apartments will give advice on how to draw up such an agreement, explain possible problems and how to address them.

### - Vadim, what is the first thing an individual who wishes to rent an apartment should do?

- Initially, a future lessee should know what and where they want to rent and how much they are prepared to pay for rent. The next step is to phone a reliable real estate agency and chose a rental accommodation which they can afford. Some chose apartments using various Internet databases, however, here I would like to warn you. Some of the offers, especially those with surprisingly low prices are often put forth by unprofessional and even fraudulent companies/private realtors. In such cases, either the given price does not match the actual price, or an agency requires that a preliminary deposit is made for this cheap offer, something which they shouldn't do. My advice is to contact a company with a good reputation which has been proved. Reliable agencies have large bases of offers and provide professional assistance for transactions.

### - So, a future lessee has worked out what sort of apartment they wish to rent, phoned a reliable agency, met a broker and inspected accommodation which suited them. What's next? Should an agreement be concluded now?

- Yes. The next step is to conclude a lease (rent) agreement which has been drawn up professionally. Since the terms and conditions contained in an agreement defend the interests of both parties, this will help avoid any undesirable consequences for the owner of the apartment and well as for the individuals who intend to rent the apartment. An agreement must envisage the terms for payment, the procedure for early termination of the agreement, compensation for damaged caused to the apartment, furniture, equipment etc. Using negotiations to agree the said terms and conditions will enable the parties to avoid any possible future disputes.

### - Which legal difficulties may apartment owners and lessees encounter when concluding a rent agreement?

- Legal difficulties concerning apartment owners are rather varied. At the stage of signing a rent agreement, as a rule, these difficulties are connected with the existence of documents of title. For example, it often happens that an apartment belongs to an individual, but there are several restrictions which prevent the owner from leasing it. Such restrictions to title include: annuity and mortgage agreements, and in such cases the consent of other individuals are required in order to rent out the apartment. Another problem is when the lessor can only present an investment contract of the documents of title, that is, the building is new and the apartment has been furnished, but the certificate of title has not yet been issued (there are several reasons for this - the building has not undergone state inspection etc.). In addition to this, when drawing up an agreement, it is necessary to obtain the consent of state bodies (child protection services) if the owner of the apartment is an underage child and it is being leased for more than one year. A number of issues affect the interests of owners with regard to the migration registration of foreign citizens in the Russian Federation. Issues of taxation need to be discussed because the income an individual receives from renting out an apartment in the Russian Federation is subject to 13% income tax. Individuals who receive the aforementioned income must submit a tax return for the tax period with a copy of the rent/lease agreement to the tax inspectorate where they are registered. This 13% tax may be legally reduced to 6%, in order to do this one must register as an individual entrepreneur and switch over to the simplified taxation system.

### - Who is a rent agreement more beneficial for - the owner of the accommodation or the lessee?

- Any civil agreement must be beneficial for both signatories since it envisages, regulates and protects their interests. It is not advisable to conclude an agreement on terms and conditions that are already known to be unbeneficial for you.

### - Which legislative changes have affected the rental market as of late?

- Legislative innovations are very rarely introduced to rental market. The last one was in 2009, when the legislator introduced amendments to the second part of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation. These amendments concerned the application of a simplified tax system on the basis of a licence, namely, a permit for the usage of the said system if garages, privately owned residential premises and also premises constructed on land plots for country houses (dachas) are transferred for temporary ownership and (or) usage. Citizens of the Russian Federation who rent out their apartments, garages and country houses, and also carry out a number of other types of activities related to real estate were provided with another opportunity to optimise their taxes by buying a licence. In Moscow, for example, a licence is beneficial for people whose income from leased property is from 720,000 roubles to 20 million roubles per year. Starting from 2010, the maximum amount of income from renting out property was increased to 60 million roubles. In this case taxpayers are not required to provide the tax authorities with tax returns stating income, instead they just have to keep a record of income.

### - There are many legal implications. How should one take them all into account?

-To avoid confusion with regard to the legal aspects of a transaction it is necessary to obtain assistance from professional lawyers. These specialists work in all the major real estate agencies. For example, at our company, a lawyer not only helps to carry out a transaction, but also advises lessors and lessees on various legal issues free of charge throughout the rent period. Besides this, anyone who has questions about the legal aspects of renting can consult us. We will be happy to answer any questions!

### "Foreign clients prefer pre-revolutionary buildings with underground parking"



By Ekaterina Batinkova, Director of the elite realty department of Est-a-Tet

The economic situation in Russia is stabilizing after the crisis. We have foreign clients coming back to the real estate and financial markets. Foreigners are acquiring more real estate. The question is: have foreign clients' preferences changed?

It is still true to say that the number of foreign clients who are renting apartments is greater than those who own or who wish to buy them. This is due to the current economic situation in the real estate market, in Russia as well as in Europe. A lot of clients have reviewed their financial priorities in relation to acquiring real estate in Moscow and only a few can afford this option now. For most people, especially those who do not have families here, it is preferable to rent.

Many foreigners, like Muscovites, want to live in the central part of Moscow—that is, within the Sadovaye Koltsa, in areas like Tverskaya and Zamoskvaretskaya. It is highly preferred if the apartment is near to one's place of work. This is a popular option for families who do not have children, but as soon as children appear, preferences change. As a rule, clients who have families with children have an attachment to a particular school or schools, and based on this, they start to pick out apartments nearby.

The Pakrovki Holm residential complex, for example, is situated near the Anglo-American School. Another school for foreign children has opened not so long ago at Krilatsky, and has started attracting potential clients, as has the English International School on Zelenny Prospekt. Such areas have good infrastructure and are quite popular despite the fact that they may be far from the client's place of work.

Ostozhenka, Prechestinka and Patriarchy Prudy are popular simply because they are prestigious districts in Moscow amongst the ex-pat community. Moreover the foreign community tends to prefer classical architecture, especially pre-revolutionary buildings with underground parking. Foreign clients also value a good security system, a compound around the building, and other services like gyms, sports clubs etc which can also be found in new apartment blocks.

We have made note of the fact that most clients of our company 'Est-a-Tet', prefer new apartment blocks especially if they are fully occupied and renovation is completed. Foreign clients with families opt for three room apartments, rarely four room apartments. Clients who are not with their families opt for two room apartments or studio apartments. Modern and functional interior design is quite popular, although there are a number of clients who prefer classical style.

The budget for such apartments usually ranges from 90,000-100,000 roubles per month though lately the market has seen an increase of more expensive apartments with prices ranging from \$18,000-\$20,000 and even \$30,000 per month, which shows that real estate and financial markets are stabilizing.

The purchase price of apartments starts from \$10,000 per sq. meter, and usually foreign clients try to look for deals up to \$1,5 million. To buy an apartment on Ostozhenka for \$40,000 per sq. meter for foreign clients is not economically profitable. This is one of the main differences between Muscovites and foreigners. Foreign clients are not usually interested in acquiring an apartment just for investment purposes, despite the fact that there are options in the growing market which provide an opportunity to realise quite good profits from the investment in the course of the year.

There are some advantages in acquiring real estate in Moscow: the tax rate is not as high as in Europe, and this is despite the fact that foreigners are assessed with higher taxes when it comes to selling or renting property, than Muscovites. Taxes on such real estate, as a rule, are much lower than on most foreign clients' homes. P





### **Tunisian Tide Second Wave**



Text and photos by Charles W. Borden

La Maree, which in my book already sits at or near the crest of the Moscow restaurant wave, just edged further up with the opening of its majestic digs on Malaya Gruzinskaya in the building formerly occupied by the Indian restaurant Ajanta. I dined at Ajanta for the first and last time just before it closed and was awestruck by the setting with its lofty open spaces, its tasteful mélange of earth tones and quality finish. I'd love to know where they got the floor tiles in the entry. It doesn't appear Tunisian owner Medhi Douss had to do much to transform the space for his needs: some rosy octopuses climbing the restaurant's decorative columns, some fish on the wall, some fancy sea-theme artwork, a lobster tank at the entrance and La Maree Two was open. And of course there's the La Maree centerpiece, its seafood market featuring Douss' fresh-off-the-plane seafood. Some of these delicacies got to enjoy a little air travel to Moscow before

a La Maree chef pulled them out of the tank to administer the last rites.

We reviewed the first La Maree just a few months ago. When I heard Mr. Douss had moved into the Ajanta space I was itching to try it. And as impressed as we had been with La Maree #1, the new La Maree makes it look dated. Mr. Douss runs a huge seafood and food import operation supplying Moscow with up to 100 tons of fresh and live seafood every week, as well as cheeses, duck, foie gras and olive oil. Take a look at the English language version of his website ( www.lamaree. ru) to get an idea about how the market works. Both La Maree locations also operate as a fresh-fish-take-home boutique.

Passport publisher John Ortega brought some new guests: Morrocan clothing businessman Albert Ifrah, who grew up in Paris but now lives in Valence in southern France, and Consuelo De Haviland, who grew up in Manhattan and Limoges (central France) where her family has produced fine porcelain since the mid nineteenth century. Ms.

De Haviland now shares her time between Paris and Moscow as a result of her marriage to legendary Russian actor Igor Kostolevsky. A French film actress herself, the story of her life journey to Russia leading to her current work representing the Russian railways in France is worth a separate article.

Chef Abdessatar Zitouni now runs both restaurants and brought the same menu to #2 with its Mediterranean and Tunisian specialties. As we did a few months ago we started with Zitouni's Bouillabaisse, the Marseillaise fish stew, this version a rich dark ochre with a rich assortment of Mediterranean shellfish and fish. And as before, John, a serious Pacific fisherman in his Newport Beach years, selected an array of sea delights for La Plancha, which were grilled and served unadorned. Fish prices ranged from 170 rubles to 720 rubles per 100 grams.

This time John also ordered a sashimi assortment, which, if I have ever had fresher or better I surely don't remember. The tray, with each selection priced

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### Restaurant Review





per 100 grams, consisted of Scottish salmon (530r), deep red akamai (630r) and fatty toro (1260r) from Bluefin tuna, thinly sliced, sweet and delicately tender sea scallops (470r), and octopus (430r).

La Maree has an excellent wine list, mostly whites. We ordered the Cervaro Castello della Sala (Umbria, Italy), an Antinori wine that is primarily Chardonnay with a touch (15%) of Grechetto. Priced at 8700 rubles at La Maree, this wine has become a wine list index for me; it seems to appear on most Moscow wine lists. It's a great wine, no argument there, and can be bought by the case for as little as 2100 rubles a bottle in Moscow. I doubt La Maree or any other restaurant pays more, so we see here a markup in excess of 400%. I've seen Cervaro as high as 9900 rubles. At each restaurant, the sommelier give the same lame excuse when asked why the prices are so high, "Oh, the taxes and import costs are so high." Well, we know better, and so do you.

> La Maree Malaya Gruzinskaya 23 www.la-maree.ru +7 495 609 3925



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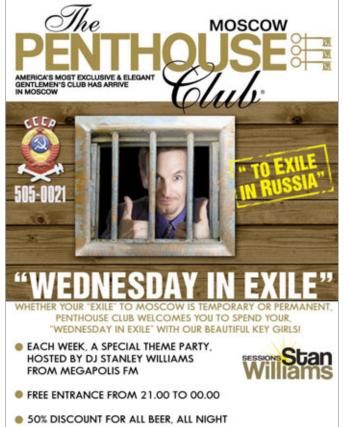
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## Front of house in the stratosphere

### Text and photo by Charles W. Borden

His card reads just "Domenico" and that's how regulars greet the man who takes care of them at Cantinetta Antinori, one of the few occupants in the stratosphere of Moscow restaurants. Domenico Anaclerio represents an element all too rare in the city's dining establishments, the face of the front of the house. At others, the owner is absent, or at best occupied with his buddies, and considers it adequate to station a statuesque, leggy blonde at the entrance, or a bevy of them at a few tables. I sat down for lunch with Domenico at CA to learn more about him and his work.

Domenico hails from Bari on the Adriatic at the back of the heel of Italy. He came to Moscow by way of work at bars and restaurants in Bari, then Montpellier, London and Amsterdam. It was in Amsterdam that he met a Russian travel consultant, who became his wife (now ex), and she brought him to Moscow. He joined the owners, restaurateur Arkady Novikov and wine importer Natalia Fomina, to open CA in 2004.

### How was Bari when you were growing up?

My father was a pastry chef, and warned me to stay away from his profession. At that time it was difficult, working evenings and nights to prepare fresh goods for the next day. I got my first job selling ice cream at eight. They couldn't pay me but the shop owner gave me free ice cream. What a great job for an eight year old! I played football and brought my friends over after a game.

### Looks like you got an early start as a "host." Later?

I was a barman and worked in some restaurants and clubs, and then opened the Reiff Music Club, an American bar/restaurant with live jazz, named after the famous jazz photographer Carole Reiff. We had some of Reiff's black and white photos on the walls.

### What was the concept behind CA?

First of all, it's a Tuscan restaurant. You won't find some of the usual Italian dishes on our menu. No creamy dishes like Spaghetti Carbonara, no cream at all except in desserts. Second, it's the concept of a Cantinetta, it's simple like home, everything made by hand. The customers are our family and they have to feel "at home" at CA.

### You've had some special quests?

Well, each guest if special but if you mean famous, yes: Henry Kissinger for instance, Giorgio Armani, Gerard Depardieu—he wanted to see our kitchen. Condoleezza Rice was here with Foreign Minister Sergei Ivanov. That was interesting because Mr. Ivanov wanted them to sign the guest book. Every restaurant has a guest book, right? Well we didn't have one. I looked at Sedmoi Kontinent: there was nothing we could use. So I had an idea. I said, "We have a tradition here to sign one of our beautiful plates." Ms. Rice said that would take a special pen. I laughed, for me that would be no problem. So now we really do have such a tradition and a number of autographed plates on our wall.



### You must have "difficult" guests?

The most difficult are guests who say, "I was at such and such restaurant in Italy, and I want that dish I had!" We are a Tuscan restaurant, so many common Italian dishes aren't on our menu. But it's hard to say no to a guest, so sometimes I might agree. But what if it's lasagna? It takes at least four hours to make. I ask them to come back the next day, then the lasagna will be ready.

### Is it difficult work?

It's my nature. Sometimes I don't feel like smiling, but by the time I get here I put that away. In this job it's necessary that everyone feel at home. We have some rich guests, famous guests, but I feel I need to give attention to make sure every guest is happy.

### What about Moscow: wouldn't you like to try another city?

I like Moscow. And it's only three hours from my family home in Bari. I like to go there at Christmas, and then some more exotic place, the places some of our Russian guests go, for New Year. I've had invitations to go elsewhere, Hong Kong for instance, but the air, the traffic there is worse and its 11 hours to Italy. No, I like Moscow and I like my customers.



### Your restaurant should be here

### Please phone or write to PASSPORT sales manager: + 7 (495) 640-0508, v.astakhova@passportmagazine.ru

\*\*Indicates Passport Magazine Top 10 Restaurants 2009.

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44 Stary Arbat, 205-8335 M. Smolenskaya www.hardrock.com

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. 12/8 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 694-0229 M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskya

### DARBAR

With great views from the top floor of the Soviet relic Sputnik Hotel, veteran expats say it's the city's best Indian. In addition to the usual norrth Indian fare, Darbar has an

extensive south Indian menu.

38 Leninsky Prospekt, 930-2365 M. Leninsky Prospekt

### **COFFEE AND PASTRIES**

#### **COFFEE MANIA**

The Coffee Mania next to the Moscow Conservatory is a popular daytime informal business venue. Open 24 hours. Several locations. 13 Ulitsa Bolshaya Nikitskaya, 775-5188, 775-4310

M. Arbatskaya, Biblioteka im. Lenina www.coffeemania.ru

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Restaurant and bar offers fine European cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere, often with recent artwork on the walls of the upstairs room. 5/6 Kamergersky Pereulok, 692-4042

M. Teatralnaya www.artistico.ru

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### **BARS AND CLUBS**

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### **PYATNICA BAR**

This is a nice city café with delicious and pretty cheap foods. They serve Indian, Thai, Japanese, Italian and Russian dishes here so it's good for having lunch on working days. On Friday night it turns into crazy bar with vibrant, relaxed atmosphere and large selection of cocktails and other drinks.

Pyantitskaya, 3/4, build 1. 953-69-32 www.pyatnica-bar.ru

Master night spot host Doug Steele is back, at Papa's tucked in the basement below Johnny the Fat Boy Pizzeria, Papa features live music and lots of sweaty young hodies

2 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, 755-9554 M. Kitai-Gorod

NOTE: For restaurants with multiple locations the most popular location is given – see the website for others. All phone numbers have city code 495 unless otherwise indicated. Reservations suggested for most restaurants.





### **Everything Stops For Tea**

Russia is one of the world's great teadrinking nations and in Moscow all sorts of teas can be taken: expensive teas and exotic teas, traditional teas and healthy herbal teas, teas in the sky and teas on a tatami mat. All are easily obtainable except tea a la russe.

Text by Peter Ellis, illustration by Sonya Hallett

Sylvie is an attractive London girl, though a little unusual, a tad strange. When, as a student, her friends spent their money on handbags and holidays, Sylvie kept her cash back for high teas at the haunts of the well heeled. She would save for an afternoon at the Dorchester, or the Savoy, or the Ritz.

I thought of Sylvie the other day, while at Coffee Mania, next to the Tchaikovsky Conservatoir on Nikitskaya. The place openly confesses its coffee craziness, but it's also completely tea potty. Five hundred roubles for a brew, for a few dried leaves and a drop or two of hot water! Madness! It's the price of a meal (with wine)! Sylvie wouldn't have batted an eyelid. It got me wondering, which no-expense-spared, top-notch Moscow salon would she search out for a cuppa?

Like its London namesake, the Ritz-Carlton on Tverskaya is an obvious first port of call for those seeking the sumptuous. The over-gilded, over-furnished lobby, its margins patrolled by anxious dark-suited security, is too much a place of comings and

goings, of meetings and departures to be relaxing, despite the tinkling serenades from a grand piano. But go a little further and you enter the twenty-four-hour twilight that is the Caviarterra. In this oak-panelled, calmly lit cocoon one can sit on richly carved and cushioned Empire-style armchairs and enjoy a pot with complimentary pastries, served by its attractive and charming staff, for the princely sum of 490 rubles.

"Go to the Pushkin," is the advice given by most Muscovites if your aim is to impress or be impressed. But make sure you walk past the oligarchs' favourite restaurant on Tverskoi Bulvar, Turandot, and head for the confectioner's and tea rooms next door. The Cafe Pushkin is elegant and very reasonably priced. It boasts an international prize-winning pastry chef in Frenchman Emmanuel Ryon, is decorated in the style of Marie Antoinette and its waitresses are tastefully attired in nineteenth century costume, providing trays of refreshments next to your table on trestles.

Both the Cafe Pushkin and the Ritz-Carlton look as if they've been established features of Moscow Society for generations but are only a few years old, catering to the increasing demands of the capital's *nouveaux riches*. The restaurant Praga on Arbat, meanwhile, has been around since the 1830s. Over time it's been the haunt of the political, financial and artistic elite and is an ideal place to make a discrete business deal. Its patisserie specialises in extravagant cake creations with iced flowers, baroque cream swirls and transparent fruit glazes.

If Sylvia isn't impressed by these classy Moscow joints, she

may be amused by more unusual venues. Perhaps perched 330 metres above the ground in the Seventh Heaven restaurant on the Ostankino TV Tower, which is due to reopen soon, or sailing past the Kremlin on one of the pleasure craft plying the Moscow River? For more ordinary folk, the chains don't do a bad job. Coffee House dishes up its tea in cafetieres, perhaps as consolation for not being what it considers to be the better beverage. Shokalatnitsa provides some style and service and tea in real teapots, while Koffein serves infusions in transparent pots, including Brides' Balls (shariki nevesti), which are chrysalises of dried leaves that blossom into matrimonial bouquets as they brew.

#### What a Palaver!

said one of my Russian friends.

We almost came to blows over milk, me and Sylvie. She's a stickler for the rules: the pot and the cups must be warmed first and milk added before the tea; never, never, after. As she would say, what's tea without the ceremony? But if Sylvia would like to experience tea served in the traditional Russian style in Moscow, she may well be disappointed. Despite its importance in Russian culture, tea topped up from a samovar and sipped with jam (varyenye) from a saucer or in a tea glass holder (podstakannik) is hard to find for the visitor. "A traditional "A traditional tea tea shop would be just too corny, too embarrassing and only for tourists,"

shop would be While Russians may have qualms just too corny, too indulging in its own customs commercially, they revel in the tradiembarrassing and tions of other cultures. A number of Chinese tea houses have sprung only for tourists." up in the centre of town over the past few years, the longest established being the Tea Culture Club in Ermitage Gardens (www.chaiclub.ru) which opened in 1997. Here assistants will pour and splash tea in and over terracotta cups, generous with their time, explaining the five stages of boiling a kettle, from "eye of crab" to "wind through pine trees". The leaves range in price from a few hundred to a few thousand rubles.

Ancient Chinese customs are now old hat with Moscow trendies; nowadays it's mate that matters. This South American beverage (pronounced ma-tey), which uses leaves from a species of holly, should be made from hot, not boiling water and shared with friends who pass around a hollow gourd, drinking through an ornately decorated metal straw, or "bomilla". Both medical and psychological benefits and dangers have been claimed for the stuff and drinking it is seen as a sacred act by its fans, giving harmony to the soul. Moscow's Mate Club (on Lesteva Street near Shabolovskaya Metro www.club-mate.ru) is as much a spiritual, cultural and music venue as it is a place for sharing the "mythic draft".

"If you want tea in the traditional Russian style," my friend told me, "you have to go out of Moscow or to somebody's house; it's more of a private thing than a public thing." Certainly the trains leaving the capital have an authentic flavour themselves as you are served tea in a glass and metal podstakannik (safer in a moving carriage) from a communal samovar. And if you're heading out of town, go south to Tula, where you can visit its samovar museum (www.tula-samovar. com.ru) and enjoy your tea with a slice of "tyulskii pryanik",

a traditional gingerbread made in the city since the seventeenth century.

### Indian from China

"My ideal is a cup of Darjeeling served in delicate eighteenth century porcelain," I remember Sylvie saying, "though I am also partial to a superior Oolong." Muscovites would agree. Throughout its history, Russia has had strong trade links with its tea suppliers. In 1679, Russia signed a treaty with China on regular shipments via a camel caravan. India became a more important source from the nineteenth century and into the Soviet period, with the distinctive yellow-labelled "elephant tea" still being produced by the Moscow Tea Factory (www. moschay.ru). Surprisingly, the country also produces some of its own crop, with tea plantations near Sochi.

The Perlov Tea Shop on Miasnitskaya Street (Chistii Prudy Metro) stands witness to the importance of the trade. This striking example of exuberant chinoiserie, its coloured tiles shaped into dragons and pagodas, was added to decorate

> a tea merchant's shop in 1896 in an attempt to secure a valuable trade contract with the orient. The range of goods inside is

> > equally impressive, as are the prices with top teas costing tens of thousands of rubles. There's no shortage of well-stocked tea shops in Moscow, testament to the demand, the heavyweight being the nationwide chain 'Ounce'

('Unitsya' www.chay.info). Russia's tea heritage is matched by its history of making tea services. The Imperial Porcelain Factory, St. Petersburg was founded in 1744 by the Empress Elizabeth (www.ipm.ru). Throughout its changing history and changing names

(it was the State, later the Lomonosov Por-

celain Factory in the Soviet Union) it has been famous for producing lavish and exquisitely decorated tea sets, including its "cobalt net" pattern (based on a service made for Catherine the Great), dramatic revolutionary designs, and traditional national forms, such as the unique "tulip" cup.

But times are changing. Mugs are preferred to cups and saucers; tea bags are taking over from tea pots; fruit infusions and green teas are eclipsing the normal black varieties. Green tea is from the same plant as the traditional but is processed slightly differently, not being left to oxidize, or blacken. There have been many claims for the benefits of drinking green, fruit and herbal teas and there is some evidence suggesting that regular drinkers have lower chances of heart disease and developing certain types of cancer. They have also been shown to be useful for managing the modern-day malaise of obesity.

These are claims that Sylvie, tea's top champion, would agree with. She's a top executive now and a rich woman, living the high life she rehearsed as a student. She invited me for tea at the Ritz the last time I was in London. The high prices and the servile service Sylvie takes in her stride, though I squirm as I feel the eyes of the waiter can easily see through to my own less-than-ritzy bank balance. But Sylvie has always been generous and leaves him a large tip or, as they say in Russia, "Eta vam na chai" ("That is for your tea").



# Tipping point

### By Art Franczek

It seems that every newscast I see in Russia or abroad, such issues as naked shorts selling, decrease in GDP, unemployment rates, price per barrel of oil, the list goes on and on, are discussed. These are not abstract numbers that affect economic and financial specialists. Rather they are issues that affect peoples' lives. If unemployment is rising perhaps my job is at risk. If the price of oil declines rapidly, Russia's economic prospects may decline and this could threaten my job and my investment portfolio. When we look at these issues we are not talking about some statistical studies but rather economic dynamics can affect all of our lives.

In June of 2008, while Europe and the US were suffering from the early stages of the world financial crisis, Russia was considered to be a safe haven that was immune from the virus that was engulfing the West. In 2008, GDP was expected to grow by 7% as it had the previous 8 years. Government officials were encouraging Westerners to invest in the 2014 Sochi Olympics and other development projects. Moscow

was being touted as a major financial centre and Russia was projected to be Europe's leading auto market by 2009. Oil was selling at US\$140 per barrel and Gazprom's General Director was predicting that it would soon reach \$200. A feeling of euphoria was in the air wherever you went in Moscow.

In the US, chaos was spreading throughout the financial services industry. In March 2008, Bear Sterns declared bankruptcy. Merrill Lynch was sold to Bank of America and finally in September the stock of AIG was purchased by the US government, and Lehman Brothers was declared bankruptcy. The root cause of all of these events was investments in securities that were backed by sub-prime mortgages. Many banks invested in these securities because they were rated AAA by the credit ratings agencies and it was unlikely that they would default. When US housing prices declined by 20% in 2007, default rates greatly increased because homeowners owed the bank more than their home was worth. US investment banks and many foreign banks lost many billions of dollars because the value of these invest-

ments was significantly reduced. As mentioned, many of the banks who held these CDOs (Collaterised Debt Obligations) had to declare bankruptcy.

The bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers in September of 2008 was the tipping point of the subprime crisis because Lehman was so interrelated with banks in the US and internationally that trust in banks almost dried up, like international credit. By the time Lehman Brothers declared bankruptcy the US was already in a recession as a result of the sub-prime crisis and the price of oil had declined from US\$140 to US\$40 per barrel.

On the day Lehman declared bankruptcy, the MICEX declined by 20% and Russia suddenly realized that it was deeply impacted by the crisis. This impacted Russia in a number of ways:

- Foreign investors no longer invested in Russia. This was because they became risk adverse and fled to quality investments such as US Treasury Bills.
- Foreign Banks could no longer lend to Russian Banks because credit was no longer available.
- The sharp drop in the price of oil severely reduced budget revenues and forced Russia to use its reserves.

The Russian stock market lost 2/3 of its value because investors were risk-adverse and many stocks were based on natural resources.

In 2009, Russia's GDP declined by 8%, this was more than any major country. Manufacturing declined by 15% (auto manufacturing declined by 50%). Construction declined by 17% and retail declined by 9%. In addition the unemployment rate increased from 4% to 9%.

Like most countries, Russia established a stimulus program that channelled US\$62 billion to critical financial and industrial companies. Another US\$200 billion was used to stabilize the rouble and the banking system. By the first quarter of 2010, the World Bank estimated that Russia's GDP would grow by 4.5 %. Construction was projected to decrease by 9% and the retail sector would show 0% growth. Unemployment would remain at 9% in what the World Bank calls the "jobless recovery". Although the oil price is projected at around US\$75 per barrel. Russia faces new competitive pressures in natural gas production because the US, Canada and other countries have developed methods to extract huge amounts of natural gas from shale rock. In addition Europe has developed alternative supplies of natural gas. While the Russian economic situation is improving this improvement is mainly the result of government stimulus and not private sector growth. World economic growth for 2010 is projected to be 3.3%. Most of this growth is the result of government stimulus programs. World and Russian economic growth is quite fragile and not yet self-sustaining.

Recent economic data from the US is quite negative. Housing starts decreased by 33% because the US\$8,000 tax credit expired. The official unemployment rate in the US is stuck at 9.5% while the real unemployment rate is close to 17%. In Europe the fear of default of sovereign debt by PIGS (Portugual, Italy, Greece, Spain) fills the business news every day and

many analysts are suggesting that the European Monetary Union be dissolved.

A growing number of economists are predicting that a double dip recession is going to occur. Nouriel Rabini (Doctor Doom) believes that there is greater than a 50% chance that Europe will fall back into recession (negative GDP growth) and that GDP growth in the US will be anaemic at 1%-2%. Russia's economy is undoubtedly integrated with the rest of the world so if there is a double-dip recession in Europe and the US the price of oil is likely to be \$50 per barrel which would create significant problems for the Russian economy.

The recent G20 Summit highlighted the different economic positions among the leading economic powers. The UK and Germany want to encourage austerity budgets and enforce significant deficit cutting among G20 Countries. This is because of economic chaos caused by PIGS. The US wants the G20 countries to continue their stimulus packages at least until the economic recovery becomes self-sustaining. Many economists such as Paul Krugman believe that removing fiscal stimulus too soon would repeat mistakes that were made during the Great Depression in the 1930s and may trigger a Third Depression. The World Economy is truly at a tipping point between austerity and stimulus and the wrong decisions by policy makers could have catastrophic consequences.





#### Text and photos by Larissa Franczek

Until recently the small town of Staritsa was known mainly to well-informed travellers, and was almost a secret to the general public. Regular excursions to the place were not even available. It was no surprise that one of the main sights, the Dormition cathedral, was in a sad state. Now the situation has changed. The monastery is celebrating its 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. A large-scale reconstruction has been undertaken to return this architectural jewel to its original state.

Staritsa is located at the confluence of the Staritsa and the Volga rivers, and is known for a rich history that began in 1297. Before and during Ivan the Terrible's reign the town was connected with the Staritsky princes and Ivan's battles against them. In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, Staritsa was a part of the Tver principality, which was probably the richest and most developed area in old Russia. It had its own traditions in architecture, icon painting, even in publishing miniature books. The town embodied the princes' idea of freedom from the influence of Moscow. Once he had accumulated enough power, Ivan the Terrible tried to eliminate the whole family of the Staritskys princes. This is a separate page of the town's history, full of stories of endless intrigues, wars, insidious plots, cruel tortures, love and death.

Ivan IV was constantly fighting against Poland and Lithuania, and Staritsa's geographical location made it an ideal base for negotiations with the Polish king. They say that Ivan even wanted to make it the capital of Russia, calling it "my beloved town".

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, stone construction began in earnest in the town. The town's Kremlin was built on a bank overlooking the Volga, surrounded by a four-metre high wooden wall and 13 towers. The Kremlin housed a prince's palace, Boyars and Strelets's (guardsmen) houses, two churches, a jail, barns and so on. People traded honey and wax, sturgeon, white salmon, clothes and shoes, jugs and sickles, horseshoes and locks.

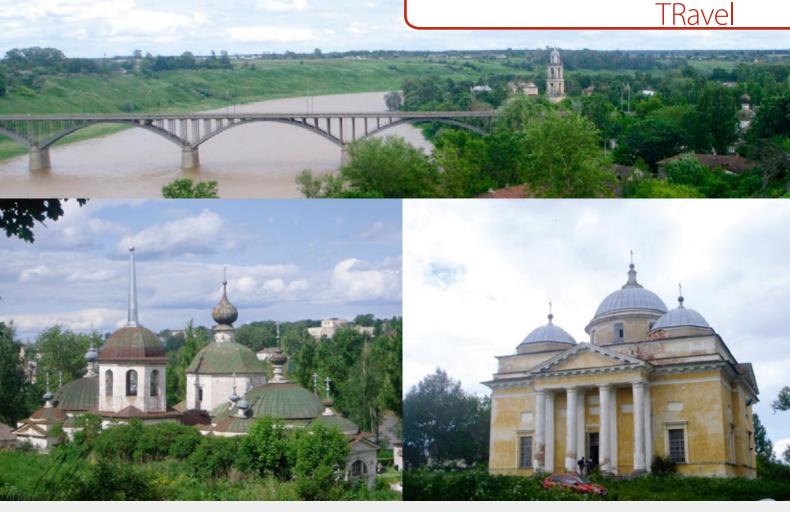
The grandest building in the Kremlin was the Boris and Gleb cathedral with its five-hipped roofs. The cathedral was constructed in 1558-61 to a very original design. Being a contemporary of St. Basil's cathedral in Moscow, it was most probably built to commemorate the conquest of Kazan. The cathedral was richly decorated with white stone carvings, coloured tiles, a large panel with a portrayal of the crucifixion on it, and other details. It was undoubtedly majestic and splendid. It stood on the very edge of a hill and its roofs rose up into the sky from the steep bank of the Volga. Its central tower was thirty metres high, and must have been an impressive sight.

The cathedral withstood the Time of Troubles, but later Patriarch Nikon, who didn't like hipped roof churches, ordered its demolition.

Now the spot is a plateau with nothing remains to remind one of the majestically beautiful Kremlin. From here, an excellent panorama of Staritsa and its vicinity opens up. The Dormition Cathedral (1530), is one of the oldest in north east Russia, and looks like a picture postcard. This is one of the most original examples of old-Russian stone architecture. Under Ivan IV, architects built a hall in the cathedral's refectory chamber resembling the Faceted Chamber of the Moscow Kremlin.

The life story of a very interesting person, the prelate lov, is connected with Staritsa. In some records, lov is described as being an educated man with a phenomenal memory. In others he is thought of being a not very bright man from the provinces, which means that his contemporaries' attitude towards him was contradictory. Anyway, lov became the first Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia. He was buried in the Staritsa Dormition Cathedral and then reburied in the Dormition Cathedral in the Moscow Kremlin.

At different times, Staritsa fell under the jurisdiction of Smolensk, St. Petersburg, then Novgorod. In 1775 it was finally ap-



pended to Tver province. By that time the town had developed shoe-making, pottery and other crafts, among which black-smithing was particularly famous. At the foot of the site of the former Kremlin you can still see arches where smiths shoed horses, built carts and carriages, made scythes, sickles, axes, knives and pitchforks. All these goods were highly valued far from Staritsa. In many Russian museums, Staritsa chain armour and helmets are displayed.

The town traded bread, wood, hemp, and guarried marble. Marble was widely used for coating buildings, for foundations and monuments. Merchants bought it and floated it on barges to Tver, Yaroslavl, Petersburg. On this now guiet bank of the Volga, a white stone quay used for mooring heavy cargo barges is still preserved.

Near the Volga is a building in the shape of a semi-rotunda with semi-columns. Originally they were the two of them, identical in every respect. Looking quite imposing, they served as an entrance to the commercial part of the town, though in fact they were nothing but warehouses where people could buy all sorts of food and beverages. Pushkin used to buy champagne there. He came to Staritsa in 1829, spent Christmas with the local nobility, enjoying himself in their estates nearby. Here he wrote The Winter Morning and some chapters from Eugene Onegin.

One of the former estates is Krasnoye. Its owner was M. Poltoratsky, Anna Kern's grandfather. It was to her that Pushkin dedicated A Magic Moment I Remember, one of his most wonderful poetic masterpieces. Pushkin's visit, and its extremely beautiful church, make Krasnoye a special place. The Transfiguration church (1790) was built in an unusual style for Russia, the pseudo gothic.

Evgeny Klodt, a grandson of the prominent sculptor Peter Klodt, who produced the famous horses on the Anichkov bridge in St. Petersburg, created one of the greatest Russian museums in Staritsa. Its collections were so valuable that before World War II, the museum was included into the World Museum catalogue published in Leipzig. Pushkin's poems, impromptus and sketches were among especially priceless exhibits in the museum.

For three months in 1941, Staritsa was occupied by the Nazis. The white stone trading stalls, the main street running down to the Volga and the great museum with all its collections were all destroyed. The town was demolished and almost burnt to the ground. So why is the town worth seeing now?

For lovers of Russian antiquity, history, literature and architecture, a trip to Staritsa promises a lot for both hearts and minds. Here you find that unique combination of peace and vastness, slowness and spaciousness, deliberateness and immensity that is peculiar to Russia.



## Surprizing Kuala Lumpur

Text and photos by John Bonar









After nigh-on 16 years of living in Russia nothing, not even a wide-spread network of Malaysian friends in Russia's capital, prepared me for the Kuala Lumpur experience, or as the city is universally known, KL. I hadn't realized how ingrained Russian attitudes and suspicions had become in me. My first thought on arriving at KL's international airport was, "Why are all these people smiling at me?"

Policemen and immigration officers, trying to be helpful, welcoming? What was this? What was wrong with these people?

This welcoming smile pervades the whole Malaysian nation it seems. From the hotel to the shopping malls, to the street hawkers and garden attendants, from the gardeners to the executives all are smiling.

I checked into the Traders Hotel, right in the KL Convention Centre and again the standard of service was simply overwhelming. OK, the consistently happy smiling faces around me were now accepted as part of the Malaysian way of life. But to dial the Service Centre over an Internet connectivity problem and be greeted by the operator, "Good afternoon Mr. Bonar, how can I help you?" was a definite curve ball.

A seemingly happy and irrepressibly smiling young man from housekeeping would clear my room, bring me an extra supply of low-calorie sweeteners and ask if there was anything else I needed before leaving.

The waiters on the 33<sup>rd</sup> floor SkyBar with its view of the iconic Petronas Twin Towers were all enthusiastic in offering seating, a menu and bringing beverages. Everyone, but everyone, was falling over themselves to make sure I was taken care of.

The electric shuttle cart that sedately transfers guests between the hotel and the Suria KLCC shopping mall that lies between the Twin Towers were solicitous about getting me on board with my prosthetic leg, and the valets at the hotel entrance rushed to open doors and assist me out of cars.

While my experience of such beyond-the-call of duty levels of service were in the Traders Hotel, the four-star chain within the legendary Shangri-La family, they are by no means unique.

Ismail Mussa, a British expatriate working in the travel industry here for last eight years says he has yet to meet a tourist not happy with their Malaysian experience.

As he pointed out, "the hotel workers are not even doing it in hope of a tip. They genuinely want to make visitors feel welcome."

I arrived expecting tropical heat and clingy humidity. I found temperatures at a consistent 29 degrees Centigrade with not unpleasant humidity. People rarely wear jackets except in air-conditioned offices. Light trousers and polo shirts seem to be the uniform of the city. With its annual Formula 1 Race, splendid local golf courses and easy access to the Genting Highlands mountain casino and amusement park resort, KL is attracting more tourist interest fuelled by competitive fares and impeccable service from Emirates airlines.

The hub of commerce, politics, culture and education, Kuala Lumpur's skyline is a striking contrast of ultra-modern structures and charming heritage buildings. The imposing 88-story Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest twin building, is a major draw for most visitors with the complex including the fabulous six-floor 140,000 sq m Suria Shopping Mall with everything from Gucci to KFC.

Every visitor should head to the KL Bird Park. The world's largest free-flight walk-in aviary it boasts 3,000 birds of 200 local and foreign species including Brahminy Kite eagles, Flamingos and Hornbills. It covers 21 acres of the 91 acres lush valley of the Kuala Lumpur Lake Gardens. This is also home to the Orchid Garden, the Butterfly Park the Malaysian National Monument and the Deer Park.

A million visitors a year head to Malaysia by road, rail and air from neighbouring Singapore. Many of them are weekend trippers to KL and they come because it is inexpensive. They leave laden with electronics goods, sportswear, fashion shopping, and with stomachs full of the fabulous food.

Like most of the restaurants on Alors street, which runs parallel to the tourist magnet of Bintang Walk, Sam Kee's is Chinese. Apart from a couple of Thai places, the cuisine on offer on this street is universally Chinese.

When I say "on the street" I mean it. The kitchens are stalls on the pavement and the restaurant expands at night as traffic slows. More folding tables are brought out and set up, spreading over the pavement and spilling onto the road, first one lane and then two lanes of traffic replaced by al fresco diners.

Sam Kee offers Claypot Ginger Wine Chicken, Fried Oysters, Steamed Fish, Grilled Fish and Fried Fish; Butter Saute Crab, Chili Crab and Kau Hiong Crab. Fabulous Food at fabulously inexpensive prices. Sam Kee is typical of what is called Hawker Food.

Locals eat here all the time.

A plate of chicken fried rice for example with a fiery sauce on the side is MR 6, or less than \$2.

I'm still thinking in roubles and just add a couple of zeros. So, 600 roubles for a freshly made dish that happily feeds two is a bargain in any language.

I can't wait to go back.



## Out & About



#### Handel and guests are entertained at the palace at Ostankino

George Frideric Handel, with a bottle of claret, explaining to a full house at Count Sheremetyevo's private theatre in the palace at Ostankino, on 15 July 2010, how he was appointed court musician by George I, Elector of Hanover and soon to be King of England, in 1710.

This show, which will be performed on the 12th of August in English, portrays Handle's life, as represented in jokes and letters of the time. The show is illustrated with arias from his many operas, including "Rinaldo", "Ottone". Soloists from Moscow's best opera theatres, dressed up in magnificent costumes, to the accompaniment of a chamber orchestra; members of which are also suitably attired, will entertain all who love Handle. www.prozrchny.com



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## **Psychic** Octupii, Rapist Whales and Gender **Bending Trout**

By Anth Ginn

The country is gradually recovering from the embarrassment of our performance in the World Cup. A man was found unconscious in the gutter in Soho, after drowning his sorrows. He had a bridle and reigns around his shoulders, a tennis ball stuffed in his mouth, and was wearing fishnet stockings, suspenders, a skimpy, lacy basque and an England shirt. The police removed the England shirt to save embarrassment to his family. A record number of people took time off work during the competition, including Wayne Rooney and John Terry.

All is not gloom and doom. England did win something however, thanks to Paul—from Weymouth. Paul, is an octopus who emigrated to Germany and embarked on a highly successful career as a psychic. He correctly predicted the results of all Germany's games, and when Germany were knocked out in the semi-final, correctly forecast Spain as the winners. His failsafe method was to pick a mussel from a Perspex box displaying the flag of his chosen team. Paul's handlers rewarded him by dropping a small replica of the Jules Rimet trophy into his tank. The eight-legged oracle has four times as many Facebook friends than Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor. One bookmaker has offered odds on Paul's future career: 8-1 that he will become a bookmaker himself, 20-1 he will release a record, 100-1 he will unveil his own brand of calamari, 250-1 that he will return to the UK to advise the Chancellor, George Osborne on economic policy, and 1,000-1 that he will become part of a paella. After predicting Germany's defeat, Paul received death threats, and after the match, over three hundred thousand people in Berlin began singing anti-octopus songs. The Spanish government have offered Paul asylum, and guaranteed his safety should he decide to move to Spain. Paul, worried that he may end up as a tapas, declined the offer.

Staying on a nautical theme, Daniel Hammond, aged 21, found himself in court recently after claiming he'd been raped by a whale. Hammond, who phoned the emergency services to report the crime, gave his name as Ben Dover and his address as Dr Who's Tardis. The prosecutor claimed Hammond enjoyed wasting the emergency services' time with his bizarre stories. On a previous occasions he'd dialed 999 to report his penis dropping off because he'd smoked too much grass, and on another occasion, claimed he was Saddam Hussein and had planted a bomb in Sevenoaks. His lawyer confirmed Hammond had indeed smoked too much grass, but said he didn't appear to be missing any body parts, although she couldn't personally verify this.

Staying on a nautical, disappearing-penis theme, all is not well with our native male fish. They are changing into



females. Research has shown that a third of male fish in English rivers are changing sex due to "gender-bending" pollution. Female hormones from the contraceptive pill and HRT are being washed into our rivers and causing them to produce eggs.

The Environment Agency study looked at the health of more than 1600 roach found in 51 rivers and streams around the country and discovered that a third of the male fish were changing sex. In one particularly polluted waterway more than 80 per cent of males were developing female characteristics.

Tests showed the males developed female sex organs and were producing eggs. Such fish also produce less sperm and the sperm that is produced is of low quality. Researcher Professor Charles Tyler said that the fish are swimming in a soup of oestrogen-like compounds, found in the Pill and in HRT. The hormone, which is also produced naturally by women and found in industrial waste, is released into our waterways after surviving the sewage treatment process.

The Exeter University professor said it is too early to say what the long-term implications will be for Britain's fishlife. While it may not initially have a big impact on stock levels, a reduction in the number of breeding males could lead to all sorts of genetic problems in later years. The professor said, "In five years' item, the whole system could go belly-up."

As anyone who has ever been to the pantomime, a fancy dress ball, or even a run of the mill party, knows, the British like gender-bending. Little excuse is needed for an Englishman to stuff tissues into a bra, grab hold of his wife's makeup, hop into a dress, daub his face and become female for a few hours. Nobody ever thought the gender change would become permanent, but, due to the oestrogen, this may become the case. The hormone changing male trout and roaches into females could have a similar effect on us.

Although there is no conclusive proof, it is thought the hormone could be partly to blame for falling sperm counts in men. British men's sperm counts dropped by almost a third between 1989 and 2002, and one in six couples now have difficulty conceiving.

Prof Tyler said: "There is certainly the potential for it to have an effect in humans, and possibly a marked effect."

In conservative UK, where the favorite position for sex is the missionary position, there is a fear that in five years time, the men could all be going belly up too. And maybe the transvestite drunk, in the gutter in Soho can blame his fate on oestrogen in his beer, as well as England's dismal performance in South Africa. P

## Dare to ask Dare



Photo by Maria Savelieva

Expats and Russians alike ask celebrity columnist Deidre Dare questions about life in Moscow.

#### Dear Deidre:

I am Russian, but I am really hooked on traditional American values like democracy/capitalism and "the customer always comes first." However, when I speak to young Americans about this, they hate the entire 200 year old 100% American viewpoint. Does this mean that young Americans hate their old generation?

#### Dear Yankaphilic Russkie:

Although I grant I haven't read it in a while, I believe that Thomas Jefferson and the other Founding Fathers didn't put anything in the Declaration of Independence regarding the right to good customer service.

Just a little history lesson for 'ya there, mate.

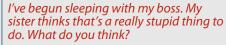
But I suppose if they had, it probably would have come right after that enigmatic "pursuit of happiness" business. I always wish we'd been granted the right TO happiness rather than merely the right to search for it fruitlessly. Ah, well...

Anyway, regarding your young Yanks, they all sound like traitors to their country: no self-respecting American would put up with bad service, except, of course, in New York City. And I'm guessing they probably wouldn't be anti-democracy/capitalism, either, except, of course, in the White House.

Just a little political theory lesson for 'ya there, mate.

xxooDD

#### **Dear Deidre:**



#### Dear Sleeping Her Way to the Top:

Usually, sleeping with your supervisor is a good idea that can bring you lots of hard-to-obtain perks. I seem to have made rather a habit of it, and it's almost always worked out for me.

In fact, I find it most unfortunate that I now work for myself. Ah, well...

xxooDD

#### Dear Deidre:

Why is simple drinking water not served in Moscow restaurants? In USA and other big cities, it is being served anywhere just after you sit down!

#### **Dear Parched & In Need of Evian:**

During the first year or so that I lived in Moscow, I freely drank the tap water (that's what's served in Western World restaurants when you sit down, by the way: tap water, free of charge).

I still bleed a little every time I go to the bathroom in the mornings.

'Nuff said? I certainly hope so! xxooDD

#### **Dear Deidre:**

Really! Come on! Stop being coy: what happened to your Moscow News Column? I miss you desperately and Fridays have become pointless!

## Dear Can't Live, if Living Is Without Me (Can't give, Can't Give Anymore):

Ah, well...

Check out Deidredare.com. I think you'll be happily surprised.

#### **Dear Deidre:**

As an expat, I find it amazing that there aren't any bugs in Moscow during the summers. Any theories?

Dear Missing Those Whom Flaunt a

#### **Crunchy Exoskeleton:**

Interestingly enough, I do have a theory about this (she wrote, as she watched her Russian housekeeper cruelly vacuum up live flies. "My, these Russians can be cold!" she remarked to herself as she turned back to the keyboard after watching a fly struggle helplessly against the rule of physics which teaches us that nature indeed "abhors a vacuum").

And here it is: Those found to be in possession of exoskeletons were purged by Stalin during the period 1936-1938.

Ah, well... xxooDD

#### Dear Deidre:

Why don't you have any children?

#### Dear Breeder:

I guess you've never seen my abs. Trust me, they're keepers.

I was recently going out with someone who desperately wanted children – he took one look at my stomach and completely changed his mind.

Seriously. xxooDD

#### Dear Deidre:

I'm a 22 year old Russian woman and I absolutely know that I am terrible in bed. Any helpful hints you can give me?

#### Dear in Danger of Being A Non-Breeder:

When I was about your age, I attended a seminar given by the convicted felon Sydney Biddle Barrows (aka The Mayflower Madam) and learned everything a girl needs to know in the bedroom department.

The only "famous" Russian prostitute I can find on Google is Anna Plushenko. So, my advice is to her:

Start giving classes, honey! xxooDD

Do you have a question for Deidre Dare? If so, please email her at Deidre\_ Clark@hotmail.com.

## Family Pages

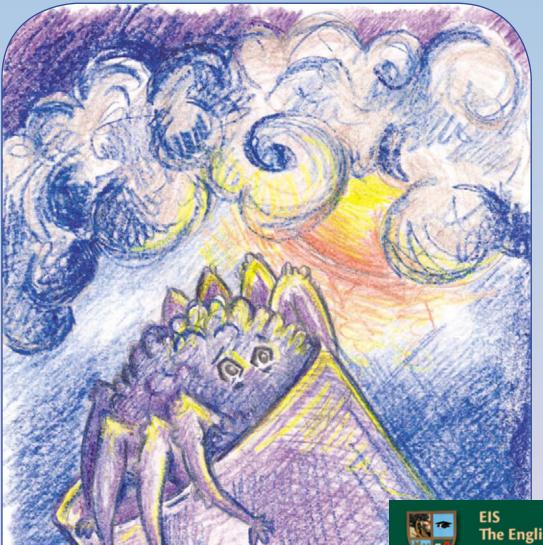


Lisa: "For the summer, we have two more humorous rhymes for you to learn with your children. Both will appeal to youngsters' sense of the comically absurd. Both poems go well with visual aids, like a brown paper bag and ticking small children. I am a bit worried about that spider which looks anything but 'incy-wincy' to me!"



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## Incy Wincy Spider

Incy Wincy spider
Climbing up the spout;
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out.

Out came the sunshine Dried up all the rain; Incy Wincy spider Climbed the spout again.



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### Family Pages

#### Puzzles Compiled by Ross Hunter

#### 1 Tourists' Moscow

August is quieter in the city. So why not be a tourist, and catch up on all the famous sights? All these famous sites are within a camera lens of Red Square. Can you match the places to the odd angled photos? Have you seen them all yourself?







The Hotel Metropol

The Kazan Cathedral

**GUM** 

The State Historical Museum

**The Kremlin** 

Bolshoi Theatre







#### 2 All roads lead to ....

Each of these eight main streets radiates away from the Kremlin. But in which direction? Can you put them in order, and add their direction?

Tverskaya goes NW Ostozhenka Prospect Mira Yakimanka

Myasnitskaya Pokrovka Novy Arbat Solyanka/Marxistskaya

## 3 Round and round in circles

These are Moscow's ring roads. Put them in order, nearest the centre first:

3<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Ring MKAD Boulevard Ring Kremlin Ring Garden Ring

#### 4 Mini Sudoku

| 2 |   |   | 3 |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 5 | 1 |   | 2 |
|   | 6 |   |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   | 2 |   |
|   |   | 6 |   |   | 4 |
|   |   | 3 |   |   | 1 |

#### July solutions; Mini Sudoku: see www.englishedmoscow.com

#### **Moscow foot-bridges**

Top row: Frunzenskaya – Bolotnaya (over the canal) – Kievskaya

Bottom: Prechistenskaya (over the river, next to Christ the Saviour) - Luzhkov (the wedding bridge) - Tessinssky (on the Yauza)

#### **Bridge walks**

Neither Konigsberg nor Moscow can be walked in a single tour, as in each case there are more than two places with 1, 3 or 5 routes. With an odd number of routes, you must start or finish there, so there can be no more than two places like this. In both cities, building or removing any bridge, anywhere allows the walk to be done. Try it!

#### Age puzzles

The students are 16: 2<sup>3</sup>x2 this year, 3x5 last year. I could be 40 (2<sup>3</sup>x5 now, after 3x13); 56 (2<sup>3</sup>x7, 5x11) or 88 (2<sup>3</sup>x11, 3x29); but also 23 (now 1<sup>3</sup>x23, earlier 2x11), 47 (1<sup>3</sup>x47; 2x23), 59 (1<sup>3</sup>x59, 2x29) or 83 (1<sup>3</sup>x83, 2x41).

# A lady who after-lunched

#### **Catherine the Great**

Simon Dixon
Profile Books £9.99

By Ian Mitchell

If one thing is generally known about Catherine the Great it is that she liked sex. Even before she became Empress, on the death of her estranged husband Tsar Peter III, she was notorious for her love affairs, which were usually consummated during the quiet hour after lunch. The rest of the day, from early in the morning until late at night, she devoted herself to state business and, as a result, became one of the most successful and admired rulers Russia has ever had.

Catherine was intelligent, energetic, grounded yet courageous. She came to the throne, in 1762, in the middle of the European Enlightenment and tried to bring the principles of rational administration, as espoused by Voltaire, Diderot and Montesquieu, to bear on the primitive governance of Russia.

But when she died, in 1796, Russia was not significantly closer to catching up with the advanced countries of western Europe in terms of political organisation. Serfdom was harsher than it had been when she came to power. And censorship had been re-imposed, paving the way for the disappointingly half-liberal regime of Alexander I and the totally illiberal regime of Nicholas I, which lasted until 1855 by which time the slide to Revolution was arguably unstoppable. Catherine was, in other words, a failure in the terms she would have set herself when she deposed her pock-marked, pro-Prussian martinet of a husband. For such a talented and hard-working woman, the biographer's question is: why?

For anyone interested in the larger question of why Russia has never at any time in its history managed to establish a form of constitutional reciprocity between the rulers and the ruled, Catherine's failure is key. She had absolute power for more than three decades, longer than Peter the Great or Stalin. She brought Russia's influence in European politics to its highest point, and expanded its territory by more than any other ruler since Ivan the Terrible.

Yet Professor Dixon's conclusion is damning:

"[Catherine] had ultimately been unable to trust the Enlightenment's fundamental belief in self-development [so] a reign which began by fostering a degree of intellectual independence ended by enveloping some of Russian's most interesting writers in clouds of suspicion. Catherine had not succeeded in her aim of establishing a firm rule of law, and the rational bureaucratic institutions she had worked so hard to establish never emasculated the informal patronage networks by which Russia had long been governed."

The special relevance of the last observation is that about half-way through Catherine's reign, when her power and potential were at their height, a document was written half a world away, by men tutored in the Anglo-Scottish Enlightenment, which established a small independent state on the eastern seaboard of the north American continent that was to come to dominate the world. That state was based on the idea of "a government of laws not of men". Russia, by contrast, had always been governed by men not laws, and continues so to this day, when its power and influence is a fraction of that of the then insignificant United States.

The key to this change of fortune lies in the fact that the European Enlightenment espoused subtly different ideas about rationality and liberty from the Anglo-Scottish Enlightenment. In the end, Voltaire, Diderot and Montesquieu gave rise to the French Revolution and a bureaucratic approach to national improvement, whereas the work of John Locke, David Hume and Adam Smith led on to a liberty-based, free-trade En-

lightenment. The tragedy of Catherine is that she thought, rather as President Medvedev is said to do today, that you could command innovation, command culture, command trust.

In 1767, just nine years before the promolgation of the American Declaration of Independence, Catherine published her Nakaz, or Instruction, to a commission that was to reform and improve the laws of Russia. The title is tellingly authoritarian, and its spirit is reflected in paragraph 13, which defined the role of monarchy as "correcting the actions of the people to attain the supreme good." In other words, public virtue was to be achieved by command. The American idea was that everyone should have the right to "the pursuit of happiness", a phrase which implies individual appraoches, not a state-defined one.

Professor Dixon, who holds the Sir Bernard Pares Chair of Russian History at the University of London, re-enforces the sense of tragedy in Catherine's failure by describing just how well-meaning and intelligent she was. He notes, for example, how a French diplomat once recorded her as saying:

"More is to be learned by speaking to ignorant person about their own affairs, than by talking with the learned, who have nothing but theories, and who would be ashamed not to answer you by ridiculous observations on subjects of which they have no positive knowledge. How I pity these poor savants! They never dare to pronounce these four worlds: 'I do not know.'"

If the beginning of all knowledge is the consciousness of ignorance, then Catherine had the right equipment to understand. But in the end, for all her German common sense and gumption—she came from Stettin in Pomerania—authoritarian goodness simply did not work as a political system. It is strange that someone with the inner freedom to behave as Catherine did after lunch did not think more about the power of individual liberty during the rest of the day.

#### Distribution list

#### **Restaurants & Bars**

Academy Adriatico Adzhanta

Aist Alrosa

American Bar & Grill

Apshu Art Bazar Art Chaikhona Australian Open Baan Thai Beavers BeerHouse Bellezza

**Blooming Sakura** 

Bookafe

Bistrot

Cafe des Artistes

Cafe Atlas Cafe Courvoisier Cafe Cipollino Cafe Michelle Cafe Mokka

Cantinetta Antinori

Carre Blanc

Che

China Dream Cicco Pizza Coffee Bean Costa Coffee **Cutty Sark** Da Cicco Darbar French Cafe Gallery of Art Guilly's

Hotdogs Ichiban Boshi Il Patio Italianets

Hard Rock Cafe

Katie O'Sheas Labardans Liga Pub

Louisiana Steak House Molly Gwynn's Pub

Navarros Night Flight Pancho Villa Papa's Pizza Express Pizza Maxima Planeta Sushi **Prognoz Pogody** Real McCoy Rendezvous R&B Cafe Scandinavia

Seiji Shafran Shamrock Shanti

50

Silvers Irish Pub Simple Pleasures Starbucks Mega Khimki Starbucks Arbat 19

Starbucks Mega Belaya Dacha Starbucks Moscow City Center

Starbucks Arbat 38 Starbucks Scheremetyevo Starbucks Dukat Starbucks Tulskaya Starbucks Galereya Akter Starbucks Metropolis Business

Starbucks Zemlyanoi Val Starbucks Pokrovka

Starbucks Chetyre Vetra Starbucks on Kamergersky

Starbucks Baltchug Starbucks Festival

Starbucks Belaya Ploschad

Starbucks MDM

Starbucks Fifth Avenue Busi-

ness center

Starbucks on Akademika

Plekhanova Street

Starbucks Schuka Business

Center

Starbucks Zvezdochka Starbucks Sokolniki Starbucks Druzhba

Starbucks Mega Teply Stan Starbucks Severnoye Siyaniye

Starbucks Atrium Starlite Diner Sudar

T. G. I. Friday's Talk of the Town Tapa de Comida

Tesoro Vanilla Skv Voque Cafe Yapona Mama

#### Hotels

Akvarel Hotel Moscow

Art-Hotel

Barvikha Hotel&spa

Belgrad

Courtyard by Marriott

Golden Apple Hotel

East-West

Hilton Leningradskaya

Iris Hotel Katerina-City Hotel

Marriott Grand Marriot Royal Aurora Marriott Tverskaya

Metropol

Mezhdunarodnaya 2

Maxima Hotels National Novotel 1, 2 Proton

Radisson Slavyanskaya

Renaissance **Sheraton Palace** 

Soyuz Sretenskaya

Swissotel Krasnye Holmy

Volga Zavidovo Zolotoye Koltso

#### **Business Centers**

American Center **Business Center Degtyarny** Business Center Mokhovaya Dayev Plaza Ducat Place 2 Dunaevsky 7 Gogolevsky 11 Iris Business Center Japan House

Meyerkhold House Morskoi Dom Mosalarko Plaza

Lotte Plaza

Moscow Business Center

Mosenka 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Novinsky Passage Olympic Plaza Romanov Dvor Samsung Center

Sodexho

#### **Embassies**

Australia Austria Belgium Brazil Canada China Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Delegation of EC Egypt

Finland France Germany Hungary Iceland Indonesia India Israel Italy Japan Kuwait Luxembourg Malaysia Mauritius Mexico

Netherlands New Zealand Norway Pakistan Peru **Philippines** Poland Portugal

Saudi Arabia Singapore Slovenia South Africa

South Korea Spain

Sweden Thailand

**United Arab Emirates** United Kingdom

**United States** 

#### **Medical Centers**

American Clinic American Dental Clinic American Dental Center American Medical Center European Dental Center

European Medical Center . German Dental Center International SOS **US Dental Care** MedinCentre

#### **Others**

American Chamber of Commerce **American Express** Anglo-American School American Institute of Business and Economics

Association of European

Businesses Astravel

Aviatransagentstvo **Baker Hughes** 

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Coca Cola Citibank Concept MR, ZAO Dr. Loder's

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Moscow Voyage Bureau Move One Relocations

NB Gallery Park Place **PBN Company** Penny Lane Realty Philips Russia Pilates Yoga Pokrovky Hills

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Procter & Gamble

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Renaissance Capital

Respublika Rolf Group Ruslingua

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3-room property. New residential complex. Prestigious district in the center of Moscow. Classic English-style interior design.

More photos at www.realtor.ru/a61847

#### Slavyanskiy Bulvar.

Newly renovated and fully furnished 3-room apartment. Underground parking, fenced and monitored courtyard. Panoramic window view.

More photos at www.realtor.ru/a63480

