

PASSPORT MOSCOW

MARCH 2012

www.passportmagazine.ru

The Best Holiday of the Year **WOMEN'S DAY!**

In Defence of Putin

The opposition in historical context

Moscow Square Dancing

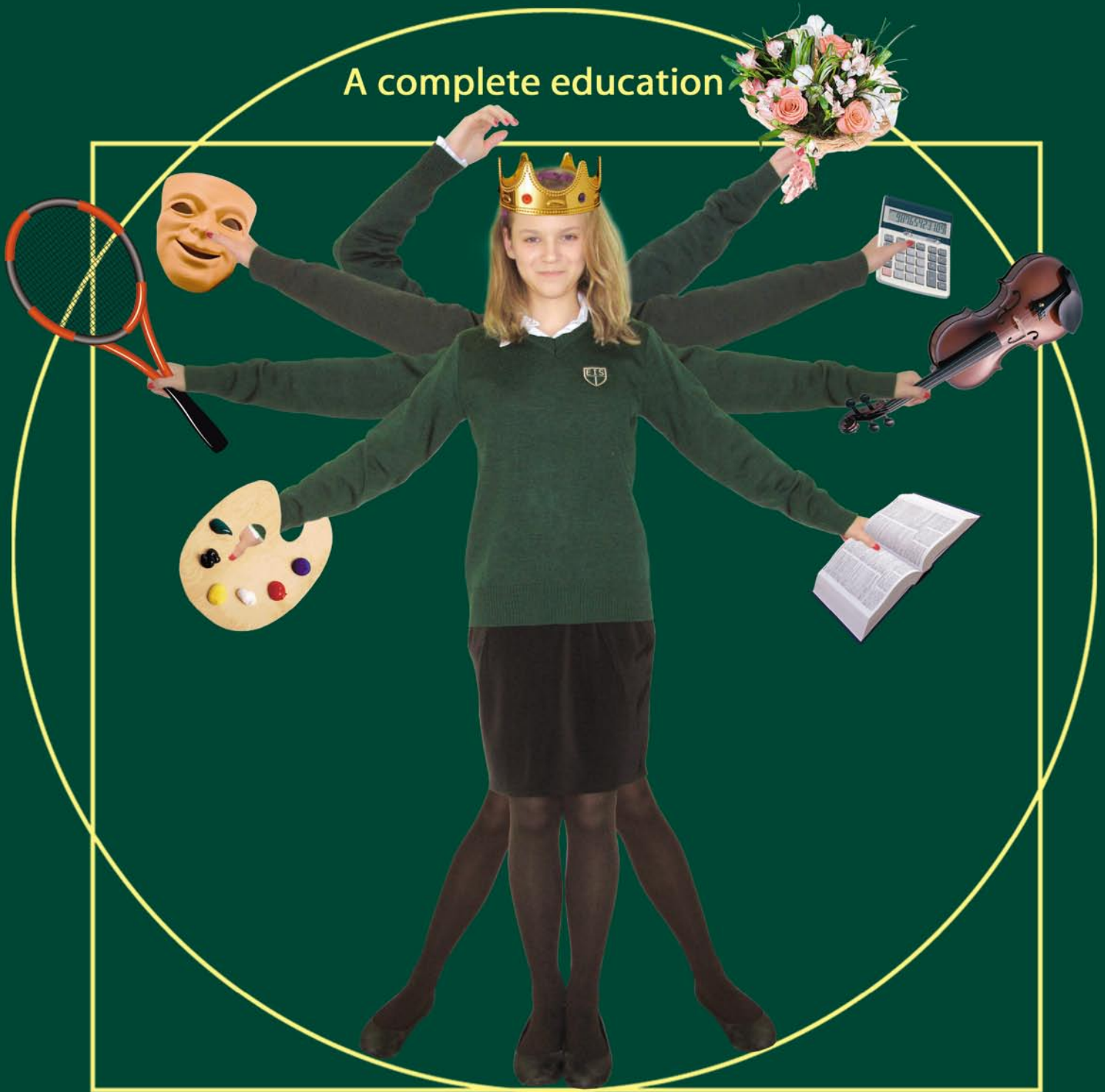


Cover painting by Kelly Reemtsen

EIS - The English International School Moscow



A complete education



"Renaissance students make the multi-tasking simple..."
Come and see for yourself - you will be made most welcome
Swimming gala 20 March
Junior play "The Pied Piper" 28 March



British owned, managed & staffed

301 21 04
You Tube: 'EISMoscow'
englishedmoscow.com



4

4. Previews

Aline Kalinina



10

8. Theatre Reviews

Marina Lukanina

10. Women's Day

12. The Way It Is

In Defence of Putin, Jon Hellevig

Russia's Second Historic Turning Point, Ian Mitchell

Red Wedding III, Helen Womack

Moscow Square Dancing



22

22. Travel

Tutaev, Larissa Franklin

Kiev, Luc Jones



27

27. Out & About

Moscow Dragons' RFC Valentine's Ball, Ross Hunter

NB Gallery, Ross Hunter

Quiz night at Katie O'Shea's, Ross Hunter

28. Investment

Student Accommodation



30

30. English

The Toastmaster, Peter Hainsworth

Children's Camps, Peter Hainsworth

32. Profile

33. Family pages

Puzzle Page, Ross Hunter

The Star Child, illustrated by Nica Harrison



33

36. Distribution List



John Ortega

Owner and Publisher

PASSPORT

By now the results of the elections will be known, no matter whether the results are out or not. To re-balance the political scale, which were perhaps set too strongly against Mr Putin in John Harrison's article: Evolution, in the February issue, Jon Hellevig argues that Mr Putin is in fact largely responsible for fostering democracy in Russia. His arguments strike a chord amongst many 'old hands' here. Meanwhile, Ian Mitchell, also in this issue, presents a rather long potted history of Russia and attempts to frame the current situation in the context of Russia's past.

Perhaps of more importance to most Russians is what happens on the 8th of March. The nicest possible holiday, when millions of men do the right thing for once, that is buy flowers for their beloved women who they mostly abuse and scorn the rest of the year. Helen Borodina supplies a short history of the holiday and a few of our female colleagues supply commentaries of what exactly the holiday means to them. Happy Women's Day!

As we head into 2012, PASSPORT is now printing 10,000 copies a month, is distributed through Starbucks, the hotels, restaurants and the kind of places we think ex-pats hang out (pubs mostly). We are dependent on your advertising to survive, and your editorial support. So if you think that the magazine is important please contribute.

Owner and Publisher

John Ortega, +7 (985) 784-2834
jortega@passportmagazine.ru

Editor

John Harrison
j.harrison@passportmagazine.ru

Arts Editor

Alevtina Kalinina
alevtina@passportmagazine.ru

Designer

Julia Nozdracheva
chiccone@yandex.ru

Webmaster

Alexey Timokhin
alexey@telemark-it.ru

Accounting and Legal Services

ООО Юридическая Компания
"Правовые Инновации",
111024, г. Москва, пр-д завода
"Серп и Молот", д.5, стр.1,
(495)223-10-62,
Гл бухгалтер.
Якубович Любовь Александровна

Book and Whisky Editor

Ian Mitchell
ian@ianmitchellonline.co.uk

Nightlife editor

Miguel Francis
miguel@passportmagazine.ru

Contributors

Ross Hunter, Nica Harrison,
Marina Lukanina, Helen Womack,
Luc Jones, Larissa Franczek, Ian Mitchell,
Helen Borodina, Jon Hellevig,
Peter R. Hainsworth,
Alexander Ksenofontov

Editorial Address:

GS PARK Projektiruemi Proezd No 3610 1st
Floor, office 013.
Moscow 115054
Office 013, 1st floor
109316 Moscow, Russia
Tel. +7 (495) 640-0508
Fax +7 (495) 620-0888

Sales: (8) 916 521 3110

www.passportmagazine.ru

Published by ООО PASSPORT
Magazine. All rights reserved.
This publication is registered by
the Press Ministry No. 77-25758.
14.09.2006
Printed by BlitzPrint. Moscow
representative office:
127051, Moscow, Petrovsky
Boulevard, Dom 10.

PASSPORT occasionally uses
material we believe has been
placed in the public domain.
Sometimes it is not possible to
identify and contact the copyright
owner. If you claim ownership of
something we have published, we
will be pleased to make a proper
acknowledgment.

Every Sunday



ADVERTISING

PRIME RIB DINNER

START FROM FEBRUARY 19TH

STRASTNOY BLVD, 8A ★ 988-17-17 ★ WWW.CHICAGOPRIME.RU

Kavkaz

"In simple hearts the feeling for the beauty and grandeur of nature is a hundred-fold stronger and more vivid than in us, ecstatic composers of narratives in words and on paper."
M. Y. Lermontov (1814 - 1841)
"A Hero of Our Time"

Thomas Dworzak is a Magnum photographer, which describes what he shoots, how and where he works better than any press release. Dworzak was born in Kötzing, Germany, in 1972 and grew up in the small town of Cham in the Bavarian Forest. Towards the end of his high school studies, he began to travel and take photographs in Europe and the Middle East, living in Avila, Prague and Moscow. After photographing the war in former Yugoslavia, he lived in Tbilisi, Georgia. He documented the conflicts in Chechnya, Karabakh and

Abkhazia as well as working on a larger-scale project about the Caucasus region and its people. Based in Paris from 1999, he covered the Kosovo crisis, mostly for US News and World Report, and returned to Chechnya the same year. After the fall of Grozny in early 2000, he began a project on the impact of the war in Chechnya on the neighbouring North Caucasus. Dworzak became a Magnum nominee in 2000 and a member in 2004. Describing his "Kavkaz" series of photographs which in September 2011 was published as a book of photographs by Schilt Publishing, Dworzak says that the Caucasus for him were love at first sight. In the spring of 1993 he decided to spend a couple of months in Tbilisi, Georgia before beginning his university studies. But instead he stayed for a couple of years, falling in love with the local hospitality, beauty



of languages, rapid changes, wars and conflicts, bravery and cruelty. The current exhibition at Pobeda gallery is an extended version of the photography book and is presented in Moscow for the first time. **P**

March 2-April 1

13:00-20:00,

Tuesdays-Saturdays

Pobeda gallery,

Red October Chocolate Factory

Bolotnaya embankment 3 building 4

Contemporary art from Japan



The Moscow Museum of Modern Art together with the Japan Foundation presents Double Vision, which takes place simultaneously in two venues of the museum and dedicated to modern Japanese artists. The "double" in this context also stands for the two curators who prepare the show. The exhibition is jointly curated by Elena Yanchikova and

Kenjiro Hosaka and presents 30 artists working in different styles between the 1970s and 2000s. The project is composed of two parts: Reality/Ordinary World and Imaginary World/Phantasms. Reality/Ordinary World, gives the "Japanese" perspective on reality through 20th century world history, a reflection of the present-day social structure, the interaction with urban space and the quest of poetry in everyday life. The show will also feature the works by Yoko Ono—the famous Cut Piece in the 1965 and 2003 versions and the sound installation Cough Piece (1961). The exhibition will also present the works by Kishio Suga, an essential figure in the Mono-Ha (literally, the School of Things) movement—the Japanese alternative to the Western Modernism. The photo section

will include the works of Toshio Shibata, Takashi Homma and Lieko Shiga. The pieces of art, which make up the second part of the project, will feature a world where imagination runs without any limitations. They evoke the Japanese pop culture, imaginary worlds, naivety and myths. These two exhibitions within one exhibition are designed to reveal two extremes of the Japanese art, which, despite their polarity, are bound together in actual reality. **P**

March 14-May 6, 11:00-19:00,

every day except Mondays

Moscow Museum of Modern Art,

10 Gogolevsky boulevard

and 17 Ermolaevsky lane

Kasabian

Kasabian released their first album in 2004 and it was destined to become one of the brightest debuts in England's newest history of music. "Club foot" and "Lost Souls Forever" were listened to even by those who knew nothing about the band at all. Mark Ronson released his version of the latter in his "Version" album and pushed it around the clubs. The 2006 disc resulted as number one in British charts for the most popular album. "Velocipator!" is

their latest album and the group starts a tour in its support. Moscow is the location of their first ever concert in Russia. When journalists asked Kasabian why they chose to name their album the name of a dinosaur, the guitarist Sergio Pizzorno answered: "Velocipators used to hunt in packs of four. They were the rock'n'roll band of the dinosaurs," he said. **P**

March 8, 20:30, Stadium Live



Livre d'artiste



Until the late 19th century, book illustrations were limited to being descriptive; when an illustrator –most often a professional engraver tried to depict a visual equivalent of an episode of the narration. Livre d'artiste (artist's book) as a notion emerged in the early 20th century, and stands for an equal collaboration between poets and painters with the rising role of publishers who often created the concept of the future book. Ambroise Vollard—a French art-dealer was one of the first publishers of this kind of book, when he presented the first edition of Paul Verlaine's poems illustrated with Pierre Bonnard's lithographs, unbound (en feuille), in a limited print run of 50, presuming that in such a format there is more credit and interest compared to separate designed sheets. Another art-dealer Daniel-Henry

Kahlweiler went further, and published his "stories by a painter and a poet." His Éditions de la Galerie Simphon came out with a print run of 80.

The Pushkin Museum of fine Arts (private collections department) for the first time presents such a large exhibition of this genre in graphics. For those who were scared off from the recent exhibition of Dali's works by huge queues around the museum, the current show will be a huge delight. Dali's graphics, along with printed works by the prolific Pablo Picasso, Joan Miro, Juan Gris, Antoni Tàpies are also on display. **P**

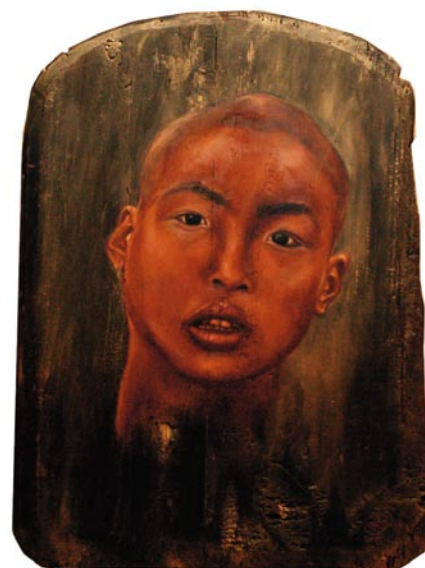
**Until March 25, 10:00-19:00,
Wednesday-Saturday
Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts
Private collection department**

Marga

Alla Dul is a painter born in St. Petersburg, but now residing mainly in a Himalayan monastery in India 4300 meters above sea level. Curator Isabella Tarasova presents Alla's exhibition which includes the works she makes in India. The showcase is entitled Marga which translated from Sanskrit means "path" and is closely related to understanding what a path of love, devotion and self-transformation actually means. Alla's principal theme in painting are people. But the characters of her portraits are depicted outside their social status, as if outside of time and any external attributions. Her paintings grasp meditative and contemplative faces, sometimes calm sometimes rigid, and

narrate about that path of internal transformation through devotion and veneration without which human life makes no sense. Over the years Alla has spent in India, she has developed a personal style and chosen materials for her works, picking canvases and wooden panels some of which are more than three hundred years old. On the one hand her Western trained realism style is seen in every portrait, and on the other hand, the emotional and contemplative component deriving from the Eastern tradition is strongly felt. **P**

**Until March 17, 12:00-20:00,
Tuesdays-Saturdays
19, Rozhdestvensky boulevard**



Dawn of innocence by Nouvelle Vague

To imagine a musical project that survives nowadays only on performing cover



versions of previous years' hits is one thing, but to know that such a project can be successful for many years is another. Critics call the French band Nouvelle Vague "an inventive concoction of clashing but surprisingly complementary moods and styles." The band's two producers Marc Collin and Olivier Libaux are faithful to their verified formula: punk, new wave songs are filtered through the French savoir-faire, sung by siren-like soloists in a bossa nova style. And they are never perceived with a grain of hostility even by those who composed them for their original performance. Nouvelle Vague's new programme based on

"dark songs" of the 1980s is a collaboration with French fashion designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, who has worked on the visual component of the performance. "In this production I meant to create a show that would make passion, art, music and fashion interact with emotions," Castelbajac comments. Nouvelle Vague are regular guests in Moscow, but as their name makes us guess, their performance will unleash another fresh new wave of music here. **P**

**March 17, 20:00
Arena Moscow**

The music of Mendelssohn

One-master musical festivals long ago became special symbols of the Moscow House of Music. Each festival tries to render a portrait of a great composer, even if sketchy, bringing to the surface either unknown compositions, productions or interpretations. This spring's musical forum is dedicated to Felix Mendelssohn.

Today Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy is generally considered to be one of the greatest personalities in 19th century European music, with his vast scope and variety of musical styles he felt at ease in.

Felix Mendelssohn was born in Hamburg in 1809 into a highly respected Jewish family. His grandfather –Moses Mendelssohn was a great philosopher of the age of enlightenment, his father Abraham was a banker. In 1816 Felix's father baptized him and his brothers and sisters into Christianity. As a result, Felix became a mediator between those two religions and this influenced his musical education as well. George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt, Niccolò Paganini were all friends who enjoyed the intellectual atmosphere of Mendelssohn's home.

His father encouraged the young Felix when he showed an interest in the piano. At the age of nine he became a pupil of the highly-respected Ludwig Berger and performed as a pianist in

public for the first time. Shortly after that, he began to write his own compositions and was introduced to the head of the Berlin Singakademie—Carl Friedrich Zelter who played a significant role for Mendelssohn as a composer, making him familiar with Bach's contrapuntal technique and Mozart's late works. At the age of twenty Mendelssohn performed Bach's "Saint Mathew Passion" with the Berlin Singakademie. Today music historians admit that it was Mendelssohn who revealed the genius of Bach to his contemporaries through his own meticulous research of the composer's works. Mendelssohn became the youngest ever conductor at the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig, aged only twenty-six, and became the initiator of the Conservatory of Music—the oldest university school of music in Germany in 1843. Before his early death at the age of only 38 he created more than 750 musical pieces, many of which were scattered around, not attributed and not published for some reason until the 1960s. Only recently in dedication to his 200th anniversary at Saxony's Academy of Sciences a full catalogue of Felix Mendelssohn's oeuvres was published, based on extensive research by Dr. Ralf Wehner, who over a period of several years studied materials from 1500 libraries, 12000 let-



ters and many other materials including auction catalogues. The current Moscow festival comprises a wide programme featuring Mendelssohn's choral, vocal and symphonic compositions, featuring musicians from Russia, Germany, Lithuania and the USA. **P**

March 11-21
House of Music
For programme see
www.mmdm.ru

International festival dedicated to Mstislav Rostropovich

This is the third festival dedicated to Mstislav Rostropovich in Moscow. For the



Russian audience Rostropovich is one of the most significant musicians of the 20th century, without whom it is difficult to imagine today's musical culture. His talent and inspiration influenced his contemporary composers to make music for him, and the foundation of his name has reared several generations of musicians in different genres. The Mstislav Rostropovich festival is directed by his daughter—Olga Mstislavovna, and attracts leading musicians from different countries.

The 27th of March is Rostropovich's 85th anniversary and the opening date of the festival which this year will present an unprecedented list of performers. "Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District" by Dmitri Shostakovich will be played at the festival opening. This will be conducted by Dmitry Yurovsky, and features soloists

from the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra and also several English orchestras. The Moscow Conservatory, the Tchaikovsky concert hall, the House of Unions hall; the halls with the best acoustics in Moscow will host the comprehensive musical programme. Among those taking part are: Rudolph Buchbinder (piano), Yuja Wang (piano), Enrico Dindo (cello), the Academic Symphony Orchestra of the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, maestro Yuri Temirkanov, the Orchestra of the National Academy Santa Cecilia (Rome) conducted by Antonio Pappano, the Orchestra of Paris conducted by Paavo Yarvi, Glenn Miller orchestra, Maxim Vengerov and many others. **P**

March 27-April 27
www.rostropovichfestival.ru



AWARA DIRECT SEARCH

WE GIVE THE HEADHUNTER A FACE



Jon Hellevig:

Positions: Country Managers, CEOs, Board Members, Counselors
Industries: Top level in a broad sector of industries, and Banking and Finance, Management Consulting, Law



Michael Byrne:

Positions: General Managers, Sales & Marketing Directors, B2B
Industries: FMCG, Services, Retail, Telecoms, Information Technologies



Samuli Pesu:

Positions: General Managers, CFOs, Sales & Marketing Directors, HR Directors
Industries: Telecoms, Information Technologies, Construction



Vladimir Drobac:

Positions: General Managers, CFOs, Financial Controllers, Head of Production, HR Directors
Industries: Hospitality, Retail, Manufacturing



Vladimir Zenin:

Positions: Consultants, Operations Managers, HR Managers, Administrative Directors
Industries: Hospitality, Retail



Maria Pavlova:

Positions: Chief Accountants, Sales Managers, Production Directors, Finance directors, CFOs, Financial Controllers
Industries: FMCG, Manufacturing, Construction, B2B goods, Oil & Gas



Mika Kokkonen:

Positions: General Managers, CFOs, Financial Controllers, CAs, HR Directors, Sales Directors
Industries: Hospitality, Retail, FMCG, Construction



Eva Hua:

Positions: Consultants, Sales Managers, Marketing Managers
Industries: Information Technologies, Retail, Manufacturing



Ekaterina Lazareva:

Positions: General Managers, CFOs, Sales Directors, Marketing Directors, HR Directors
Industries: Retail, FMCG, Banking, Luxury Goods, Pharmaceutical, B2B Services



Claude Goubard:

Positions: Marketing Managers, Sales Managers, HR Managers
Industries: Advertising, Pharmaceutical



Julia Studenikina:

Positions: Sales, Key Account Managers, Logistics (import/warehouse) Managers, Operations Managers, Executive Chefs, Administrative Positions
Industries: Transport and Logistics, Hospitality, Manufacturing, FMCG, B2B Services, Metals/Mining



Awara
Direct Search

Global call center for all countries: + 7 495 225 30 38
candidatecenter@awara-search.com
www.awara-search.com

“Anarchy” The Sovremennik Theatre

I was in two minds whether or not to write review this play. I am usually not in favour of writing about something that provokes unpleasant emotions which unfortunately was the case with this performance. At the same time I can't help expressing my attitude towards this “work of art” as there were several aspects in this performance that I find totally unacceptable to see on the stage of such a reputable and well-known theatre.

Everybody is entitled to his or her own opinion of what a theatre is. For me a theatre has strong associations with education, it's a place that teaches you values, that gives you a chance to contemplate eternal human issues. I do not think it is appropriate to make a “drunken brawl” of the theatre. This is exactly how I felt seeing this play.

“Anarchy” is based on a modern English play by Mike Packer called “Dysfunctionals.” According to the theatre's press release, this play had a huge success in London at the Bush Theatre. There are plans to stage it at one of London's West End Theatres.

Garik Sukachev, the Russian rock musician, directed this play and re-named it “Anarchy.” The play tells us a story about an old punk group that decides to make a comeback after 25 years. The group was invited to perform a concert in the United States, however, in order to be accepted by the American producers the musicians had to follow certain rules. I guess it is possible to say that deep down the play is supposed to show us contemplations about the price of compromise—not only in art but in life.

Mikhail Yefremov, the son of the very famous theatre actor and director Oleg Yefremov who, among other things, was the founder of the Sovremennik plays the leading role. It was not a surprise for me that Mikhail Efremov was invited to play in such a performance. His hero's personality reflects well the personality of an actor.

Throughout the entire play the usage of swear words is excessive and embarrassing. Every single sentence had one or another offensive expression that is clearly not part of normal speech. I felt bad for older people and teenagers who were in the audience but also for such people as me who did not expect to see something like that at this theatre.

Another thing that surprised me was the extremely inappropriate treatment of a national symbol. Yefremov's hero was running around the stage using the US flag as a poncho, making outrageous comments about US politics and what was even more shocking, such sad events in the US history as September 11th.

In general this was a very disrespectful performance. I was also stunned by some of the reactions from the audience; some people seemed to support the vandalism of national symbols and the disrespectful attitude towards a country's tragedy (9/11) by applauding at certain moments of a play.

So if you are up for a scandalous play that fosters antagonism among nations you might want to try seeing this. If you are an avid fan of a Sovremennik Theatre and such plays as “Three Sisters”, “Pygmalion”, “Five Evenings” you are better off not going to see this! **P**

When: March 12, 13, 14, 29, 30

**Where: The Sovremennik Theater
19A Chistoprudnyi blvd, www.sovremennik.ru**

Miss Julie The Theatre of Nations

This was my first trip to the Theatre of Nations. I have heard a lot about this venue and its artistic director Yevgeny Mironov but never manage to see anything there.

This theatre was founded in 1987 under the name of Theatre of Friendship. In 1991 it was renamed into the State Theatre of Nations.

The Theatre of Nations is a major play producer. Its playbill includes a wide variety of genres and a host of famous directors. Today its repertoire features such works as Chekhov's Swedish Match staged by Nikita Grishpun; Letters to Felicia (based on Kafka's letters) by Kirill Sbitnev; The Desolate West and Shosha by a graduate of the Russian Theatre Academy Tufan Imamutdinov. These are run side by side with productions by world-famous theatre practitioners: Shukshin's Stories staged by one of the leading European directors Alvis Hermanis (Latvia); the choreographic novella Poor Lisa to the music of Leonid Desyatnikov's chamber opera translated into the language of dance by renowned Russian choreographer and ballerina Alla Sigalova; Gronholm Method by Jordi Galceran, Killer Joe by Tracy Letts staged by Bulgarian director Javor Gardev and Caligula by world-famous director Eimuntas Nekrosius.

My first acquaintance with the theatre began with “Miss Julie,” a play starring Evgeny Mironov and Chulpan Khamatova (an actress from the Sovremennik Theater).

The main character of this play, written by famous Swedish playwright August Strindberg in 1888 became a kind of symbol of the “new type” heroine. In the late 19th century the story of the “moral lapse” of a count's daughter who for one night became the lover of her father's driver was perceived as too realistic. In Sweden “Miss Julie” was censored until 1906. Today it is one of the Swedish playwright's most popular and most frequently staged works.

It is not the first time that well-known German director Thomas Ostermeier has attempted to look into the psychology of this type of personage. Seven years ago, Russian audiences had the opportunity to see Ostermeier's production of Nora in which the title heroine abandons her “doll house” after shooting her husband. The production became a major event for Russian theatre-goers and one of the highlights of the NET Festival in Moscow at which it was shown.

The action of the play is set in contemporary Russia. All the main story lines are preserved while the dialogues have been rewritten in modern language. The entire play is focused on the eternal triangle—Miss Julie, servant Jean and maid Christina. The acting of all three actors is superb.

This performance is definitely not easy Friday evening theatre going stuff, and not something that you would probably want to see twice but worth seeing nonetheless. **P**

**Where: The Theatre of Nations
3, Petrovsky Lane**

**When: check the repertoire
www.theatreofnations.ru/en**

Доставка документов, посылок и грузов
всех видов в любую страну мира.

Delivery of all kinds of documents,
parcels and goods to any country

+ 7 495 661 3541

sp **express**®
курьерская служба

March the 8th



Helen Borodina

March 8th, the Soviet version of Mother's day, honoured all women irrespective of age and social status, with flowers, candy and other gifts, and is religiously observed by most of Russians.

Not too many know that it has a fascinating history.

March 8th, year 1857. New York. Women working at shoemaker and clothing factories protesting in the streets, demanding a 10 hour workday, a pay rise and other benefits that would make them socially equal to men.

Year 1910. Copenhagen. Socialist Women's international conference. German socialist **Clara Zetkin** puts forward the proposition of making March 8th International Women's Day. The first response came from the women of Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, who celebrated it on March 19th, 1911. Like the NY women, they did this in the form of a protest against social injustice, this time, not only in regards to the rights of women, but violence, starvation and oppression all over the world.

In Russia, International Women's Day was first celebrated in St. Petersburg in 1913. The city Governor received a peti-

tion asking for permission to organize a "scientific morning gathering on the matters of women." The gathering took place March 2nd, drawing 1500 participants. The agenda included voting rights for women, the State provision for mothers, the costliness of life.

In 1914, Women's international day was marked by war protest marches in many European countries.

In 1917 the Russian women protested in the streets, carrying "Bread and peace" signs, only four days before Tzar Nicholas II renounced the throne.

In the USSR, Women's International Day became a public holiday from the start, becoming a day off in 1965. On that day, the government prepared a detailed report of the work having been done by the State on behalf of women.

However, gradually the holiday lost its political meaning, becoming what it's known to be today.

And what is it known to be today?

To present an unbiased opinion, I asked a few different Russians to share about what this day means to them.

Veronica Perezhigina, designer, 33: "I personally don't celebrate, but the

memory I have from my childhood of this holiday, are the cards we made at school to give to our Moms... it's a family reunion holiday, almost like New Year's day..."

Eleonora Pozdnyakova, piercing artist, 19: "My Mom's always been indifferent to this holiday, too busy, you know. I don't really mind it, but by some reason this day always makes me feel like going on a picnic, so it would make sense to have it later in spring, when the snow has melted..."

Tatyana Dobrina, shop assistant, 24: "The holiday that ends winter and brings spring!"

Natalia Egorova, translator, 28: "The day when women are really celebrated, regardless of life circumstances. My parents had lots of arguments throughout the year, but March 8 this was given a full stop, and it was like magic. Dad would bring Mom beautiful flowers and she would really glow with happiness..."

Dmitry Danilin, manager, 20: "My Mom doesn't think much of this holiday, but I'll be definitely getting her flowers, this never fails".

Really, this never fails. So go ahead and make this holiday part of your Moscow experience this year, if you're willing. **P**

Marina Lukanina

Growing up in Russia since early childhood we get to learn that there is Men's Day in February and Wom-



en's Day in March. Children are encouraged to make handmade presents, such as drawings or post-cards for their parents. Both holidays are very popular in Russia. Men storm the flowers shops and gift-stores looking for presents for wives and girlfriends; the prices for flowers goes up astronomically before and on March the 8th. You see tons of men and women with flowers that day on public transport and in the streets. Unfortunately it is also common to see a lot of drunken people everywhere as well; most likely they are real fans of celebrating this holiday.

I personally find it a really weird holiday. As naïve as it may sound but I don't think men should wait for a spe-

cific date for a reason to give flowers or other presents to women. I don't think it is a good idea to use this holiday to go on a drinking spree which most men do. I don't find it particularly appealing when I see sprigs of mimosa bushes on sale when this plant is protected by the Red Data Book. For me this holiday has very strong associations with the Russian former communist regime since it was actually the Bolshevik Alexandra Kollontai who persuaded Lenin to make it an official holiday in the Soviet Union. I am glad that this holiday is a day off so I just use it as an additional time to relax and do something that I enjoy, however, I don't really perceive it as a "holiday." **P**

Rosi Mihova



If somehow you happen to spend your childhood somewhere in Eastern Europe, say in Bulgaria, then March 8th will be one of those dates, which will shine the brightest in your calendar. This will be the day when you will try the hardest to express your unconditional adoration of the one, whose loving hands daily make sure your little universe is in order, the one who is proud of your every achievement, no matter how trifling, and who kisses away your every pain, no matter how small, in other words—the person you call mom. And much to your frustration there will never be enough tulips and hyacinths, enough hand-made greeting cards, enough poems to recite and songs to

sing in order to express the magnitude of your love for her.

If on the other hand you happen to have spent your youth and the prime of your life there, then March 8th will always loom like a Judgement Day in the dawn of spring. This will be the day when men are expected to deliver the most zealous pleas for love. It is the day when they will whisper words of whimsy or speak out loud their devotion and appreciation for the woman they love. Gigantic bouquets of red roses, tiny boxes nestling precious jewels, bitter-sweet perfumes and chocolates, or should her fancy be—indispensable kitchen ware—the list of those undeniable proofs of passion is literally inex-

haustible and is carefully handed down from father to son.

Last but not least—if you are still no one's mommy or sweetheart, then you should nevertheless not despair on that day. Your colleagues, neighbours, brothers and cousins are certainly not off the hook. Being a female you are fully entitled to expect various signs of attention. Words of congratulations, flowers, small gifts and sweet little nothings should be well on their way to you.

A wise man once said that we all live on three things: love, appreciation and hope. Women in their wisdom have booked at least this one day in the year, March 8th, to get all 3 in 1. So to paraphrase Marx and Clara Zetkin—Dear ladies of the world, unite and rejoice! **P**



730 6844

RENT
APARTMENTS
>

www.blackwood.ru





Putin – Democracy in the Making

The author, Jon Hellevig, is a lawyer from Finland who has worked and lived in Russia since the beginning of 1990's. He is the managing partner of the law firm Hellevig, Klein & Usov. Hellevig has written a book on the development of Russian law after the fall of the Soviet Union (Expressions and Interpretations) and on the conditions of democratic competition (All is Art. On Democratic Competition). www.hellevig.net hellevig@hku.ru

Democracy in the West has been long in the making and we cannot point to any single person in any of the countries whom we would credit for having brought about democracy. We can only look at a long, and troublesome, history of social competition which has resulted in a state of affairs we call democracy, through wars and killings, scandals and murders, economic progress followed by economic collapse, technological progress, and the spreading of free speech and its suppression and manipulation. These and other conditions, through a bloody history of hundreds if not thousands of years, brought about the conditions for democratic competition that the West now enjoys (but less so today than a couple of decades ago).

In Russia the history has been quite different. After the years of the communist command system which destroyed all normal traditions of social interaction, Russia had to start from scratch to build democratic traditions for itself. In fact, saying that Russia started from scratch is a gross understatement, for after the government of the inept chatterer Gorbachev collapsed, the country was in ruins and Russians had to start building a free society not from zero but with a huge handicap. Gorbachev's limited economic reforms did not serve any meaningful purpose and only creat-

ed the conditions for criminal gangs and vory (thieves) to take over the economy and soon the political power as well.

It was up to Yeltsin to start to get the country in order, but he came too late. Gorbachev's perestroika had already transformed the country into a total criminal anarchy. With no more than a handful of honest and trusted people around him Yeltsin could not achieve much in those conditions of anarchy and virtual civil war. But according to western propaganda, this period of the 1990's is referred to as democracy, which supposedly was then destroyed by Putin. They brashly claim that Putin has "systematically dismantled" the democratic institutions of Russia, parliament, political parties, free election, media, and the courts. This is a big lie, or a naïve misunderstanding at best. Misunderstanding about what is the nature of democracy, about the recent history of Russia, and the nature of a communist society.

Most fundamentally this criticism of Putin is based on a glorification of the Soviet communist system. As if it would have served as a fundament for building a modern democratic society, just by way of some well-intentioned political decisions over the course of a few years. No. The work of building democratic institutions only started with the fall of USSR. These people think that the switch from the communist USSR to working on creating a democratic market economy of a free Russia would be comparable to the change of the ruling party in an established Western country. Say the UK, where a Tory Party comes in with its agenda after the Labour Party, or vice versa, making some decimal changes in the laws and gov-

ernment, details of which the whole society publicly discusses with great interest. And who can seriously claim that democratic institutions that took thousands of years to emerge in Western countries would have been worked after just a few years of Yeltsin's rule? This becomes clearer when we realise the extent of criminal anarchy that reigned during these years. Yes, Yeltsin began to develop them, and we lift our hats to his memory for this work. But it is only under Putin that they have developed to acquire the structure of real democratic institutions. The work is not finished yet, as we can see. And now, encouraged by this early success, Putin has announced further steps on consolidating the democratic competition in Russia.

The absolutely indispensable step to create the conditions for democracy was to finish with criminal anarchy and the rule of the oligarchs. This inevitably meant a limitation of showcase democracy in favour of trusting the job of architect of democracy to the popularly elected president. This is what the Russian people did. They gave a carte blanche to Putin to bring order and create a democratic market economy. And Putin has delivered on that promise. With a renewed mandate on March 4 he will continue this work, now already from a solid base.

In the 1990's there were no free elections. No conditions for such existed. The elections were a business for criminal gangs, oligarchs and political prostitutes, fraudulent maneuvers to have them appointed in various state organs by way of force, manipulation, money, media distortion etc. Most notoriously this was the case in regards

to the regional governors, who ruled their subjects as feudal lords supported by criminals, and being such themselves (with a few exceptions, perhaps, but I have not been told whom these exceptions could possibly be). In addition to ending the impudent rule of the oligarchs, the abolishing of the direct election of governors was the most important step towards building conditions for ending anarchy and bringing real democratic competition to Russia.

It is only under Putin that a free media has emerged in Russia. But according to the American propaganda organization, the state of press freedom is dismal in Russia. They ranked Russia 142nd out of 172 countries just before Gambia, and preceded by such beacons of liberty as, for example, Zimbabwe (117), United Arab Emirates (112), Northern Cyprus (102). If Russia were in reality almost last in the list, then it would only mean that there are no problems with freedom of press in the world in general, for such is the level of freedom in Russia. Test for yourself, go any day and pick a random sample of the newspapers at sale on a Moscow newsstand. Plurality of opinion

in all and most of them highly critical of Putin. The rankings themselves, courtesy of this propaganda organization, are regularly published in all the Russian press fresh as they appear, which

was subject to a complete change in the new Russia of Yeltsin (but no steps were made under Gorbachev's perestroika). But this is only when the work started on building the normative base

It was up to Yeltsin to start to get the country in order, but he came too late. Gorbachev's perestroika had already transformed the country into a total criminal anarchy. With no more than a handful of honest and trusted people around him Yeltsin could not achieve much in those conditions of anarchy and virtual civil war. But according to western propaganda, this period of the 1990's is referred to as democracy, which supposedly was then destroyed by Putin.

is, to say the least, a great paradox. The blatant fraud in these rankings serves as strong evidence about all the other more sophisticated propaganda attacks against Russia.

What about the courts? There was no independent judiciary in the Soviet Union, and not even a system of law in a proper sense, just an arbitrary system of meting out punishments. All this

for law and taking the first steps to form an independent judiciary. Only a little was achieved under Yeltsin's presidency. The economic hardships meant that judges did not get paid salaries that could possibly sustain them, thus directing many of them towards the temptation of corruption (under Putin the salaries of judges have increased almost 6 to 10-fold). The laws were new



18 years of continued success



The British International School Moscow

English National and International Curriculum (ages 3 to 18) adapted to suit the needs of international students delivered on 8 sites near Voykovskaya, Yasenevo, Profsoyuznaya and the Residential Complex of Rosinka

World class examination results at IGCSE and International Baccalaureate

In recent years the school has recorded a 100% pass rate giving our students direct access to leading world universities without having to sit an entrance examination

Excellent EAL Programme catering for all levels of English

A member of COIS, ECIS, Cambridge Education and an authorized exam centre for University of Cambridge CIE and ESOL, EDEXCEL

Full Russian Curriculum (ages 5 to 17) available at Profsoyuznaya

External training in Russian Curriculum is also available

www.bismoscow.com

Tel.: +7 495 987 4486

e-mail: admissions@bismoscow.com

and traditions non-existent. So the critics are totally wrong to say that Putin has supposedly destroyed the independent judiciary, for there was no such thing prior to Putin coming to power. The judiciary is still underdeveloped but great strides forward have been taken thanks to the improved economic conditions and stability provided by Putin. The judiciary does not only have to be independent of the state, which it largely is in Putin's Russia, but also independent of criminal corruption and based on solid traditions, which can only emerge in time.

In his election campaign, Putin is promising a number of liberal changes to the economic laws and laws governing the political system. Some of the changes are considered radical and the critics argue that Putin is not to be trusted because he has already been in power for 12 years and could have brought about such changes earlier. But the changes are not radical compared to the dramatic questions that Putin

worst corruption plagued country out of 182 countries surveyed. I know from my own personal experience running a group of companies offering law and accounting services here in Russia that it is fully possible to conduct honest and transparent business in Russia without bribing anybody. This is not to say that corruption isn't perhaps the biggest problem in the country. But it is also the most difficult one. Corruption in Russia is deeply rooted in the Soviet economy where goods and services were hard to come by. Corruption became the endemic and the normal way for trying to secure what was needed as there was no real market and no currency which you could freely earn and use. It is impossible to measure the volumes of corruption in the USSR as the topic was forbidden, no surveys or studies on it could possibly have been produced. Naturally the monetary value of it must have been much less than it is in today's Russia. This is for the simple reason that as there was no

It is only in the last few years, two or three, that the fight has started to yield results. And today we can almost every week read about a new high profile corruption case. Why only now? "Why didn't Putin do anything earlier?," someone asks. Well, simply for the reason that earlier there was no state power in the country that could possibly have taken on the problem. Putin took over a country plagued by anarchy and without any central power. Most of the state apparatus were in the hands of corrupt people, including the "freely elected governors," so beloved by the western press, as well as the police, the prosecutors; and even by a great number of the parliamentarians. It is only now through a lot of work that escapes the lazy mind that Putin has been able to muster a response. So the reply to the "why not earlier" is simply that the problems to tackle have been too enormous for such a short time. There is no doubt that during the next four years we will see a significant improvement in this regards, thanks to the continuing trust in Putin by the overwhelming majority of the people. But not much can be achieved before those who shout on Bolotnaya first start paying their taxes, demanding that their suppliers pay, and stop bribing the staff at kindergarten, schools, and hospitals.

Putin has already announced significant liberalization of the election laws, among them the proposition to further lower the threshold for registering parties with nationwide status. We will probably never see a similar liberalization of corresponding US laws, a country where two parties share an eternal monopoly to power. Similar business monopolies are broken up by the anti-trust laws, why doesn't the same principle apply to these parties that steal the vote in the USA. Thanks to the political reforms that the Government has announced all those competing opposition leaders will soon have a chance to form their own parties by way of collecting signatures from 500 friends instead of the 40,000 needed today. I admit that this is a display of Putin's political genius. Then each of the much touted "opposition leaders" will have the chance to form their own private pocket parties. Let them compete!

I predict that Putin will go down in history as one of the greatest leaders of all countries and all times. **P**

Putin has already announced significant liberalization of the election laws, among them the proposition to further lower the threshold for registering parties with nationwide status. We will probably never see a similar liberalization of corresponding US laws, a country where two parties share an eternal monopoly to power.

had to tackle during the first decade of his rule. Those were fundamental questions of the to-be-or-not-to-be of the whole statehood of Russia; questions of war and peace; questions of life and death. And he did not only conquer the difficulties but he also put in place the conditions for fine-tuning the system, where fine-tuning are for the primitively-minded opposition is the only democracy there can possibly be. As if you could have put a turbo engine on a horse carriage before going through all the other stages of development of the automobile.

These same reasons explain the problem of corruption. Corruption in Russia is rampant, no doubt about that, however, it is hard to believe that Transparency International is transparent and fair in ranking Russia 143rd

private property, no major assets could be turned around. Corrupt practices were so widespread that most people engaged in them and probably didn't even consciously recognize that they were doing something bad, they just did what life demanded of them to survive. Then with Gorbachev's mis-conceived economic reforms, these corrupt practices were taken to new heights. This is how the more brazen and criminal bent "businessmen" made their fortunes. During the years of anarchy in the 1990's nothing was done about the problem, the virtual civil war consumed all the government's energy. Almost no one was convicted for any kind of economic crime, and being investigated for corruption only led to sharing the spoils with the investigators.

RUSSIA'S SECOND HISTORIC TURNING-POINT



Ian Mitchell

- on the biggest issue behind the presidential election

A friend of mine who is the owner of one of the largest intellectual property-based businesses in Russia, but who became an amateur historian while investigating the death of so many of his family in the Purges, has a view about the current presidential election which illustrates the fundamental dilemma which Russia faces today. He is anti-Putin, yet he hopes that Putin will continue to falsify elections in his favour. Let me try to explain why.

He thinks that if there were genuinely free elections in Russia, the country would go socialist and he would lose his business. He understands that Putin and his clique want power for personal rather than public political ends, but he prefers personal greed to the sort of "patriotic" motivation which became so dangerously tainted during the twentieth century.

My friend is not thinking only, or even mainly, about money. He is both rich enough to ignore that and unusual amongst Russian millionaires in being pretty uninterested in money, still living in the flat where he grew up. He loathes corruption, to such an extent that he has moved much of his business abroad. Yet his fear of communism is greater. It killed most of his grand-father's siblings. He would rather have corrupt capitalism than a return to the Soviet Union. As a historian he takes the long view. As a Russian and an old-fashioned patriot, he sees the need for patience.

To put it in historical terms, my friend is neither a Slavophile nor a Westerniser. He could probably best be described, paradoxically, as a Westernising Slavophile—if that makes sense. In that, I suspect, he is like a great many of the people who have demonstrated at Bolotnaya Ploshchad and elsewhere since the Duma elections last December.

It is the dilemma of Russia today. But it is a dilemma that is not just the result of the peculiar circumstances of the break-up of the Soviet Union. It is one which has been at the heart of Russian governance since the middle ages.

Most Western students of Russia are familiar with the geographical and cultural explanations for Russia's sense of separateness from the West. I want to concentrate instead on the

economic aspects and, especially, that area of life where economic analysis intersects with politics and culture. This is what bond market researchers and currency traders study today, and what merchant adventurers looked at in centuries past.

The first point to stress is that until the arrival of the Mongols, Russia was much like any other European country, only perhaps a little more primitive. Kiev was one of the largest cities in Europe, and correspondingly wealthy and cultured. Novgorod, the second city of the Rus, was a Europeanised commercial hub which connected the Hanseatic merchants of the Baltic with the vast resources of fur, wax and honey that were available between the Gulf of Finland and the Urals.

Both cities were evolving a type of public control over the affairs of the state, in the form of the *veche*, or assembly,

ON THE BLOG

Bored at your desk, perhaps?
Your emails coming out a trifle
деревенские today?
Or do you simply want to find out
where glamour meets grammar?

Try my new blog:
"English Language Etiquette
for Russians (and others)"

<http://elerussians.blogspot.com>

which appears to have taken major decisions by a form of consensus. It was more highly developed (and lasted longer) in Novgorod and other kindred cities, like Pskov, than in Kiev. So much so that many modern historians think of Novgorod as a merchant oligarchy, in which the Prince's primary duty was to protect the freedom to trade. It was more advanced than England: though the Magna Carta had been signed in 1215, parliament had yet to develop.

In 1240 the Mongols arrived in Russia and imposed a system of plunder. They preferred to operate indirectly, through a system of "tax farming", in which sub-contractors collected

Russian leaders have never understood the fundamental fact of world history that in ultimate, global terms economics eventually trumps politics. Ivan III's approach may have been right at the time, but it is out of date now.

the tribute that the Mongols wanted. Over the course of the following century, the Grand Princes of Moscow made themselves the chief of these tax collectors, extracting the wealth of their kinsmen for delivery to the Great Khan of the Golden Horde at Sarai on the Volga. In return, the Mongols helped Moscow subdue any Russians who tried to revolt against this system of organised plunder.

By the end of the fourteenth century, internecine strife had weakened the Golden Horde to the point where Moscow was able to take advantage of its position as tax collector-in-chief. It continued to extract the tribute, but forwarded only a small portion to Sarai, and kept the rest for itself, further buttressing its position among the Russian Princely states. Moscow used Mongol methods to establish control over the Rus. The Grand Prince's primary concern was to protect his freedom to tax.

The first victim was Novgorod, which Ivan III attacked and subdued, with great violence, in 1478. He pointedly destroyed the veche bell which had by then been summoning the popular assembly for over three hundred years. More importantly still, he scattered the Novgorod merchants throughout Russia, and cut the city off from its trade with the Baltic. Public participation in government was abolished as was the idea that commerce should be the organising principle of the state.

From then until the end of the twentieth century, politics predominated over economics in the lands which fell under the control of the ever-expanding Muscovite, then Russian, empire. During the five hundred years from Ivan III to the death of Konstantin Chernenko in 1985 there was, with the partial exception of the half-century before the First World War, a more or less consistent approach to state economic organisation. It was completely different from that in the other countries of the European world, and it ended in failure.

Despite that, it is still popular amongst the mass of Russians who do not understand the reason why it failed, or who are nostalgic for the apparent benefits it brought them. But there are others who see things more clearly, and who understand the world outside Russia. The spirit of Novgorod is alive once more, and it is at odds with the spirit of Muscovy.

Ivan III's new political priorities necessitated an essentially military organisation for the expanding state. Almost everyone had to be a servant of empire. The only substantial exception was the Church, but that was charged with delivering a message of patriotic obedience to the power of the Tsar. Otherwise, land was held conditionally upon military service, and the people who remained on the land providing sustenance for those who fought for the Tsar were gradually turned into serfs.

The gentry were freed from their obligation to serve the state in 1762, and permitted to travel abroad without first obtaining permission. (Ivan IV had treated the desire for foreign travel as treason.) The serfs were "emancipated" in the 1860s. But still both classes continued to live in a militarised state in which the only institution that commanded general respect was the Army. After 1917 the gentry were either killed or exiled, and the rest of the population returned to a form of serfdom, from which they were not fully emancipated until 1991.

The tiny percentage of the population that was not engaged in war, war production or opinion control constituted the merchant class. Until the late nineteenth century, they were primarily contractors to the state. More importantly, they were *individual* contractors.

From the early middle ages, Europe had been developing corporate forms of organisation. In the commercial field, this started as guilds and evolved towards charter companies, like the Bank of England or the East India Company. Later, joint-stock companies were introduced. People acquired the habit of working together, sometimes in opposition to the state. Not so in Muscovy or Russia.

The first foreign corporation to operate in Russia was the English Muscovy Company, which obtained a concession from Ivan the Terrible in the 1560s to trade with Persia through Arkhangel and Moscow. The English traders encountered a commercial world they found baffling and strange. The local people felt the same about them. A century later, a Russian tract expressed the sense of wounded pride which the existence of foreigners on Russian soil evoked, and the fear which was provoked by the local merchants' total dependence on the state for protection from foreign competition:

"If everyone is allowed to trade with foreigners, or if foreigners receive permission to live among us, the people suffer greatly. They take our wealth away from us and we starve, while they consume the fruit of our land before our eyes. All of our Slavic people are so cursed that everywhere they look they see Germans, Jews, Scotsmen, Gypsies, Armenians, Greeks and merchants of other nations sucking their blood."

The solution the writer suggested was to expel all foreigners and for the Tsar to establish a monopoly on foreign trade—which is what Stalin later did.

Without corporate structures, Russian merchants could not build anything larger than a family enterprise. The result was extreme short-termism since corporate goals can only be pursued by a body whose aims and existence survives the death or departure of one of its members. Russians concentrated on immediate gain. That meant that they saw no reason not to cheat each other, and also the hated foreigners.

They operated by the bazaar rather than the market principle. A market is a closed corporation which allows members to trade—the stock exchange is a good example—only when satisfied that they will play by the rules. Otherwise they will, in

the ringing phrase of old London, be “hammered on ‘Change’”, meaning they will be forbidden from doing business.

The Russian approach was that of the Asiatic merchant who arrives from the East, laden with precious goods for sale. He lays out his stall, takes when he can get, whether honestly or not, then melts away into the forest with his gains, ill-gotten or otherwise. He has no reputation to defend and therefore no reason to be honest.

Such people acted that way because it was the rational thing to do in the circumstances of an autocratic state which gave no security for property and which, as soon as it saw wealth accumulating, tried to tax it or confiscate it. The further result of that was the absence of substantial capital formation, which further reduced the need for co-operative thinking and increased the dependence on foreigners.

Another consequence of the lack of corporate activity, was that Russians never traded abroad. Ships were (and still are) the largest machines mankind has constructed. That was especially so several centuries ago, when operating them over long, trans-ocean voyages required massive corporate organisation, not only of sailors and merchants, but shipyards bankers and insurance markets. In Russia, if this was done at all, it was done by the state. When Peter the Great felt nautical, Russia had a navy; at other times, it had only weak maritime forces. At no time, did Russia have a blue water merchant fleet.

Neither were there Moscow merchant houses operating in London, Amsterdam or Hamburg—much less in New York, Buenos Aires, Sydney or Shanghai. Russia depended for her foreign trade on merchants coming to Moscow—where they were treated with suspicion. As a result, none of the wider infrastructure of an entrepreneurial economy developed. It was not until 1836 that the first law providing a framework for corporate organisation of business was passed, and not until 1856 that the first commercial bank opened in Russia. In the meantime, everything went to the Army.

The consequences of the militarisation of Russian society were revealed in the fiasco of the Crimean War when Russia was shown, in an increasingly “global”, entrepreneurial and industrial age to be hopelessly ill-equipped to compete with the West. That provoked Alexander II’s reforms which give Russia some semblance of a free economic environment, and allowed foreign capital to come in, up to 1917 when everything shut down again.

The First World War showed Russia to be a giant with feet of clay. It could not fight long wars against economically sophisticated enemies because, and this is the most important lesson the country still has to learn, a *militarised* society is ultimately weak militarily. The Russian Army fell apart in 1916. Prior to that there had been a shortage of hospitals for the wounded, boots for the soldiers, horses and fodder for the front. Then there was a shell crisis, followed by a weapons crisis and finally a transport crisis which was so severe that food could not be brought from the country, where it was abundant, into the towns where it was desperately needed. The result was the bread riots in St Petersburg in February 1917, and revolution shortly afterwards.

Even the Second World War, when examined closely, demonstrates the same point. Without the massive resources of the international capitalist economy Russia would almost certainly have been defeated—for all the courage of her soldiers and the resourcefulness of her civilians—by a nation which was much smaller but which was economically more creative,

capitalistic and diversified. The country with the by far biggest wartime production potential was the one that had had the smallest peace-time army of all the great powers at the time, namely the United States.

Russian leaders have never understood the fundamental fact of world history that in ultimate, global terms economics eventually trumps politics. Ivan III’s approach may have been right at the time, but it is out of date now. Yet Putin recently promised to spend \$600 billion dollars (nearly half the country’s annual GDP) on more missiles and other weapons, at a time when the country’s roads are full of potholes, the postal system is a joke and the Moscow commuter railways slower and scruffier than the trains that connect Johannesburg with Soweto. I was at the Pro-Putin demonstration on 4th February at Poklonnyy Gori. Predictably perhaps, the only colourful sight amongst the bored-looking attendees was a group of Cossacks. Once again: militarism is the message.

Whoever wins the current election, the most important task for Russia is to abandon the five hundred-year old strategy of international intimidation and internal control, and to go over to one in which the enormous creative potential of the Russian people can be let loose on the vast resources of the Russian land to develop the country in peace, friendship and co-operation with the rest of the world. Russia must, like my pro/anti-Putin friend, take the long view. We are at a historic turning point. Russia changed fundamentally when Ivan III crushed Novgorod; it has to change equally fundamentally now, and in the opposite direction. The alternative, it seems to me, given the modern geopolitical circumstances, is national death. **P**

ROCK 'N' ROLL
BAR & CAFE

Whiskey Cola Everyday

4 for the price of 1
from 4⁰⁰ to 5⁰⁰ and 16⁰⁰ to 17⁰⁰

3 for the price of 1
from 5⁰⁰ to 6⁰⁰ and 17⁰⁰ to 18⁰⁰

2 for the price of 1
from 6⁰⁰ to 7⁰⁰ and 18⁰⁰ to 19⁰⁰

After fun&dance

1 Sretenka Ul. (495) 233-76-97
www.rocknrollbar.ru



WEDDING-3



Third in a three-part series by Helen Womack

Learning of our plans to marry, the Soviet authorities sent army recruiters to Kostya's house in Leningrad region. Were they really going to take him on the eve of his 27th birthday, when he was almost too old for conscription?

Kostya had successfully dodged military service for the previous nine years. He never actually refused to serve but played on the essential laziness and incompetence of Soviet officials. Call-up papers would arrive through the post every spring and autumn and in these seasons, Kostya would go off to Siberia or wherever. He would return when he reckoned that Colonel Rakitin of the Kirovsk recruitment office had had time to fill his quota for the six months ahead. "Sorry I'm late, sir," he would say and Rakitin would wave his hand and promise to include him in the next batch. This went on, year in, year out, and Colonel Rakitin went to his grave without ever managing to recruit Kostya.

Fooing Rakitin was one thing but now the KGB were on his heels. Fortunately, Kostya was not at home on the morning the press gang arrived and his father tipped him off to stay away from the house.

The next thing I knew the telephone was ringing at six o'clock in the morning in my flat in "Sad Sam", the foreigners' compound. The guard at the gate told me I had a visitor. I went out into the cold and saw Kostya standing there with a rucksack on his back. "I'm moving in with you," he said. The guard could not actually prevent this, as I was free to invite whoever I wanted to visit me. Most Russians, of course, would not come within a mile of the compound but Kostya no longer cared about identifying himself, as he had nothing to lose.

I took him into the flat, which seemed small to me but which he found palatial. He drank a Coke from my fridge and said it was his first.

That day, Kostya crossed the line and became a dissident, joining a small community of Russians who had claimed asylum inside "Sad Sam". There was Lyuda Yevsyukova, whose brother Sima was in an Arctic labour camp because he'd refused to do military service lest he learnt state secrets that

would prevent his family from migrating to America. The others – Lena Kaplan, Matvei Finkel, I can't remember all of them now – were members of a group called the "divided spouses". They had married Westerners but been separated because their partners were not allowed to stay in the Soviet Union and they were denied the right of exit. In some cases, they had not seen their loved ones for years. It looked as if Kostya and I were about to find our names at the bottom of that sad list.

In desperation, I went to see the British consul. He took me into a small, padded room where he said the KGB could not overhear our conversation and listened with concern as I told him our story. To this day, I do not know exactly what the British did but Margaret Thatcher was due to visit Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow and I imagine the diplomats preparing the meeting suggested to the Russians that it was not in their interests to have another human rights case.

So we had a wedding instead. Benefitting from the love affair between Maggie and Gorby, Kostya and I were able to become man and wife. After the wedding, as I've already mentioned, Kostya began spelling his name with a C.

Now a married man, Costya reported to the army recruitment office in Kirovsk, where an officer took his "military ticket", the document all Soviet men carried to show whether they had served or been exempted from the army, and burnt it in an ashtray in front of him. "Now that you are married to a foreigner, you are no longer fit to serve the Fatherland," the officer said.

Other officials promised that Costya would be allowed an exit visa to visit Britain later in the year.

That should have been the happy ending to the story but it wasn't. We fell into a new trap through our own youthful foolishness.

We'd already had a lovely, modest wedding but decided to gild the lily by throwing a huge housewarming party for all our friends. We were starting married life in a new flat in the October Square compound. This was still reserved for foreigners but the atmosphere was more relaxed, as there was a greater mix of nationalities including Yugoslavs,

Chinese and Africans. If "Sad Sam", with its Anglo-Saxon contingent, resembled an Ivy League or Oxbridge college, then October Square was more like a modern, international university.

Costya's eyes nearly popped out of his head when we went to the Beriozka (hard currency store) to stock up on booze for the party. The system of segregated shops really was as iniquitous as apartheid in South Africa. Along with our wedding certificate, Costya had been given a document saying he was legally entitled to carry dollars in his pocket. He had become an honorary foreigner in his own country, a "white" because of his association with me. We bought wine, beer and spirits and all kinds of food, unavailable in ordinary Soviet shops.

Our party got under way and soon became merry. The British consul dropped in to wish us well. He had asked me what the dress code would be and I'd said casual, so he arrived in a tee shirt and jeans. The Russian guests might have been poor but they came in the very best clothes they possessed. They refused to believe this could be the consul. "He's so scruffy," they kept whispering, "but he's nice, isn't he?"

More guests kept arriving. My American friend and colleague, Meg Bortin, came with a homemade, tiered chocolate cake topped with a model of St. Basil's Cathedral. Other Western journalists attended and there were dozens of Costya's friends from all over the country.

While I was chatting to guests in the back room, Costya came in and said he was going out for a walk with Genya, a rock musician from Leningrad. About half an hour later, the telephone rang. It was Costya. In a shaking voice, he said he had taken my brand new red Volvo and crashed it into another car. The other driver was not hurt but there was some damage to his Lada. The GAI (traffic police) had breathalysed Costya and not only found him over the limit but also discovered that he did not possess a driving licence; indeed he did not know how to drive a car. We were in deep trouble.

After a miserable honeymoon in Ukraine, we returned to Moscow to face the music at the traffic police headquarters.

At the interrogation, it rapidly became clear that the GAI inspector was less important than his pudgy, leather-jacketed "translator" and he was far more interested in me than in Costya, who was sent outside to sit in the corridor.

I then had one of the most frightening experiences of my life, an interview with a recruiting officer from the KGB. He leered and introduced himself as Sergei. We talked for what seemed like hours. I could not just get up and leave because Costya had committed an offence. It was like a debate with the devil. I knew if I made one false step, I would be damned.

"We could send your husband to jail for three years," Sergei said.

"Charge him then and we'll get a lawyer," I replied.

"I'm sure there's no need for that, Ms. Womack. How would you like to go to parts of the Soviet Union that other correspondents cannot visit? You could go and see your new in-laws in Kirovsk. You'd like that, wouldn't you?"

I said I didn't want any privileges other correspondents didn't have.

"We do have this," Sergei said then, pulling out a thick file. "Let's see, February 12, Helen Womack arrived in Leningrad, checked into the Astoria Hotel, didn't stay the night; March 25, Helen Womack went to Tallinn, registered at the Hotel Viru, didn't stay the night. And in Riga, I see, you were in trouble with the local police for visiting a dacha outside the city limits. We could call that spying. We could send an official protest to the Foreign Ministry and have you expelled."

"Do it," I said.

Again he softened and switched on the charm.

"You love Russia, don't you? I'm sure if the Soviet Union was in danger, you would want to help us, wouldn't you?"

"Certainly," I said, "if I see a fire, you can be sure I'll call the fire brigade."

And with that, the KGB gave up and washed their hands of me. The GAI fined Costya 400 roubles (then worth 400 dollars) and deprived me of my driving licence for two years.

I was furious with Costya. He was mortified. But we still had reserves of love and we put the disaster behind us. I realised I had married a loveable hooligan. He said being with me was like living with the Queen of England. We did well to keep our marriage going for 15 years and we remain good friends.

As for the driving ban, the KGB did me a favour. Forced from the world of chauffeur-driven cars, I descended into the metro and saw how ordinary Soviet people lived. I went on to make my name and my living, walking with the "narod" (people) rather than with "vlast" (power) and describing life from the citizens' point of view. **P**

Again he softened and switched on the charm.
"You love Russia, don't you? I'm sure if the Soviet Union was in danger, you would want to help us, wouldn't you?"
"Certainly," I said, "if I see a fire, you can be sure I'll call the fire brigade."



Welcome to the Best Model Agency!

Contact us **24 hours 7 days**

Tel. +7 495 589 6958 • www.callgirls4you.biz

Square Dance in Moscow



A dance which is famous all over the world has now found admirers in Moscow. There are more than 500 Square Dance clubs in Germany, but in Russia there are only 4!

For some, Square Dancing is just hoping around, for others it is running around wild. But much more than this: Square Dancing is fine exercise for the body and mind. And it is balsam for

the soul amidst the stresses of today. Square Dancing is a modern dance that fulfils all requirements to promote and maintain all-round-health for all ages. Believe it or not, Square Dancing works for dancers as well as for non-dancers, for dance fanatics as well as for left foot charlies.

The start of today's modern Square Dance can be traced a long way back.



From the Morris dances, from French aristocratic dance, German landler, the Polka from Poland, waltzes from Austria, and Scottish, Irish and English folk dances. In Square Dancing, people developed a new dance form in which the character of its heritage is clearly recognized even today.

During dance lessons you will learn new routines which are performed by the dancers in different variations. The dance scheme doesn't exist in advance, every time there is a new variation. This dance doesn't belong to any type of competition, people Square Dance for pleasure and pleasure alone. Four couples, one on each side, build a square. This is the starting formation and it gives the dance the name: Square Dance. More dynamism was achieved later, a puzzle game was developed by the caller, leading the dancers through various formations and astonishing the dancers by adroitly restoring the starting formation: the square. New programs were developed and their world wide acceptance is guaranteed, so that someone can dance all over the world, once he/she has learned the basic routines.

With or without a partner, everyone is welcomed into a circle of friends and everyone is greeted with friendship. There is no hierarchy, and titles are left at home. There is no competition, only the fun of being together with music and dance. Square Dancers visit each other at each other's club nights and organize regional, national and international dances functions. At the annual jamborees of the Club and Caller Associations between 1000 and 2000 dancers get together for a weekend.

World War II prevented the development of this kind of dance, and in 1950 Square Dance started growing again. Americans soldiers transferred the dance back to its European backgrounds, and in 1955, the European Association of American Square Dancing Clubs (EAASDC) was formed.

EAASDC is an association for the Square Dancing, Round Dancing and Clogging dance clubs within central Europe. The countries covered so far are Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic and Russia.

So why wait? Let's dance!!! The American Centre is helping us in the project: For further details, please coontact: Alsu Alyusheva by email: alsu.alysheva@rambler.ru **P**



The Right of Foreign Citizens to Drive Automobiles in the Russian Federation

Alexander Ksenofontov
Senior Lawyer
LEVINE Bridge

Foreigners who are visiting or temporarily residing in the Russian Federation are entitled to operate motor vehicles as long as they possess an internationally recognized or foreign national driver's license that meets the requirements as stipulated by the Convention on Road Traffic of 1968. Entries in a driver's license must be produced or duplicated with Latin letters. A foreign citizen's driver's license that does not meet the requirements of this Convention must have a notarized copy translated into Russian. In order to obtain a notarized translation of a foreign driver's license it must first be legalized through the Russian consulate in the country in which it was issued or carry an apostille stamp.

If a foreigner in Russia does not possess an internationally recognized or foreign national driver's license, he or she may obtain a Russian driver's license. The rules for obtaining a driver's license in the Russian Federation for foreign citizens are the same as it is for any Russian citizen. A Russian driver's license that is issued to a foreign citizen is valid for the same period of time as their documents, be it either a visa or permit for temporary residency in the Russian Federation.

To obtain a driver's license in Russia, a foreign citizen must, in all the prescribed manners, pass the required examinations and medical tests. Those who are not required to take examinations and/or undergo medical tests are foreign diplomats, employees of international organizations, family mem-

bers of diplomats and those in their employ if they already are in possession of a foreign driver's license and would like a Russian driver's license, they may be issued one.

Foreigners who have residency status in the Russian Federation need to know that their foreign national driver's license is invalid in the Russian Federation after 60 days upon receipt of their residency status or from the date of entry onto the territory of the Russian Federation. So foreigners must exchange their foreign license into a Russian license. At the same time they will have to take and successfully pass a theoretical exam and undergo a medical testing.

Foreigners who are visiting or temporarily residing in Russia should note that they will not be able to exchange a foreign driver's license for a Russian one will not be issued Russian certificates to replace lost foreign certificates. **P**

+7 495 980 04 36
info@levinebridge.com
www.levinebridge.com

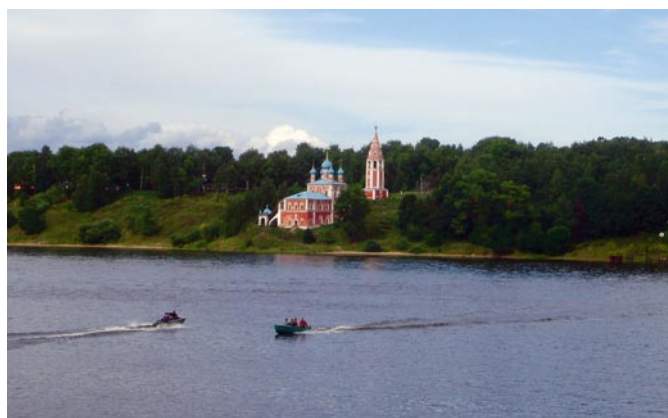
Tutaev



Text and photos by Larissa Franczek

It was 10 years ago when we first visited the town of Tutaev. Since that time it's been my dream to stay there longer than a day. What is the problem? Tutaev like that hut on chicken legs from Russian fairy-tales has just started turning its façade towards tourists. Only a couple of years ago two hotels were built and the third one is under construction. Owners of private houses welcome tourists, too. As for eating out, it still is not that simple. There are a couple of restaurants and two or three cafes in the town but on a Saturday evening almost all of them are closed for what's called in Russian "special service". That means that someone's birthday, a wedding or a jubilee is celebrated there and you cannot come and have dinner. And by the end of a day after long walks around Tutaev eating is naturally the only thing you can think about.

Tutaev is a special place as it is located on both banks of the Volga and has no bridge. In summer, for cars and those people who are not in a hurry, a ferry is available. Those in a hurry



can take a motor boat. After 3 minutes and for 20 roubles you are on the other bank, wet with cool refreshing splashes. (see picture opposite)

In 1238 Yaroslavl was seized by the Tatars, though some of its residents managed to escape. On the right bank of the Volga they founded a settlement called Borisoglebsk. Later it

turned into a town. On the opposite bank another town, Romanov by name, evolved. These two towns developed separately until 1822 when they became one. The new place was given a long name Romanov-Borisoglebsk. Under the Bolsheviks the town was renamed Tutaev.

Because it wasn't on a railroad route, Tutaev remained an authentic and original place. Everything is leisurely, tranquil, quiet and deserted. It's very provincial and that's great. Of course, life moves on here, too. But the changes that I observed have taken purely Russian forms. You see a house and realize that it is 19th century and used to belong to a wealthy

family. It's also obvious that it's been rebuilt more than once since then, that now it's occupied by several families, that it may not have running water and/or central heating either. But! You notice satellite dishes, a sign of the times.

I saw many similar houses. One was unique, just wonderful. We didn't know about its existence and didn't plan to see it. In fact we were heading to the Church of the Exaltation of the Cross (1658). Inside you can see original frescoes that are well preserved and only one frame of what used to be a beautiful five-tier iconostasis.

Next to the cathedral you notice a "Museum" sign and follow it. Oh, what a marvelous place with an old house, sort of



15%

off all services
on your first visit



THE expaT SALON

Find more information on
www.en.expatsalon.ru



- Full service unisex beauty salon
- Best world's products and professional equipment
- Friendly atmosphere
- Highly qualified English speaking staff
- Free specialists consults
- Free WiFi and iPads clients
- Complementary coffee, tea, juice



Maly Patriarshy Pereulok, 3
+7(495) 650-3749
+7(906) 780-7437
+7(906) 780-9774
expatsalon@mail.com

Open every day **9am-9pm**



a park, sheep, beehives, flowerbeds and a breath taking view of the Volga. The owner of the house explained that he had bought this former estate and turned it into a museum. His idea is to continue its repair and restoration to eventually make the place look like the original.



On the right bank of the Volga there is one more gem: the Resurrection Cathedral (1678). The building itself, the holy gate, the bell tower and the fence around it constitute an architectural ensemble. The stone carving inside and outside the cathedral, and its frescoes are superb.

It was so nice to sit in a cool spot and listen to bell-ringing coming from the crooked bell tower. A local babushka came up to us and said, "This is my granddaughter. She's finished a musical school and can ring bells now." I detected both joy and pride in her voice.

On the Romanov side (that's how the locals call the left bank) there is probably the most beautiful attraction of the town. It's



seen from all over and draws everybody's attention. This is the Kazan Cathedral (1758). Its red walls and blue roof, the blue sky and the Volga, the green bank and trees, the slim bell tower that looks like a candle are a magnificent combination.

It was still hot at the end of the day. We felt worn out both by the heat and climbing up and down Tutaev's hills. We came to the Volga. My husband sat down on a stone, I took off my shoes and stepped into the water. All of a sudden we heard a bell ringing. It grew stronger and louder. I felt that it was making me calm, quiet and cheerful at the same time—while the Volga waters made their own miracle: they removed my fatigue. **P**

Kiev

– a city on the edge:



Luc Jones

You don't need to have mastered much of the Russian language to know that the name 'Ukraine' is derived from the word 'Krai', edge. However the same word in Polish means 'country' and given that Ukrainian language sounds like a concoction of the two, one could arguably describe Ukraine as 'a country on edge'. On the edge of precisely what, is another question - perhaps of itself as Ukraine struggles to decide which way it wants to go. The more populous, industrialised eastern half is extremely Russified and looks to mother Russia for a combination of economic assistance, security and guidance, while the western part identifies more with Ukrainian nationalism and views Russia as a potential threat to its European ambitions. Granted most Ukrainians would like to join the EU, if only to allow visa-free travel to the Eurozone, but you're best off not mentioning any NATO ambitions here.

So where does that leave Kiev, smack in the middle of the country? For a start, even a uniformed spelling in English can't be agreed upon, and 'Kiev v Kyiv' may at first glance look like a local football fixture but is in fact an on-going debate on how to spell the Ukrainian capital's name. Traditionalists stick with Kiev, a transliteration of the Russian spelling, whereas modernisers prefer the less-familiar Kyiv which apparently is closer to how it would sound in Ukrainian.

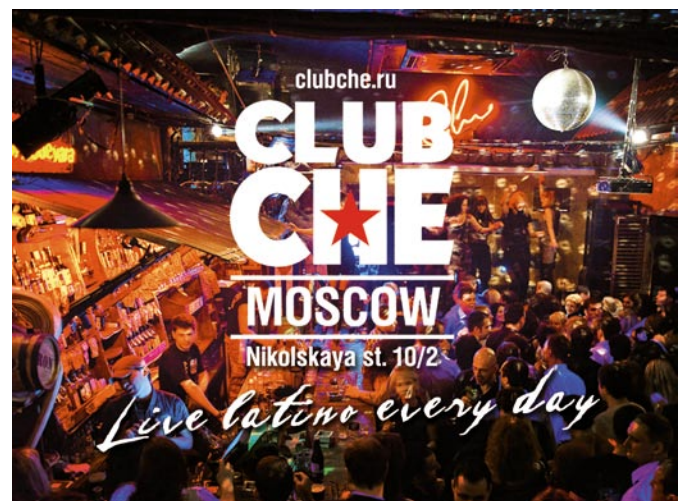
Kiev is one of Europe's older cities, dating back to at least the 9th Century AD. Legend has it that over a millennium ago there were three brothers and a sister living there, and one of the brothers was called Kiy. Kiev means 'of Kiy' which I guess makes some sense, although we know little else about this family. Nowadays Kiev is home to around four million of Ukraine's estimated population of 48 million, and is by far the largest city in the country. In fact it was the third most populous place in the Soviet Union and despite considerable emigration from the country since independence in 1991. Kiev continues to be a magnet for Ukrainians from poorer parts of the country, allowing glimpses of a lifestyle most can only dream of.

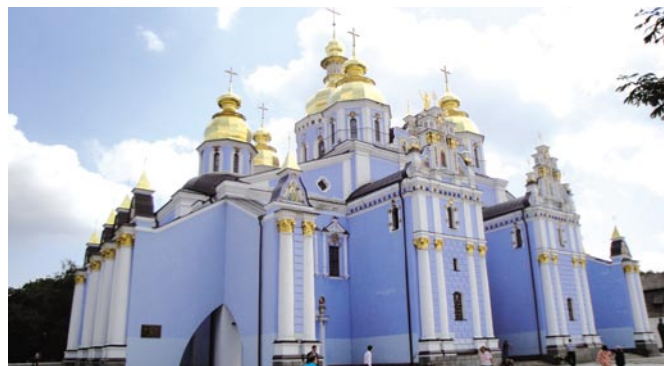


Arriving from Moscow is a revelation in that neither Europeans, North Americans nor CIS citizens require a visa, with Ukraine finally realised in 2005 that tourism means money, and that the draconian visa regime they had in place meant that most people simply didn't bother trying, and last year they even scrapped the (somewhat pointless) migration card. So unless you come from a country that Ali G believes shouldn't be allowed a vote at the UN, you just rock up, have your passport stamped and you're in. Even the ubiquitous taxi mafia are wimps compared to their Moscow counterparts.

The second observation is that whereas most menial tasks in Russia are generally performed by immigrants from the Former Soviet Republics (Uzbeks sweep the streets, Azeris drive gipsy cabs, Tajiks build building and Kyrgyz mop the floors), you'll be pushed to see an Asian-looking face in Kiev. When communism collapsed throughout Eastern Europe, so with it disappeared the safety net that provided basic goods and services (however pitiful) plunging millions into even deeper poverty overnight with little clue as to where they should go from here. Cynics joke that Poland went through a shock therapy that was indeed tough but eventually put them on the slow road to relative prosperity, yet Ukraine got the shock without the therapy. Those who could, emigrated to both the West and Russia resulting in a drop in population, not helped by a plunging birth rate and a virtual collapse in law & order allowed various mafia groups to flourish, enriching a select few who usually hold strong ties to the authorities.

The past decade has seen a relative calm compared with the chaos of the nineties, coupled with a general improvement in standards of living although this is most restricted to urban areas and one wonders how much Ukraine could have achieved





with a decent government in place. The Orange revolution in late 2004 made international headlines, as has the recent jailing of Yulia Tymoshenko as Victor Yanukovich appears to be steering his country down a dangerous path in the face of international protest (which for now is falling on deaf ears).

Politics aside, Kiev makes for an easy weekend destination from Moscow, yet it's surprising how few of even Moscow's longer-term expats have still to visit Khokhlandia. The centre is focused around Independence Square (known as Maidan) and the main drag is Ul. Khreschatik which is lined on either side by large, imposing, Soviet-style buildings now containing boutique stores but there's more to the old centre than a Zara store and a Porsche showroom. Ul. Khreschatik is where crowds come to mingle throughout the year, whatever the weather and on Sundays they close it off to traffic. It's only half a mile long so give it several trips, and then make your way up the hill past the Golden Gate to start off with St. Sofia Cathedral, which is an outstanding architectural monument of the Kievan Rus (this will mean something if you've studied the history of the region). No less impressive is the nearby St. Michael's golden-domed monastery, both from the inside and out. It's downhill from here, but only in a physical sense as you'll walk down Andreiyevesky spusk past the jaw-dropping St. Andrew's church, perched high up above the multitude of stalls selling the usual mix of modern tat souvenirs and communist memorabilia. They mask a number of small restaurants and cafes before you reach Kondratkova square in the Podil part of town. Here you can visit the Chernobyl museum if you don't fancy, or don't have time for a trip to the actual reactor (although having been to both, the real thing is worth the 140Km drive).

During the summer, boats offer an hour-long excursion along the mighty Dniepr river (it's frozen over in winter) with views of communist-style monuments to Soviet-era achievements. Much of the rest of Kiev comprises of high-rise tower blocks for living accommodation which is most of what you'll see when you take the funicular back up the hill to the panoramic viewing point. A trip to Kiev wouldn't be complete without a ride on the metro. It's unsurprisingly similar to the St. Petersburg metro, with exceptionally long escalators, and Arsenalna currently ranks as the world's deepest, at over 100 metres and takes 5 minutes in either direction! Exit here for a visit to Pecherska Lavra, better known as the Cave monastery which was founded in 1015, and if you only make one excursion away from the centre, then make it the caves! Weather permitting, walk back towards the centre through the park above the Dniepr by which time you will just about have earned a night out on the town.

You'll see some oddly matched couples in Kiev, usually a foreign man on the wrong side of fifty with a cute 'date' less than half his age. Ukraine reportedly has more marriage agencies than travel agents, and when you look at the beauty of the local ladies, it's not hard to see why. It's not that Ukrainian girls have

a particular fetish for overweight, balding men from abroad who are reaching pensionable age, but rather this 'match' is driven by the disparity in incomes between most Ukrainians and Westerners, and the situation is not helped by the old 'the grass is always greener' saying that a life abroad with automatically bring prosperity, and happiness. Consequently if you travel to Kiev either as a single man or in an all-male group, expect the assumption to be that there's only reason why you're here, and it's not to take a course in folk dancing, although if you do speak some Russian then you'll certainly stand out from the crowd as locals won't expect you to speak any and will be surprised that you do. On the plus side, since Ryanair don't fly to Kiev (yet), the city has yet to be overrun by stag parties from the UK, in the way that Bratislava, Riga and many other 'Eastern Block' capitals have been spoilt, so whilst you might not be a novelty, you won't be a nuisance either. Therefore the only dilemma is whether or not to take your own ants to the picnic...

Tips for travellers:

Getting there: Flights from Moscow take an hour and twenty minutes to reach Kiev's Borispol airport – there are anything up to a dozen a day depending on the time of year, so you can choose from Aeroflot, Aerosvit, Transaero & S7. Taking the train might sound romantic but it's a bumpy, overnight ride and costs only slightly less than a flight, although at least the border formalities are no longer carried out during the middle of the night.

Staying there: Decent hotels (Intercontinental, Hyatt, Radisson) cost a fortune, and 'local' ones (Khreschatik, Dnipro, Libid) are also ludicrously overpriced for what they are, which is basically a communist's idea of a 5 star hotel. Your best bet is to rent a flat via one of the many agencies who offer short (from 1 night) and long term leases. Most offer airport transfers and can arrange local guides for sightseeing excursions. I've used www.homeinkiev.com and always found them to be excellent.

Spending there: Local money is called the Hryvna – there are plenty of ATMs around town & quite a few Bureau de Changes, and an increasing number of places accept credit cards. Except prices in up-market establishments to be almost on par with what you'd pay in Moscow, although costs drop considerably when you leave the downtown area.

Speaking there: Due to the recent influx of western tourists who are usually first timers to the CIS, local will be surprised that you know even passable Russian and if you speak it fluently then they'll think that you are Russian! More & more Ukrainians, especially the younger generation now speak some English, but as a rule most outside of hi-end places won't know more than the odd word. What you'll hear on the streets is Russian, even though many signs are now in Ukrainian. **P**

Moscow Dragons' RFC Valentine's Ball



There are a lot of balls in Moscow, and they are in full swing. The Dragons proudly host one of the biggest and bounciest, and in celebration of the club's fifteenth year, 2012's event was the most popular yet. The Renaissance Monarch hotel near Dinamo now has a near monopoly of the grand events, with an unrivalled capacity, and great facilities. Speaking of unrivalled capacity, the Dragons and their guests exercised the kind generosity of the sponsors, a point of principle. From the delights of a superb menu to the terrors of the infamous Dragons' punishment tequila, via auctions and raffles to the thronging and throbbing dance floor, a grand night was had by all.

Bidders dug deep to snap up some great prizes, and The Centre for Curative Pedagogics saw their children's resources enhanced impressively. PASSPORT readers will be familiar with the massive efforts needed, and invested, in improving the poor deal offered to children with special needs, and this year's beneficiary was a popular and deserving choice.

Back to the action. The hard working committee put on a great show. The Dragons' appetites are famously insatiable... for players as well as fun. Join them, and have fun playing your part: www.mdrfc.com. RDH

NB Gallery

This compact but lively gallery specialises in promoting artists from the recently overshadowed late Soviet era. Because of this, prices are accessible; and so is enjoying the art. The impressive Mai Dantsig exhibition (Passport, December 2011) was always going to be a hard act to follow. Currently on show is 'Duo', the work of husband and wife Evsey Reshin and Valeria Sizyakova. Originally teacher and student, Reshin's influence on the Moscow school of Art



was wide and profound, even beyond his death in 1978. Ms. Sizyakova was present at the vernissage in February, a proud witness to her work in assembling both of their collections. A knowledgeable and committed audience made for a voluble evening, and brisk sales.

Variety was abundant, with perhaps three main themes. Rural landscapes dominated by volume, combining soft and gracious scenes at once ethereal and idealistic, with harder images of the mess made by Russia's harsh and changing seasons alternating. Many guests were drawn to the still life and domestic pictures, which exuded cheer and freshness, engagingly and realistically, without the falseness and excessive unrealistic light of all too many lesser works. Finally, street scenes, often at twilight or in the turning seasons evoke the real, unspectacular daily rhythm in a Russian city, with window and bus lights simultaneously offering warmth while failing to pierce the gathering gloom. All three styles capture aspects of Soviet, and enduring Russian reality. Works that are well rooted in both their space and their time. RDH

**NB Gallery 6/2 Sivstev Vrashek,
119019 Moscow, a few minutes stroll
from Kropotkinskaya Metro.
www.nbgallery.com**

Quiz night at Katie O' Shea's

Pub quizzes are up there with cake and circuses for the western masses, and an object of considerable curiosity for our host peoples. Katie O' Shea's, just between Prospect Mira Metro and the American medical centre (sic), hosts one of the best. Approximately every other winter Wednesday evening, keen teams contest four rounds of cunning questions, aided by well filled glasses and a good feed kindly offered by thine hosts. Quizmeister Extraordinaire Sandy Higgs sets a mean mix of questions. Expect the unexpected, on a phenomenal variety of topics, from the commonplace to the exquisitely arcane. The only Semitic language in the EU? African countries beginning with G? Identify all Iran's neighbours? Chad is the answer, what on earth is the question? What was the last black and white film to win an Oscar? There is something for everyone. But when getting your team (of 4) together, make sure you have a musician or two: the keynote of Sandy's quizzes is his musical knowledge and repertoire. Everyone has to rack their brains to dig out the missing lyric or see the snatch of tune through to a pattern. An agreeably testing evening is assured. But no matter how weird or wacky your chosen team name, it won't be as daft or cringe-worthy as some of the regulars'. Enjoy! Next quiz nights: 29 February and 14 March. See you there. RDH **P**



**Tverskaya st. 17
Tel. +7-495-629-4165
www.nightflight.ru
Open 18.00 - 05.00**

Rob Dennis, Area Development Manager, LFS Property

A RECESSION PROOF INVESTMENT

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION HAS IT ALL.

High yields. Totally "hands-off" investment.
Strong nationwide rental demand.
Income generating.



There is a widespread difference of opinion regarding what will happen in the residential and commercial property market right now in the UK. One thing that few experts disagree on is the potential for both capital growth and surety of high rentals that comes with well-located student accommodation in key cities with prestigious universities.

Furthermore, as always happens in times of financial downturn and higher unemployment, student numbers increase, providing the investor with a recession-proof investment.

Over the past six years rental incomes in this sector have increased at 5% per year, in contrast to 0.6% for the commercial market as a whole, and the occupancy rates for student accommodation currently sit between 97%-100%.

Compared to residential tenants who only sign up for 6 month contracts, this provides incredible stability that is very hard to achieve in the global economic climate, which has made this opportunity so popular with both UK and overseas investors.

A passive income and "hands-off" investment

Most property investment is rarely as passive or hands off as we would like. However, by working with a very experienced and established management company that specialises in the student accommodation market, this investment provides you with that truly 'armchair' investment where you can sit back, relax and see your regular monthly income hit your bank account.

Student accommodation has become an asset of recommendations for our investors, whether you're looking to add to your existing property portfolio, or if this is your first ever property investment. Our reasoning for this is quite simple: it's a low risk, high yielding and totally "hands-off" investment.

With UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) reporting a 12% rise in applications for 2010-2011 and a huge national shortage of student accommodation, this is still a perfect time to take advantage of current investment conditions. With high rental yields (typically between



6-10%, gross depending upon the property type) and totally hands-off, hassle-free ownership, student accommodation ticks all the boxes.

Knight Frank have reported through their own independent research, that only 50% of all students in the UK have access to high-quality purpose built student accommodation.

This figure drops dramatically to 20% when you compare the student purpose-built housing ratio in London alone. This means that there are nearly 100,000 students in London who do not have access to purpose-built student accommodation, helping to create a huge demand in a market with very limited supply, ensuring rents remain high and your property stays tenanted.

10 Good reasons why this is our investment of choice.

- 1 Cash flow positive, long-term investment**
Typical rents are significantly higher for student properties than a comparable BTL residential property in the same city.
- 2 More students attending universities, creating a solid and sustainable demand.**
Student numbers are set to continue to rise in coming years – especially in London which has the most students of any city in Europe and the most international students of any city in the world. Other cities with large student populations include Manchester, Nottingham and Sheffield.
- 3 Minimal voids**
Tenanted for almost all of the year and you typically know seven months in advance that your property is tenanted for the next academic year due to pre-lettings.
- 4 Hassle-free investment**
Private halls are managed by on-site management teams who will handle all bills and ground rent, meaning you only have one management fee to pay.
- 5 Rental income has increased by 5% each year for the past six years in the student accommodation property sector. In 2009, many schemes actually achieved 10% gross rental increases.**
- 6 Student property has continued to be one of the most resilient investment sectors in the UK** during the economic downturn, with most rental incomes and property values remaining stable or increasing.
- 7 New build properties available**
Houses and/or flats, as well as refurbished homes.
- 8 Competitive finance available**
By equity releasing from your current assets the purchase becomes 100% funded.
- 9 Exit strategies**
Although we recommend student accommodation as long-term income investment, long-term provable high income on a property makes a property much more desirable to investors.
- 10 All of this helps to reduce the risk to the investor!**

PFS International
Office 502, 10 Presnenskaya Naberezhnaya
Tower Block C, 123317 Moscow, Russian Federation
T: +7 495 967 7648
E: russia@fsplatinum.com
www.fsplatinum.com

Carry on camping!!!



Peter R. Hainsworth

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise. Children in hot air balloons! Hand grenade practice for ten year olds! Herds of startled deer gape at the fun filled pastoral proceedings as the spirit of the entirely mad but hugely influential doyen of camping, girl guiding and boy scouting, Lord Baden Powell, permeates the birch groves with merriment, athletics and creativity. Pioneering without the politics as they say. A big dib, dib, dib to that.

The International adventure camp organization, 'Camp Industry' was founded in 2006 by Taras and Svetlana Kononets in the Moscow region and now they are hooking up with English theatre artists, in Moscow and Suffolk, to create a startling and unique new adventure in the camping repertoire; enter stage left: Theatre Camp Karomot!

Peter Hainsworth talked to Xenia Bejenar, project manager of Karomot, who explained it was during our visits to a project in Nottingham, England, called 'On the trail of Robin Hood' that the idea of a theatre camp arose, to go alongside the established main camp themes which already exist for children.

Xenia tells us that six months after the private camp organization started the 'Robin Hood' camp in Nottingham, they then founded an arts camp for girls called Carolina. In summer 2010 Motor Camp was launched, for children to explore the world of auto, motor and aerotechnics. Today all 3 camps' programs are considered to be one of the most unique and exciting for children of the Moscow region.

At the Robin Hood Camp, children experience Knights Tournaments, Big Archer Tournaments, fencing, horseback riding, high and low rope courses, hiking, kayaking and canoeing.

At Carolina Camp every girl is a princess, photo model, actress, singer, dancer and a designer. Girls learn manners, psychology, choreography, attend drama, makeup and hairdressing classes, design clothes, issue their own magazine, play croquet and mini-golf.

Motor Camp is an exploration to the world of aviation, aerostatics and motorsports. Children learn about hot-air balloons, its history and the present, fly one and learn how to control it. They also drive buggy carts over rough terrain, fly avia simulators of SU 27 fighter, play with radio-controlled cars and airplanes, and construct their own models.

Children interested in the Robin Hood legend can go to Robin Hood's hometown—Nottingham. During the 10 day program they travel back in time, visit lots of places related to the legend, show strength and team spirit in the heart of Sherwood Forest and experience a medieval festival, which is absolutely fantastic. It's a unique opportunity to see living history. Karomot also organizes theme trips for Motor Campers to Washington DC and Virginia and Carolina girls to Paris!

A Theatre Camp in England is Karomot's next project, planned for summer 2013. Says Xenia Bejenar: "We do lots of drama activities with kids in all our camps. We believe that performing builds personal confidence and teaches teamwork. We foster inclusion of every single child and promote respect for everyone's abilities and ideas. We encourage them to experiment and collaborate on their own. As a result, every session we have produces an exciting performance, arising from kids' own creativity. England is famous for its theatre traditions and we have found very professional and enthusiastic partners there in Agnes Lillis and the New Cut Theatre. We are sure that a new program focused on theatre will be a success.

Camp is a unique place in the modern word which is specially designed for children to be children.

Peter 'Choks away' Hainsworth. **P**

Contact: Xenia Bejenar, Camp Industry
+7 495 771 75 59, www.camp.ru



Mama mia!

– not paintballing again!

Peter R. Hainsworth

Corporate team builders are desperate for new ideas to replace the tired old paintballing and picnicking routine, HR departments normally plump them for and Oleg Petrov, CEO of the 'Creative English' project, reckons it's about time someone came along and shook up the market...

Oleg Petrov, toastmaster, is one of those atypical, unique persons, in Moscow business life who views English language culture as a means to achieve professional and personal aims whilst having—wait for it... bloody good fun.

Oleg told us about his brand new "Creative English" project—a scheme which is a logical extension of his status as a major player in the corporate hosting and teambuilding scene.

"Allow me to introduce myself, he says, my name is Oleg Petrov and I am a professional Toastmaster & Master of Ceremonies in Moscow, Russia.

"I have been a Toastmaster/Master of Ceremonies for several years at many varied events. I served for a number of years in The Armed Forces of Russia, retired as a captain in 1993, having different military decorations of UN, Russia & Cuba.

"I have experience in many types of functions specializing in Weddings, Dinner Dances, Prize Presentations, Nightclub & Private Parties, Family Events, Corporate Functions, Conferences, Official Openings, Charity Events, Product Launches; Award Dinners etc. Having a good command of English, some knowledge of Portuguese & Spanish, I'm popular and respected at international events in Russia and abroad.

"Now I am looking to share my knowledge of the profession, to which I have devoted my life, in the context of improving the systems of media training and teambuilding in Moscow, through creative means."


"Here are some points to consider about creative English; it's not only a program to help people who wish to dive without danger into the ocean of the English language, it is 100% a team building activity or training. Creative English is a remedial device, or in other words, a flexible instrument, influencing corporate policy, personal career, and interpersonal relations, in a natural way. A certain cure for routine-induced paralysis of the creative spirit, waking people, shaking them up from the lethargy typically induced by hierarchical and didactic teaching systems. Creative English permits us to knock on another door of our mind.

"During a creative English session, we give our guests all the necessary facilities; atmosphere, musical instruments, props, costumes, and music to enter the world of mimic-acting, based on a well know story or song, which becomes the script. Teachers and trainers are on hand to help. Rehearsals take place beforehand leaving presentation of the masterpieces for gala day, or on the spot, at corporate events during the dinner interval! The performances are then filmed and a DVD is given to the guests as a jolly memento. The team

building activities which I call a 'Pygmalion business structure' inevitably grow out of our creative trainings."

It's a measure of the irrepressibility of Oleg that he wanted to talk about his creative English project and the corporate hosting and teambuilding scene in Moscow, despite being on the verge of hallucinating, having just come back from a trip to Paris, toasting an event for TNK/BP, where he'd been knocked sideways with a touch of European bird flu—he was more than willing to expound on his vision to have CEO's up and down the land, don an ABBA wig and let it all hang out, in the name of cohesion, 'intra-communication' and bonding. Mama Mia!

To sum up. All you need is open mindedness, willingness and a fancy wig to enhance your presentation skills and develop your confidence. Who knows? The next huge success gained by your company might be down to the inner Elvis in you. Thank you very much, ma'am.

Contact Oleg Petrov at: olaff_2001@mail.ru 

APARTMENT RENTALS SERVICED APARTMENTS



000's of panoramic photos on our website

Please call us or visit our website for free consultation.

4 FOUR SQUARES

+7(495) 937 55 72
www.foursquares.com





Deep Sense of Calling

Helen Borodina

Photo provided by Matthew Laferty

Life in Moscow as an expat may be inviting, but also challenging. There's a need for a lighthouse as you steer your ship in this sea, to keep you on course, to keep you safe, to shine the light of hope even through the fiercest of storms.

I talked to the Rev Matthew Laferty, the Pastor of one of Moscow's key Christian churches that has become such a lighthouse for many in Moscow's expatriate community.

Raised in Crestline, Ohio, the Rev. Matthew A. Laferty is a United Methodist Pastor, Chaplain of the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy. Matthew holds a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Politics and Government from Ohio Wesleyan University. He has served as a pastoral associate at Tabor Lutheran Church in Branford, Connecticut, USA; worked for The United Methodist Church's ecumenical commission, the Yale University Council on European Studies, and the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition.

In 2011, he was awarded the Edward Downes Prize for excellence in worship leadership by the President and Fellows of Yale University.

Rather a typical question. How did Russia come into the picture of your life?

In July 2001 I participated in a church partnership program in the Kursk region. During that trip, our team worked with an orphanage and a vocational boarding school and provided funds for the restoration of an Orthodox church. Then, trips to Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Kirov followed.

I also studied Russian for two years during college—frankly with no plans to ever live in Russia.

However, I began considering Russia

later on, for only one year, as a transition year from graduate studies at Yale to a pastoral appointment in the United States. However, my fluency, or the lack thereof, in the Russian language was a hindrance to my usefulness to the church in Russia. My bishop recommended a six month internship at MPC to help increase my Russian. Instead of an internship, I applied for the chaplain position and was 'called' by the congregation in January 2011. I started my work in Moscow on May 29, 2011.

Your educational background is quite impressive. What motivated you to pursue this education, and what careers did you have in view while studying?

My keen interest in political systems, legislative processes, and international politics motivated me to study political science and international affairs.

As an undergrad, I had several careers in mind: law, diplomacy and international politics, and humanitarian aid economic development. While studying theology at Yale, my career aspirations focused more on the church. My decision to become a Methodist minister is rooted in a deep sense of calling but also flows out of an understanding that the Christian church has a unique role in proclaiming Jesus Christ and being the body of Christ in the world.

What does it mean to be the MPC Chaplain?

As the Chaplain I "conduct public worship, preach the Word of God, administer the sacraments, perform marriages, conduct funeral services, provide pastoral care for the members of the fellowship and the expatriate and diplomatic communities, supervise the ministries and activities of the congregation, supervise the work of all staff persons, and be the

principal administrative officer of the congregation" (MPC Congregational Bylaws).

We work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, and the United Methodist Church, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church; and maintain a relationship with the Orthodox Church through our social ministries program.

I serve as the Executive Director of MPC Social Services, a charitable organization that serves the most vulnerable people in Moscow—Russian pensioners, children, refugees, and foreign economic immigrants.

Who are the congregation?

Our congregation is made up of traditional expats, students, diplomats, refugees, and economic immigrants. We are European, African, Asian, and North American.

How does MPC serve the needs of the congregation?

MPC brings together a wide range of people who otherwise may not have contact with each other... It is easy as an expat to develop relationships only within your surrounding area or nationality, but MPC tries to be a community that fosters relationships across socio-economic, cultural, national differences.

How do you see your role in the life of the expatriate community?

I see myself as bridging the cultural divides between the expat and local community as I foster MPC's relationships with local partners. The most important thing is proclaiming Christ's love and transformative power to the expat community as expats struggle to live in Moscow. **P**

Brought to you by EIS, The English International School

With March in Moscow hosting Women's Day and elections, a few themes and curiosities come to mind. Moscow is a great city for art. Fine works by women and depicting women enjoy prominence in all the great galleries and beyond. We offer you a collection of different artworks to savour and stimulate the imagination and reflection. They are pre-revolutionary, Soviet, and recent. To preserve the illusion of a puzzle, I have mixed up the captions, but I am sure you can sort them out easily. Enjoy!



Metro Ploschad Revolutsi:
farm girl & chickens, 1937



Zinaida Serebriakova, self
portrait, 1909



Socialist Realism:
The Architect, 1930s



Vera Mukhina, the worker
and the farm girl. 1937

Crown Princess Tatiana
Romanova c1916

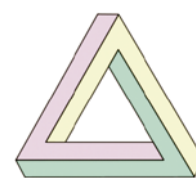
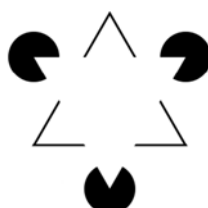
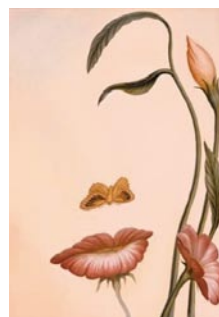
Boris Grigoriev
The Concierge, 1918

MMOMA variation on
the Oktyabaskaya statue:
housewife far too busy for
revolution?

The Shot Putter,
Samokalov, 1933



As you live in Moscow, you won't need telling that what we think we see is often not what is really happening. Some easy optical illusions to amuse you. The flower girl is not there; there are no people shown; which of Escher's hands is creating the other; there is no triangle; it is not a wedding ring, it might be a Moebius strip; and the triangle cannot exist. Confused? Vote for the optical illusion you like the best. full solutions at www.englishedmoscow.com



Compiled by Ross Hunter

Illustration by Nica Harrison



"The Star Child"

By Oscar Wilde, abridged for
Passport Magazine, illustrated by Nica Harrison.

Some woodcutters were in a pine forest in winter. The mountain torrent was hanging motionless in air, for the Ice-King had kissed her. All the animals, from wolf to linnet, turtle doves to woodpeckers, rabbits, squirrels and great horned owls knew that the snow is cruel to those who sleep in her arms. One cried out, there was a thing of gold lying on the white snow, a cloak of golden tissue, wrought with stars, and wrapped in many folds, and within, a little child asleep.

The woodcutter carried the babe home. Despite their own poverty, his wife kissed the child, and laid it in a little bed with the youngest of their own children. The woodcutter took the cloak of gold and chain of amber that was round the child's neck and stored them in a chest.

The child grew strong and beautiful, but also proud, cruel, and selfish. In summer, he would lie by the well and look down at the marvel of his own face, and laugh with pleasure at his beauty. But he and his cruel friends pierced the dim eyes of the mole, cast stones at the leper and clipped the linnet's wings, and laughed. When a poor beggar-woman passed by, he threw stones at her, and mocked her, and she looked at him with terror in her eyes.

When the woodcutter rescued her, and took her in, and told her how they had found the star child, and showed her his cloak and amber, she wept for joy, and said, "He is my little son whom I lost in the forest. I pray thee send for him quickly, for in search of him have I wandered over the whole world."

But when he spoke to her, his voice was hard and bitter. "If thou art my mother, better had you stayed away, and bring me to shame. I thought I was the child of some Star and not a beggar. Get away, and let me see thee no more."

The beggar fled, in tears, but the star child was cursed. When he went to the well and looked in, his face was the face of a toad, and his body was

scaled like an adder. "This has come upon me by reason of my sin. I have denied my mother, and driven her away, and been proud, and cruel to her. I will go and seek her through the whole world, and not rest until I have found her."

The birds and the animals fled from him, as they remembered his cruelty, and he was alone save for the toad and the adder. The Star-Child wept and bowed his head, and prayed forgiveness of God's things, and went on through the forest, seeking the beggar-woman.

When he came to a city on the plain, he was refused entry, but sold as a slave to a vile magician, in disguise. He took the Star-Child into a dungeon. The old man set before him some mouldy bread on a trencher and said, "Eat," and some brackish water in a cup and said, "Drink," and the old man, went out, locking and chaining the door. Each day, the old man set the Star-Child into the forest, with a task of finding gold. Each day, a hare, which the Star-child had freed from a trap, led him to his prize; but each evening, a leper at the city gate persuaded him to hand it over to feed him.

On the third day, he was expecting death as he had failed his tasks. But he was brought to the feet of the leper, and the old beggar-woman. And he sobbed again, and said: "Mother, my suffering is greater than I can bear. Give me thy forgiveness, and let me go back to the forest." Both the beggar-woman and the leper put their hands on his head, and said "Rise!"

He rose and looked at them, and lo! They were a King and a Queen. And she said to him, "This is thy father whom thou hast helped." The King said, "This is thy mother, whose feet you washed with your tears." And they brought him into the palace, for him to reign wisely over the city. "Much justice and mercy did he show to all. The evil Magician he banished, and the Woodcutter and his wife he sent many rich gifts. Nor would he allow any to be cruel to bird or beast, but taught love, kindness and charity. He gave bread to the poor, and clothes to the naked, and there was peace and plenty in the land. **P**

Restaurants & Bars

Adriatico
American Bar&Grill, Zemlyani Val 59
American Bar&Grill, 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya 2/1
Aroma
Bar "Ogonyek"
BeerHouse
Bookafe
Buddies
Cafe des Artistes
Cantinetta Antinori
Che
Chicago Prime
China Dream
Coffee Bean, Leningradsky prospect 58
Coffee Bean, Pyatnitskaya 5
Cuba libre bar
Cutty Sark
Eat and Talk
Everyday terrace
Gandhara
Gorki
Hard Rock Cafe / Хард Рок Кафе
Hot dogs (бывший Doug & Martin's Boar House)
Il Patio, Leninsky 68/10
Il Patio, Prospekt Mir 33
Il Patio, Trubnaya Ul
Il Patio, Pushkinskaya 5
Il Patio, 1st Tverskaya Yamskaya 2
John Donne
Katie's Pub
Kostya Coffee, Vavilova 3
LIGA PUB, Skromnoe obayanie
Louisiana Steak House
Luce
Mario's
Martinez bar
Mia Florencia
Molly Gwynn's, Krasnaya Presnaya 1-7
Molly Gwynn's, Novy Arbat 24
Molly Gwynn's, Pyatnitskaya 24
Nedalni Vostok
Navarro's
Night Flight
Old Havana Club
Pancho Villa
Papa's
Petit Cref
Pizza Express
Pizza Maxima
Республика Суши
911 Club
Rock'n'Roll bar
SCANDINAVIA Restaurant
Seiji / Сейджи
Secret bar
Shafran
Shamrock
Shanti
Sirena Restaurant
Shooters Bar
Silvers Irish Pub
Starbucks 5th Avenue
Starbucks Atrium
Starbucks Balchug
Starbucks Belaya Ploschad

Starbucks Galereye Airopoort
Starbucks Druzhba
Starbucks Dukat
Starbucks Zbezdochka
Starbucks Zemlyani Val
Starbucks Kamergerski
Starbucks MDM
Starbucks Metropolis 1
Starbucks Metropolis 2
Starbucks Metropolis Business Plaza
Starbucks Moscow City
Starbucks Pokrovka
Starbucks Sokolniki
Starbucks Festival
Starbucks Chetire Vetra
Starbucks Shuka
Starbucks Academiya Plekhanova
Starbucks Arbat 38
Starbucks MEGA Belaya Dacha
Starbucks MEGA Tyepli Stan
Starbucks MEGA Khimki
Starbucks Severnoe Siyaniye
Starbucks Tulsкая
Starbucks Sheremetyevo
Starbucks Gorod Stolits
Starbucks Ashan Troika
Starbucks Belyaev
Starbucks "Europeyskiy"
Shopping Mall
Starbucks Krasnoselskaya
Starlight Diner,
Bolshaya Sadovaya 10
Starlight Diner,
Prospect Vernadskogo 6
Starlight Diner, Korovi Val 9
Starlight Diner,
Bolotny Ploschad 16/5
Tekila Bar and Boom
T.G.I. Friday's, Tverskaya
T.G.I. Friday's, Novoslovobodskaya 3
T.G.I. Friday's, Zemlyanoi Val 33
T.G.I. Friday's, Komsomoloski Propsect 28
T.G.I. Friday's, Kievski Vokzal 2
T.G.I. Friday's, Bolshaya Tulsкая 13
T.G.I. Friday's, Novy Arbat 14
Tapa de Comida
Tiflis
Uzbekistan
Uley / Correas
Vanilla Sky
Vesna
Yapona Mama
АИСТ (Stork)
Цветение Сакуры
Hotels
Akvarel Hotel Moscow
Ararat Park Hyatt
Balchug Keminski Moscow
East-West
Holiday Inn, Lesnaya 15
Holiday Inn, Sushevski Val 26
Iris Business Centre
Katerina-City Hotel
Lotte Hotel
Marriott Hotels / Марриотт Аврора
Marriott Hotels / Марриотт Гранд
Marriott Hotels / Марриотт Тверская
Maxima Irbis Maxima Zarya

Metropol
Mezhdunarodnaya 2
National Hotel
Novotel Moscow Centre
Pokrovky Hills
Radisson Slavyanskaya, + sport club
Sheraton Palace
Swissotel Krasnye HOLMY
Zolotoye Koltso
Embassies
Australia
Austria
Brazil
Delegation of the European Commission to Russia
Embassy of Canada
Denmark
Finland
Germany
Hungary
Ireland
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Kuwait
Malaysia
Mexico
New Zealand
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Slovakia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
The Netherlands
Singapore
Sweden
Thailand
Tunisia
UAE
USA
UK
Business Centres
Business Centre Degtyarny
Business Centre Mokhovaya
Business Centre Znamenskoe
Daev Plaza
Ducat Place 2
Japan House
Meyerhold House
Mosalarlo Plaza
Moscow Business Centre
Mosenka JSC
Novinsky Passazh
Olympic Plaza
Park Place
Romanov Dvor
Samsung Centre
Companies/Associations
7 Kpacok
American Centre
American Chamber of Commerce
American Express
AEB
Astravel
British Council
Citi Bank

Coca Cola
Crown
DHL
Direct Approach
Dr Loder
Ernst & Young
Est A Tet Agency
Ex-pat Salon 1 & 2
Four Squares
General Electric
General Motors CIS
Halliburton International, Inc.
HSBC
IBM
Initiative Media
International SOS
Jack's ZAO
JAL Tverskaya Yamskaya
JCC Jewish Community
Jones Lang LaSalle
Le Meredian Moscow Country Club
Levine Bridge
LG Electronics
Nestle Rossiya LLC
P&G
Penny Lane Realty
Philips Russia
PricewaterhouseCoopers / PWC
Pulford
Renaissance Capital
Reuters Ltd
Royal Bank of Scotland ZAO
Ruslingua
Russo-British Chamber of Commerce
SCANDINAVIA Restaurant
Sport Line Club
Sportland
United Airlines
Wimm Bill Dann
Schwartzkopf & Henkel
Усадьба Агентство Недвижимости
Work Service
OOO Checkpoint Russia
Medical Centres
American Clinic
American Dental Centre
American Medical Centre
European Dental Centre
EMC, Spiridonevsky 5
EMC, Orlovsky Per. 7
Medincentre
Tibet Clinic
Education
American Inst. of Business and Economics
Anglo-American School of Moscow / Англо-Американская школа
British Higher School of Design
British International School, B. Academicheskaya 24
British International School, Nakhimovskiy Prospect 35
English International School
Little Angels Kindergarten
Montessori School
The International School of Moscow
Others
Anglican Church
Golds Gym
NB Gallery

**We hold ourselves
to a higher standard.**

And we promise to live up to it.



www.starbuckscoffee.ru
www.facebook.com/StarbucksRussia





The International School of Moscow

Part of The British Schools Group

World Class Education

Quality Private British Education

Ages 2 - 15

Discover Our Secondary School

The International School of Moscow offers quality private British education. The school is accepting applications for next academic year, including placements for its IGCSE programmes. IGCSE Students will have access to the highest standards of secondary education, including a wide range of subject options, specialist teachers and state-of-the-art facilities. The school offers a comprehensive extra-curriculum selection, delivering standards equivalent to the very best of UK private schools and a path to top tier Universities worldwide.

The International School of Moscow is part of The British Schools Group and a University of Cambridge approved examination centre.



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

For more information:

Tel: +7 (499) 922 4400

www.internationalschool.ru