Opinion: It's our duty to work to free Oyub Titiev







# The Moscow Times

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### 'Adversaries, Not Enemies'

Six U.S. senators and a congresswoman are in Moscow this week ahead of a summit between presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin in Finland later this month.

Russian media outlets have presented the visit as a coup for the Kremlin, which has shrugged off sanctions and allegations of electoral meddling.

On Tuesday, the U.S. lawmakers met with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and members of the State Duma and the Federation Council.

Russian media reported early Tuesday that the U.S. delegation, which is headed by Republican Senator Richard Shelby, had asked to keep the State Duma meeting closed for the press. (The U.S. Embassy did not respond to a request for comment.)

"[The topics were] Syria,
Ukraine and Russia's meddling
in the U.S. election," the head
of the Duma's financial markets
committee Anatoly Aksakov
told Interfax. "[Duma Speaker Vyacheslav] Volodin said
the claims of election meddling
were absurd."

He added Volodin had said the accusations were "undignified" and "belittled" those who made them.

Lavrov said he hoped the visit would be a step toward

"restoring relations," Interfax reported.

The point was echoed by Shelby. Russia and the U.S. "can be adversaries, as in sport or business, but not enemies," he was cited as saying by the staterun TASS news agency.

The lawmakers were also invited to visit Crimea, the head of the foreign affairs committee, Leonid Slutsky, was cited as saying by Interfax.

"In the future," Slutsky said, "that which looks intangible and unlikely today could become a reality."

The U.S. delegation is set to stay in Moscow for Independence Day on July 4.

### Hot Dog Eaters Become Russia's Lucky Charm

The Russian-language internet has been flooded with a collection of football memes after the country's dramatic victory against Spain in the World Cup on Sunday, both poking fun and lauding the historic game

Social media users overwhelmingly chose three hot-dog-eating fans — who were filmed stoically munching on their buns in the 101st minute of the game at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium — as the heroes of the day.

The family wore *kokoshniki*, a traditional Russian headdress, to the game, and have already been immortalized with a graffiti mural in Moscow.

Much of the attention has centered on goal-keeper Igor Akinfeyev and striker Artyom Dzyuba,

who since their performance in the Spain match have become the objects of nationwide adoration.

Akinfeyev's foot, which made a crucial save in the penalty shootout, has been named the "Foot of God" by Russian Twitter users.

Photoshopped versions of his foot have been doing the rounds online: on a pedestal, reaching

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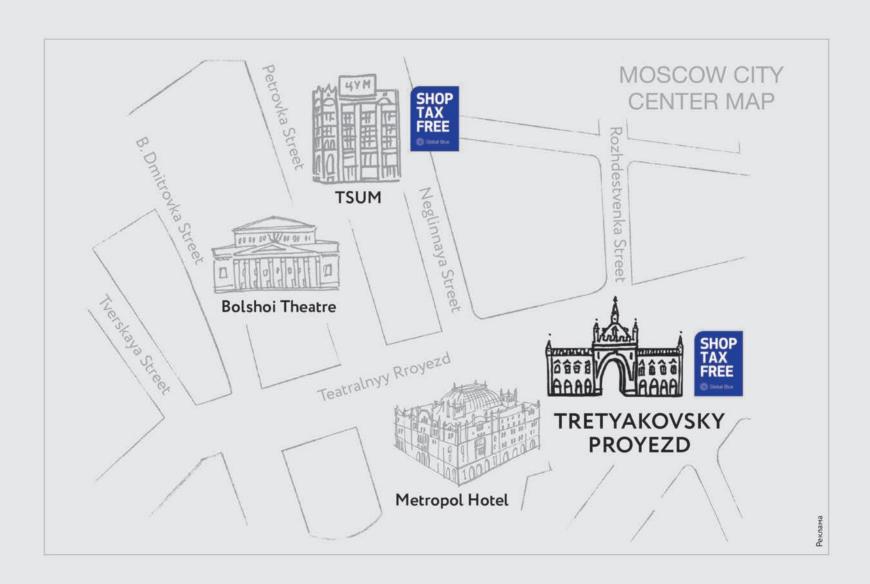




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As the voices of critics

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were silenced one by one,

Oyub continued to collect

Spain are

### One in 10 Russians Want to Emigrate — State Pollster

A recent survey conducted by the state-funded pollster VTsIOM shows that one out of 10 Russians want to leave the country. The pollster added it would be wrong to conclude that those emigrating were motivated by conditions in Russia. In its poll published on Monday, VTsIOM said that 10 percent of respondents expressed a desire to move away from Russia permanently.

Young Russians were especially keen to move: Among those aged 18 to 24, almost one-third (31 percent) of respondents said they wanted to leave the country.

For decades, Russia has suffered a brain and youth drain: According to federal statistics agency Rosstat, more than 300,000 people left the country in 2016.

VTsIOM said that more than a quarter of those who thought of leaving had already begun preparing for the move by "collecting information about the destination country." Twenty percent are learning a foreign language.

The top three destinations were Germany (16 percent), the United States (7 percent) and Spain (6 percent), the pollster said.

Notably, one out of four of those questioned in the poll could name a relative or acquaintance who had moved away from Russia in recent years.

The poll was conducted through phone interviews with 2,000 respondents on June 6-7.

The head of research at VTsIOM, Stepan Lvov, said it would be wrong to interpret the figures as



a sign Russians wanted to "flee the horrible Russian reality.

"It is a testament to our youth's openness towards other countries, and could even be [interpreted as] a challenge to the outer world," he was cited as saying in an online analysis alongside the

"You don't want anything to do with us? We will come to you ourselves - look at your people, and show who we are."

A similar poll conducted recently by the independent Levada Center put the number of Russians considering emigration at 15 percent.

Muscovites were especially keen to move, the pollster found, with one out of five capital city residents thinking of packing their bags.

**OPINION** 

By Lana **Estemirova** 



### Why It Is Our Duty To Free Oyub Titiev

am looking at what has now become an iconic photograph of Oyub. The visibly drained man is looking up straight into the camera from behind the bars. Although the image is blurry, you can still see the dark circles behind his rimless glasses.

The most haunting part of this photo is Oyub's facial expression — calm, exhausted and quietly powerful. Despite everything that has happened to him, including a fabricated arrest, the spectacle of a trial and uncertainty looming over his future, the human rights activist is unbroken.

Oyub Titiev was arrested on Jan. 9 after police in the Chechen republic planted marijuana in his car. This brazen framing tactic has become a notorious persecution device in the troubled region. It may not be as final as a gunshot to the head, but given the severity of the sentence, violent interrogation techniques and the appalling state of prisons there, this is potentially

After he was detained, the activist was initially denied a lawyer's visit, one of many procedural violations that have sadly become a pattern in his case. Oyub's health has begun to deteriorate while in custody as he was denied a doctor's visit for weeks. At present, the 60-year-old activist is facing a 10-year

sentence.

After the murder of my mother Natalia Estemirova in 2009, which to this day has not been adequately investigated, Oyub volunteered to take over Memorial in Chechnya. To lead the human rights organization in those dark times seemed like a reckless and somewhat futile mission, but nevertheless, he had the courage and determination to do so.

Memorial is one of the oldest and most well-respected human rights organizations in Russia. In the past years, its work has been endangered by Russia's "foreign agent" law, which targets any organization that receives funding from abroad. Memorial's status in Chechnya is further complicated by the region's leader Ramzan Kadyrov, who perceives investigations of human rights abuses as a personal attack. On multiple occasions, he has vocalized his contempt for human rights activists in threatening, acrimonious language

As voices of critics were silenced one by one, Oyub continued to do his job, collecting harrowing evidence of abuses and injustices committed by Chechen authorities. Suffice to say that Kadyrov was not pleased. In late December, the Chechen leader promised to "break the spines" of human rights activists, whom he perceived to be traitors and enemies of the state. Oyub's arrest, carried out by eager minions of Kadyrov, is a direct outcome of his indirect order

Several weeks ago I collaborated with prominent human rights activists to record a video message urging people to sign the petition to release Oyub. The video addressed Russian President Vladimir Putin directly. He is the only one who can order Kadyrov to drop charges against Oyub, since the Chechen leader has great admiration and respect for his "commander in chief."

In return, Kadyrov's iron-fisted rule and close links with certain Middle Eastern states are proving to be a useful tool in Putin's geopolitical game. During the World Cup, Kadyrov arranged for the Egyptian national team to train on Chechen grounds, a move that attracted international criticism.

As the players trained on Grozny fields, within 100 miles Chechen au thorities continued to intimidate, torture and illegally detain dozens of people. Oyub is one of the many victims of Kadyrov's regime and he is the one who can be saved. Activists, journalists, politicians and ordinary people from all over the world are coming together to demonstrate their support and urge the Russian government to take action.

Although I am not able to speak with Oyub, I know for a fact that he does not think of himself as of a hero or a martyr - these qualifications are meaningless to him. Rather, Oyub can be described with by the authentic Chechen term konakh – a dignified, modest man whose main purpose is to selflessly serve the motherland and follow his honor code.

Against the setting of tyranny and lawlessness, he has undertaken the heavy burden of being an honest man in a violent place. He has helped many people, not asking anything for return. It is our duty to get him out of

Lana Estemirova is a graduate in International Relations from the London School of Economics and is currently working on her first book.

### Good Night, Platzkarts



Platzkart cars were a hallmark of Soviet travel.

Russian Railways reportedly plans to phase out its legendary Soviet-era platzkart economy class carriages with stacked beds by 2025.

The sleeper cars have long been a cheap and popular way to travel Russia by rail. The overhaul is part of the state-owned railways' strategy to battle airline competition by attracting 1.4 billion customers by 2025 - and laying off nearly 30,000 employees

Russian Railways will begin replacing platzkart carriages with modern cars as early as next year, the Vedomosti business daily reported Tuesday, citing railway development plans for 2025.

In place of the older one-story carriages, new trains will reportedly feature cars with a shower cabin, baggage compartment and vending machines, Vedomosti reported, citing an unnamed spokesperson for Russia's biggest railcar maker, Transmashholding.

Russian Railways estimates that platzkart coaches make up 70 percent of ticket sales but only bring in 30 percent of revenues.

The railways also plans to increase train speeds, lay new routes and purchase noise and vibration-canceling two-story train carriages. Federal Passenger Co., the subsidiary which runs long-distance passenger services for Russian Railways, will reportedly get an investment of 105.7 billion rubles (\$3.4 billion)

A company spokesperson told the RBC media outlet that the railways have not yet abandoned platzkart cars altogether and will continue purchasing the original model through 2019.

A new law allowing Russian police to test the blood alcohol levels of drivers entered into force on Tuesday. Under the law, drivers with alcohol levels exceeding 0.3 grams per liter of blood will risk fines of 30,000 rubles (\$475) and can have their licenses suspended for up to two years. Previously, police officers were limited to giving breathalyzer tests to drivers suspected of driving drunk, with 0.16 mg of alcohol per liter of air set as the legal limit.

According to traffic police figures, there were more than 16,000 car accidents involving drunk drivers in 2017, with over 4,600 fatalities.

The measure will allow officers to test drivers who are unconscious after an accident, which will subsequently increase the number of recorded drunk driving incidents.

#### Blood Alcohol Tests More Foreign Agent

A State Duma working group has approved a new version of a bill which could see individuals be labeled "foreign agents" by the General Prosecutor's Office or Foreign Ministry.

NGOs and media outlets which receive foreign funding and engage in activity considered political can already be slapped with the label under the so-called "foreign agents law." They face more tax checks and are required to mark their publications.

The aim is to give "the executive branch the authority to respond to the curbing of the rights of our colleagues working abroad," State Duma deputy Pyotr Tolstoi was cited as saying on the Duma's site.

The Vedomosti daily reported on Tuesday the bill is set to pass its second reading next week.

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#### Octopus Oracle Eaten in Japan

An octopus who successfully predicted all of Japan's World Cup group stage matches has been killed and turned into sashimi, according to local media reports.

The mollusc, named Rabio, chose the winners of Japan's matches during an experiment in a paddling pool.

Despite gaining national attention, the fisherman who caught Rabio, Kimio Abe, sent him to market before Japan's third match against Poland.

The giant Pacific octopus successfully predicted Japan



Octupuses are wise and tasty.

would lose that match but he was unfortunately not around to see his prophecy come true.

Abe added that another octopus will be used to predict future matches at Russia 2018.

"I'm glad all the forecasts turned out correct and Japan moved on to the knockout stage," Abe told the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper before Japan's loss to Belgium in the last 16.

"I hope Rabio's successor will accurately tip the results of all

Rabio is not the first oracle octopus to predict World Cup matches.

German invertebrate Paul the octopus correctly predicted six World Cup games in 2010.

(Reuters)



The hot dog eaters have become an internet sensation in Russia.

#### Kremlin Delighted

In response to an article comparing Moscow's celebrations of Sunday's victory over Spain with Russia's victory in World War II, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the comparison was understandable "from an emotional point of view."

"If we consider the streets of many Russian cities, including Moscow, they were reminiscent of the events seen in May 9, 1945," he told reporters.

According to Peskov, President Vladimir Putin had watched Sunday's game and supported the national team "with his whole heart."

Earlier, Peskov announced that the president would not attend the game due to a busy schedule. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev — the top Russian official present — watched the match alongside his wife Svetlana, Spanish King Felipe VI and FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

Putin had called national team coach Stanislav Cherchesov before the game to wish him luck and to tell him that "the team had already achieved the impossible — qualifying from the group," Peskov was cited as saying by the Interfax news agency.

He then called Cherchesov again after the game to congratulate him on Russia's "impressive victory," the report said.

#### MEET THE FANS

Moscow is very beautiful, the Kremlin is great. Life here is nice, I like it!

I'd like to live here. This year I'm definitely supporting Brazil.

Ahmed from the Palestinian territories

#### Subterranean TV

The Moscow Metro was built to be a "palace for the people" — but at the time, the Soviet leadership probably wasn't thinking of the World Cup.

More than 350,000 people watched Russia's match against Spain from the underground, the Interfax news agency reported, citing the metro press service.

The metro did not specify how they measured the number of eyeballs.

The Moscow Metro has been fitted with 8720 screens on 1896 trains which all show matches, the report added. The only line to have been left out of the football fun is the Light Blue Line and parts of the Big Ring Line.

Once the tournament is over, the screens will go back to showing information for passengers on schedule changes and construction work.

#### 'Just the Beginning'

The coach of Russia's national football team struck a confident tone after his team's victory over Spain on Sunday.

"All my emotions are left on the pitch, now is the time to start preparing for the next game," he told reporters at the post-match press conference. "The tournament is only just beginning."

Once a maligned figure, Cherchesov is now universally lauded as one of the main architects of Russia's success. He explained Russia's defensive tactics against Spain by reminding journalists about the country's previous games against Spain.

"Ten years ago, at the European championship, the Spanish team defeated us twice - 3-0 and 4-1, because we attempted to play on an equal footing with them," he said.

"If we had chosen another strategy and tried to play open football against them [again] then we could have lost," he added.

Russia will play Croatia in the quarterfinals on July 7 in Sochi.

#### **MEMES**

Continued from Page 1

out to God in Michelangelo's iconic painting and in the guise of a cat stretching out a paw.

Akinfeyev has also been presented as an Orthodox saint and a Hindu god with many arms, while other users said that Russia had "officially canonized Akinfeyev's left foot."

T-killah, a Russian rapper, posted a video of himself getting a tattoo of the goalkeeper's first name, Igor, on his face, after reportedly losing a bet about the outcome of the match. Subsequent media reports suggest it was a temporary tattoo.

The Sport-Express newspaper reported that Dzyuba, who scored Russia's only goal in the match to make it 1-1, had a newborn child named in his honor in Yekaterinburg. Meanwhile, fans in the southern town of Dzhubga photographed themselves changing a roadside sign to make it read "Dzyubga."

The hot dog trio — and their nephew — have reportedly been offered free tickets to Russia's



These famous football stars are outta here.

next match against Croatia in the quarterfinals on July 7.

"We were contacted by the organizers who said we absolutely had to be there," Dmitry Ganyuk, the oldest hot dog eater in the group, told the Govorit Moskva radio station on Monday.

"We were told that we were the lucky charm of our team and that the match couldn't take place without us being there," he added.

#### Cash Predicts Future — Central Bank

Russia's Central Bank has said that a bank note it released in May correctly predicted Igor Akinfeyev's decisive penalty kick save in Sunday's game against

The bank released a special 100-ruble (\$1.58) banknote dedicated to the World Cup in the weeks before the tournament, featuring a hologram of a diving goalkeeper parrying a football with his foot.

The figure is remarkably similar to images of Akinfeyev during Spain's last penalty kick on Sunday, when he parried the ball with the tip of his outstretched



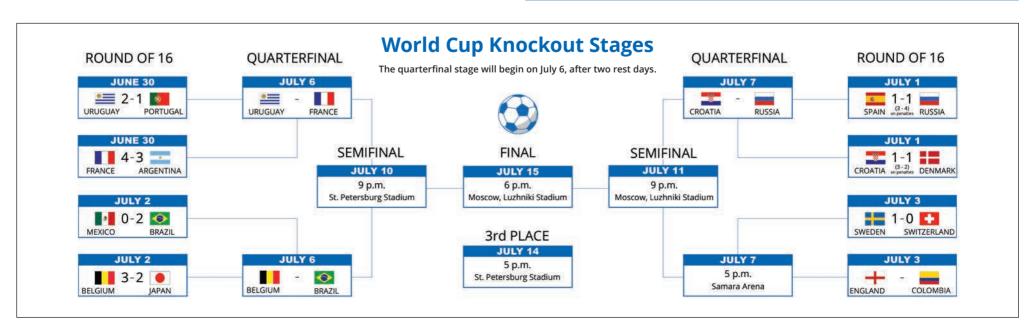
Forecasting "was always one of our strong sides."

foot to send Russia into the quarterfinals of the tournament.

"Forecasting was always one of our strong sides," the bank said in a Facebook statement on Monday.

The banknote also features

a boy with a football and legendary Soviet goalkeeper Lev Yashin, symbolizing "the transition between generations," Central Bank deputy head Olga Skorobogatova was cited as saying by the RBC news website.



### Possession Football No Longer Path to Glory

When Spain won the World Cup in 2010 by guarding possession with near infinite zeal, a new maxim was etched into football's text book of received wisdom: Hog the ball and you win the match

Other ways of playing that did not involve passing teams to death were supposedly consigned to the dustbin of football history, along with "kick and rush" and Herbert Chapman's W-M formation, with possession football heralded as the peak of the sport's technical and tactical evolution.

Yet if the World Cup has taught us anything, it is that possession is no longer the law in football.

The three sides who have bossed the ball the most in Russia - Spain, Germany and Argentina have all said Do Svidaniya before the quarterfinals.

Spain averaged 69 percent of the ball in their four games, peaking with a 75-percent share in their last-16 clash with Russia, according to FIFA statistics.

It did not translate into goals or glory, however, as they were sent packing on penalties after laboring like an aging heavyweight, seemingly bewildered that his once formidable jab was now little more than a minor irritation.

Germany arrived as world champions, but left after the group stage having racked up a 67-percent possession average in their three matches,



which ended in two defeats and one desperate stoppage-time win over Sweden.

Perhaps it is too early to sound the death knell for possession football, which still has remarkably successful proponents.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City side blitzed their way to the Premier League title, often giving opponents little more than a sniff of the ball

Nonetheless, jealously guarding possession is no longer the cure-all it was once perceived to be.

A tough lesson for Spain: just having the ball doesn't



Japan set the bar high, leaving an immaculate changing room and thank you note after defeat.

### Fan Zone CCTV Arrest

ing facial recognition software at the Vorobyovy Gory World Cup fan zone.

The capital's "Safe City" surveillance system employs facial recognition capabilities, with around 160,000 closed-circuit cameras in public areas and the transport system.

The technology has already led to the arrests of some 42 suspects in the month leading up to the start of the football tournament.

One suspect was arrested during the Russia-Spain knockout stage game on Sun-

Moscow police have reported- day, a senior Moscow City Hall security official told the state-run TASS news agency on Tuesday.

Security cameras at the entrance to the fan zone identified "a citizen on the federal wanted list," Vladimir Chernikov, the city's head of regional security, was quoted as saying.

Almost 300 cameras with 50,000 photographs of criminal suspects, hooligans and blacklisted foreign fans uploaded into the system were installed at the fan zone and the nearby Luzhniki Stadium, Chernikov noted.



Russia is also holding a Brazilian robbery suspect, who was arrested on an international warrant at St. Petersburg's stadium during Brazil's game against Costa Rica two weeks ago.

Security cameras in the Moscow fan zone identified a person on the wanted list.

**OPINION** 

#### By James **Montague**



### Kadyrov Couldn't Corrupt Mo Salah

t wasn't supposed to turn out this way.

In August of last year, some 80,000 Egyptian football fans were cele-L brating their first World Cup qualification in two decades. Even though they arguably had been Africa's greatest team, the World Cup had eluded them thanks to a mixture of bad luck, bad football, bad karma and, finally, a

But, in the Borg El Arab stadium outside Alexandria, Muhammad Salah stroked home a 94th minute penalty and The Pharaohs were on their way back to where they believed they belonged: among the world's elite.

That penalty opened a remarkable season for Salah. He would score a record number of goals for Liverpool FC and play in the Champions League final, albeit briefly, after Sergio Ramos of Real Madrid and Spain judo rolled him in the first half. It was touch and go whether Salah would even make the World Cup, a drama that gripped Egypt ahead of their first game. The fact he would be able to play was the last good news Egypt received.

From then on, the squad was embroiled in a series of PR disasters. The enduring image from Egypt's brief spell in Russia won't be Salah's two goals, or even his deification by a jaded Egyptian public desperate for a hero. It will be

> the image of Salah hand-in-hand with Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov at the Akhmat Arena in Grozny.

> The Egyptian FA decided to base itself in Chechnya despite Kadyrov being a deeply controversial figure. Anointed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, he has ruled his republic with an iron fist and has been embroiled in numerous human rights scandals, the most recent being the alleged rounding up and

torturing of gay men.

As news of Salah's

Twitter: "I'm With Salah."

retirement surfaced, a

hashtag went viral on

Kadyrov is also a huge football fan who funds Chechnya's Akhmat Grozny club. He often flies in former star players for matches which he himself plays in. Hosting Egypt and a global star was a publicity coup he wasn't going to miss. So, when the Egyptian side turned up for its first training session and Salah wasn't there, Kadyrov simply drove to his hotel, woke him up and personally escorted him to the stadium.

A string of over-the-top set pieces followed. A 100-kilogram birthday cake for Salah in the colors of the Chechen and Egyptian flags. A grand banquet. The announcement that Salah would be granted honorary citizenship. And all with Salah grinning a forced smile.

As a result, Salah is reportedly thinking of quitting the national team. For Egyptians, there is no question who is to blame. "It begins with the EFA [Egyptian Football Association]," said Amr Khalifa, an Egyptian political analyst. "That odious list further extends to the actors, dancers and VIPs who added to the circus atmosphere at the team's training ground in Chechnya.'

As soon as news of Salah's alleged international retirement surfaced - a story the EFA has denied — a hashtag went viral on Twitter: "I'm With Salah." And when his Egyptian address was leaked, hundreds turned up at his home, not to berate him, but to cheer him. He came out and signed autographs

Kadyrov was not first in line. For decades, Egyptian politicians have tried to gain reflected glory from The Pharaohs. The former dictator Hosni Mubarak would visit the team before big games. And before Salah, the hero was Muhammad Aboutrika, an absurdly talented midfielder who was politically outspoken. When the revolution came in 2011, he supported it. When the cour terrevolution wiped away the Muslim Brotherhood-supported presidency of Muhammad Morsi, replacing it with the neo-dictatorship of Abdel Fattah al Sisi, Aboutrika was suddenly on the wrong side of history. He is now living in exile in Qatar, his assets seized, placed on an Egyptian "terrorist" list.

Salah was a prodigy of Aboutrika. He even had Aboutrika's iconic number 22 in his Twitter handle. But Salah has learned from him what can happen when you become too popular, and too political. Aboutrika was destroyed for it. Quietly, and without many people noticing, the 22 was removed from Salah's Twitter handle before the World Cup. "When you have a nation in a boat, buffeted by waves, it's a very difficult position for Salah to be in," Amr

Salah will now find respite when he returns to Liverpool. Yet little will change if he returns to the Egypt national team; caught between the love of 100 million people, and the love of the powerful seeking to profit from his

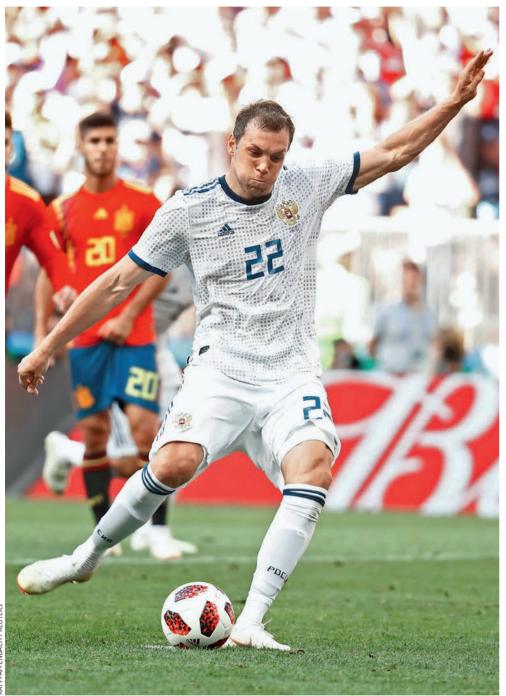
James Montague is a writer and journalist 🤰 @JamesPiotr



The Moscow Times IN-DEPTH July 4 – 5, 2018

# Artyom Dzyuba: The Prodigal Son

Conflicts with the head coach and a goalless streak almost sidelined Russia's star striker



At the beginning of the World Cup, Artyom Dzyuba's career looked to be on a downward spiral.

BY DANIEL KOZIN y @DANIELKOZIN

ntil the 41st minute, it looked as if Russia was on its way out of the World Cup.

A goal down and outclassed, the Russian players on Sunday could barely make it into the Spanish half, let alone carve out enough space for attempts on the goal. Then, after a freak handball by veteran Spanish defender Gerard Pique, the home side was awarded a penalty.

With 78,000 spectators on their feet and millions more glued to television screens, Russia's lumbering striker, Artyom Dzyuba, coolly asked for the ball. First, he waited for the whistle. Then he slotted the ball into the back of the net.

It was a decisive moment — the realization of what later turned out to be Russia's only attempt at a goal in the entire game, which ended in a penalty shootout and a historic Russian victory.

Even though he looked composed, Russia's number 22 later admitted that he was terrified when he walked up to the ball.

"Several players told me: 'Go up and take it!' I was scared, to be honest. God forbid I miss. For so many years, the god of football had turned his back on us, but today, he was on our side," Dzyuba told the Sovetsky Sport newspaper after the game. "We've put up with so much through the years, so much crap."

Born in a working-class neighborhood in Moscow in 1988 to a Ukrainian father who was a policeman and a Russian mother who worked in a grocery store, he is notorious for being one of the most outspoken players in Russian football.

"Artyom is a remarkable footballer. He's managed to quarrel with the coaches and fans of every club he's played at," the Komsomolskaya Pravda tabloid wrote. "Meanwhile, everyone who knows him personally only has the best things to say about him."

He left his boyhood club, Spartak Moscow, for archrivals Zenit St. Petersburg in 2015, in a salary dispute he characterized as a lack of respect for his dedication to the club.

Having once been one of the most promising products of the Spartak academy, Dzyuba's career at the team was plagued by loan spells and constant conflicts with head coaches.

Dzyuba has managed to quarrel with coaches and fans of every club he has ever played for.

After two successful seasons at Zenit, Dzyuba rose to become a star striker in the domestic league. However, one year before the start of the World Cup, his dream of performing for the national team was unexpectedly shattered.

After a reported altercation with head coach Stanislav Cherchesov in May 2017, rumor had it he stormed out from Russia's training ground.

From there, it only got worse. Zenit's new coach, Roberto Mancini, deemed the striker superfluous to requirements. The club's top goal scorer of the previous season was suddenly demoted to the bench, after managing only two goals in 24 appearances. By winter, the striker was demoted to Zenit's reserve squad, which plays in Russia's second-tier league.

Swallowing his pride, he asked Zenit for a loan to Arsenal Tula, a mid-table club with mid-table ambitions, all in the hopes of getting enough playing time to convince Cherchesov to let him back onto the side.

"Our home World Cup is coming up, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Dzyuba told Arsenal's press service after his transfer. "I've set myself the goal of preparing and playing [at the tournament]."

Suddenly, Dzyuba flourished. He netted six goals in 10 games to become one of the best strikers of the spring.

With the clock ticking down to the World Cup, the striker went on to issue a statement indicating he was ready to reconcile with Cherchesov for the sake of being called up.

He got lucky. After another striker, Alexander Kokorin, was sidelined with an injury, Cherchesov welcomed Dzyuba back to Russia's team. It may have been his best decision of the tournament

In Russia's remarkable four-match run into the quarterfinals, Dzyuba has scored three goals. He is the homeside's joint top scorer. More importantly, he is the player around which Russia's remarkable team spirit is based.

"Artyom is capable of rousing the whole team in the dressing room, he gives the players courage," Guus Hiddink, Russia's renowned former-coach, said of the player in an interview to the Sport-Express newspaper. "He might not be the most technical or skilled player in the team, but it's impossible to overlook his presence on the field."

Russia's fairytale progression into the quarterfinals, made possible by the striker's decision to fight for a place on the team, has also seen his dour relationship with the head coach overhauled.

Dzyuba now runs up to Cherchesov after scoring and gives an army-style salute, already a gesture he is famous for.

"Cherchesov looks at him with a flurry of emotions. This is how a father welcomes his son after returning from the army. This is how a commander welcomes a fighter who has returned from a deadly mission," the Sports.ru news website wrote about the celebration.

## Igor Akinfeyev: The Saving Grace

A series of infamous blunders had left Russian fans with serious doubts about their keeper

BY EVAN GERSHKOVICH > @EVANGERSHKOVICH

gor Akinfeyev dove to the right. The ball sailed down the middle. But as the Russian goalkeeper's left leg swung out behind him, it blocked the penalty kick and knocked Spain out of the World Cup.

The victory on Sunday will arguably

The victory on Sunday will arguably be the Russian national football team's most famous ever. Going by FIFA's rankings, it was a historical upset in the knockout rounds. Rus-

sia will now appear in the quarterfinal stage for the first time since 1970, when its squad was stocked with players from all over the Soviet Union.

The undeniable man of the match was Akinfeyev. Because the team's coach Stanislav Cherchesov had set up his team in a defensive posture — "they are better than us in many ways," he explained before the game, "so I don't

believe we should risk going forward" — Akinfeyev was forced to make key save after key save. And that was before he stopped two of Spain's penalty kicks following overtime.

After the match, Akinfeyev, the team's captain, was quick to deflect attention. "I'm not the man of the match," he told a scrum of journalists. "The man of the match is our team — and our fans."

The fans, however, disagreed.

Late into the night, Muscovites spilled into the streets to celebrate their national team, and their hometown hero. (Technically Akinfeyev was born in Vidnoye, a town three kilometers outside city limits.) Everywhere in the capital, the chant rang out: "Igor, Igor, Akinfeyev, ey, ey!"

Others pledged their loyalty to the new king more explicitly. Papa John's promised the goal-keeper a year-long supply of pizzas. On state television, a man standing next to his wife told a reporter, "If my wife wanted to go marry Akinfeyev right now, I'd be fine with that."

Akinfeyev, however, was not always so unanimously loved. Although he has been Russia's starting goalkeeper for the past 13 years, he has made his fair share of mistakes in pivotal matches. Going into the World Cup, supporters were undecided as to whether he was still the man for the job.

In the first match of the last World Cup, in Brazil in 2014, a long distance shot from a South Korean substitute floated directly at the goalkeeper. Somehow, the ball slipped right

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#### In his career, Akinfeyev has always been very good about bringing himself back after making a mistake.

between his hands and into the net. The football magazine FourFourTwo lists the blunder as the fifth "most incredible howler" in World Cuphistory

Although Russia managed to salvage a draw, they lost the next match. Then, against Algeria in the final group stage game, Akinfeyev committed another error — badly misjudging a cross and leaving his net wide open — sending his team home.

After yet another botched save knocked Russia out of the Confederations Cup last summer, calls to oust the goalkeeper grew louder.

"After that, people were talking about needing to replace him," said Russian football journalist Igor Rabiner. "But it's clear Russia doesn't have a better goalkeeper. And the important thing about Igor is that, throughout his career, he has always been very good at bringing himself back up after making a mistake."

Indeed, in Russia's third match of the group stage this World Cup against Uruguay, Akinfeyev was slow to react during two of Uruguay's goals, eliciting post-match criticism.

In the next match against Spain, his play was spotless.

The goalkeeper, who has spent his entire career at CSKA Moscow where he started at five years old, had also long been the butt of jokes cracked by supporters of rival clubs, particularly Spartak Moscow and Zenit St. Petersburg. Mostly they made fun of him, Rabiner said, for holding by far the longest streak of games without a shutout in the UEFA Champions League: 43 consecutive matches. The keeper in second place has just 16.

"He finally broke the streak in November and I think that gave him some extra confidence going into this tournament," Rabiner said.

If domestic supporters had their doubts about Akinfeyev heading into the World Cup, the goalkeeper's love for his home never wavered.

Reportedly, Akinfeyev refused multiple offers to move abroad to bigger clubs throughout his career because he likes "Russian nature, especially birch trees" too much.

"I believe in God and like to walk by Orthodox churches with their domes," Akinfeyev said. "Obviously, I can't get enough of that in Europe."

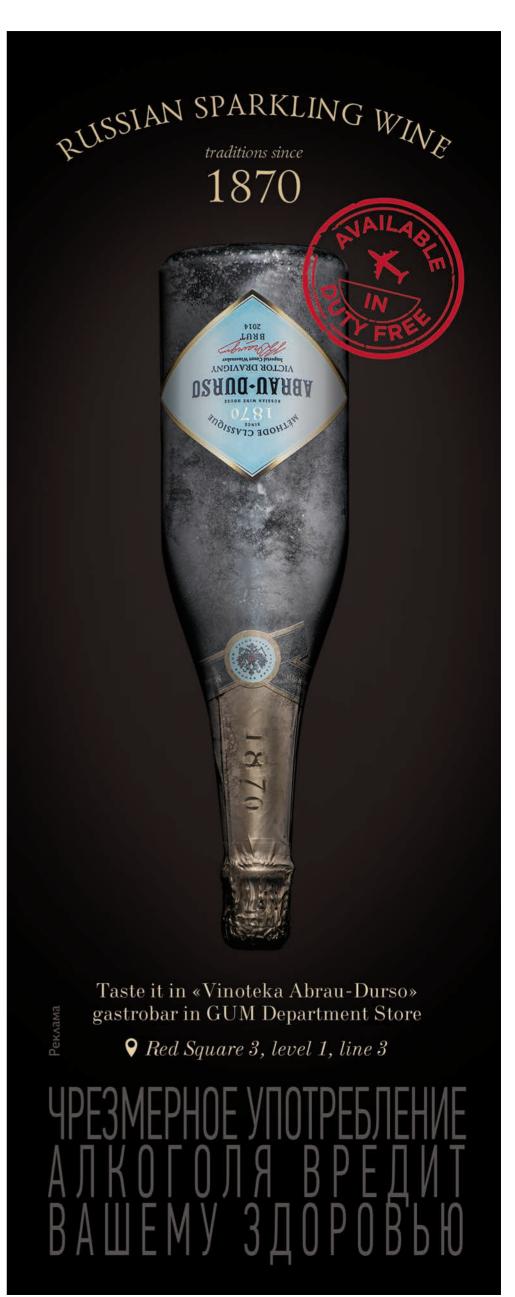
The patriotic goalkeeper was also a surrogate for President Vladimir Putin during the president's election campaign this year.

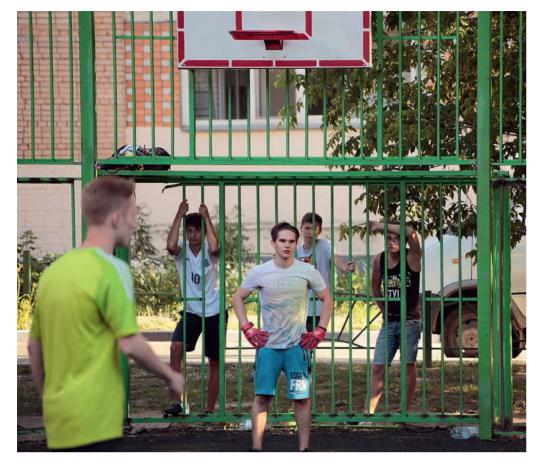
Yet that did not stop even Putin's loudest critic, Alexei Navalny, from swooning over Akinfeyev's heroics following the win over Spain.

The opposition leader known for organizing street protests tweeted: "YESSSS! We need to announce a series of protests demanding the Hero of Russia honor" — the country's highest honorary title — "for Akinfeyev."



In the first match of the Brazil World Cup, Akinfeyev let an easy shot slip through his hands.





In this courtyard in Balashikha, a town near Moscow, the rules are strict: Show up late to the game, and you'll have to watch from the sidelines.

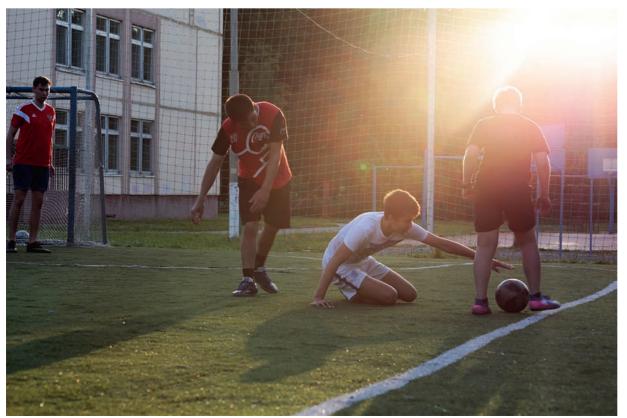




Even the goalkeeper doesn't wear special gear in this courtyard near Aeroport Metro.



# Let's Take '



Young students scrimmage in the schoolyard, taking in the midsummer sun, on a football pitch between Metro Tyoply Stan and Konkovo.





Despite the summer heat, these players between the Aeroport and Dynamo metro stations prefer to play the game in their blue jeans.



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A group of boys abandon a football that's been kicked around a few too many times.

# This Outside

Far from the World Cup stadiums, young footballers are battling it out in the courtyards right outside their homes.

Photos by Pavel Zelenkov



A boy walks away from a game with his friends in a courtyard near Metro Dynamo, after a squabble over who can take the football home after the game.

A panel housing unit looms between Metro Tyoply Stan and Konkovo at the edges of the city, a vivid remnant of Soviet construction.



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#### A Guide to Some of St. Petersburg's Most Beautiful Religious Buildings



#### The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood

The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood takes its name from the tragic episode of 1881 when Tsar Alexander II, who made history for abolishing serfdom in 1861, was assassinated by a terrorist on the spot where the church now stands. Inside the church you can see a fragment of the pavement stained by the blood of the Tsar Liberator, as Russians call him. Alfred Parland designed the building in the style of 16th and 17th Russian churches. It is often called a museum of mosaics: There are more than 7,000 square meters of mosaics depicting biblical scenes. The cathedral was used as a morgue and a vegetable warehouse during the Soviet period. 2B Griboyedov Kanal



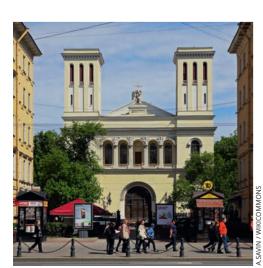
es in Russia. Built in 1833-1836, it is one of the oldest and currently serves as the seat of the Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Central Asia. With rounded arches, sweeping towers and classical-style statues of apostles Peter and Paul framing the front entrance, it is also late Empire style. The Soviets repurposed the church as an indoor swimming pool. In 1990 the church was restored and continues to hold services in both Russian and German.

22-24 Nevsky Prospekt

#### **Troitsky Cathedral**

Troitsky Cathedral glitters with an aquamarine dome roof studded with gold stars. The building is a prime example of late Empire style architecture, with neoclassical white pillars and delicate carvings. The cathedral was constructed in 1825-1835 in honor of the Izmailovsky Regiment (Russian tradition required that a church be built for each regiment of the imperial guard). After the Bolshevik Revolution, the cathedral was looted and repurposed as a warehouse. Reconstruction began in the 2000s, but was disrupted by a major fire in 2006 that destroyed the original dome. The dome was rebuilt and the church reopened in 2010.

7a Izmailovsky Prospekt



#### St. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church of St. Peter and Paul is one of the most important Protestant church-



#### St. Isaac's Cathedral

St. Isaac's Cathedral is known for its bird's eye view of the city from the colonnade. There is no elevator, but the climb of nearly 300 steps is worth the effort. Designed by the French architect Auguste de Montferrande, the cathedral took 40 years to complete (1818-1858). As one anecdote has it, a fortune-teller told Montferrande that he would die after the cathedral was finished, so the architect made every effort to procrastinate. The truth is less dramatic. The cathedral is extremely heavy and required massive amounts of granite to stabilize it.

4 Isaakiyevskaya Ploshchad

#### **Grand Choral Synagogue**

The city's Grand Choral Synagogue is the world's third largest, after synagogues in New York and Budapest. One of the younger religious buildings in St. Petersburg, it was designed in lavish Moorish style by Lev Bakhman—the first Jewish graduate of the St. Petersburg Academy of Fine Arts—and consecrated in 1893. It is open to non-religious visitors every day, except Saturdays and religious holidays.

2 Lermontovsky Prospekt



#### **Datsan Gunzechoinei Buddhist Temple**

A visit to the Buddhist Temple, also known as Datsan Gunzechoinei, takes you on a detour from the city center, yet it has a remarkable history and makes for a memorable visit. It is the world's northernmost Buddhist temple and was built in 1910-1915, following a 1909 petition from the Dalai Lama and with the permission of the tsar. During Soviet times the temple played several roles, including a home for a military radio station, a sports base and a zoology research lab. The temple resumed services in 1990.



#### St. Nicholas Naval Cathedral

The St. Nicholas (Nikolsky) Naval Cathedral, which locals call the "Sailors' Cathedral," is one of the oldest in town—a genuine masterpiece of baroque architecture. The fabulous blue and white Orthodox cathedral with shiny golden domes was built in 1753-1760 and designed by the Admiralty architect Savva Chevakinsky. It became a naval cathedral in 1762 by order of Catherine II. The cathedral's walls are decorated with scenes from the history of the Russian Navy.

#### Holy Trinity Alexander Nevsky Monastery

The seminal Orthodox monastery in St. Petersburg is the Holy Trinity Alexander Nevsky Monastery, which is more commonly referred to locally as the *lavra*, a word for a large and important Orthodox monastery. It was founded

by Peter the Great in 1710, making it nearly as old as the city itself. Popular legend has it that the monastery was established near the spot where Prince Alexander Nevsky won the historic Battle of the Neva against the Swedes in 1240. The monastery houses the relics of Alexander Nevsky. At the monastery's Tikhvin Cemetery are the graves of Fyodor Dostoevsky, Pyotr Tchaikovsky and other famous Russian composers and writers.

1 Naberezhnaya Reki Monastyrki



#### **Smolny Cathedral**

The baroque Smolny Cathedral's famous blue and while exteriors were designed in the 18th century by Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli—the man behind the Winter Palace, the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoye Selo and the Grand Palace in Peterhof. It is part of the Smolny Convent that was established by the decree of Catherine the Great. The interiors did not survive, and the cathedral now serves as a classical music concert venue with a chamber choir.

3/1 Rastrelli Square



#### The Great Mosque of St. Petersburg

The Great Mosque of St. Petersburg opened in 1913. At the time it was the largest mosque in Europe outside of Turkey. The mosque was built with private donations from across Russia, the largest sum coming from the Emir of Bukhara in whose honor the mosque was founded in 1910. The mosque's tiled blue cupola designed by architect Nikolai Vasilyev resembles the mausoleum of Tamerlane in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. This beautiful and spacious mosque can accommodate up to 7,000 people on its three floors. 7 Kronverksky Prospekt

#### Kazan Cathedral

The Kazan Cathedral, built in the early 19th century, makes clear visual references to St. Paul's Cathedral in Rome, which was used as inspiration by the Russian architect Andrei Voronikhin. The colonnade symbolizes the open embrace of God. This Orthodox cathedral is home to the Our Lady of Kazan icon, one of the most revered icons in the country.

2 Kazanskaya Ploshchad



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Each hallway represents an era in Vysotsky's life, such as this replica of his childhood communal apartment.

### The Seven Worlds of Vladimir Vysotsky

By Andrei Muchnik | 🔰 @amuchnik

### Jewish Museum multimedia exhibit explores the life of the Soviet poet

allways. Seven Worlds of Vysotsky" is a new exhibition at the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center dedicated to the late singer and actor Vladimir Vysotsky, considered to be among the most brilliant poets of post-war Soviet Russia. The exhibition is the first in a series dedicated to the lives and art of prominent Jewish figures.

Vysotsky's family on his father's side came from the Brest region of contemporary Belarus. Allegedly, the poet's family name is derived from the name of the settlement Vysokoye. Even though Vysotsky's Jewish heritage has never been a significant theme in his poetry and songs, he acknowledges it in one of his poems: "A family of Jews, they dwelt in Rome / Vysotsky, known nowhere else but their home."

Vysotsky would have celebrated his 80th birthday this year. He died in 1980, just 42 years old. A singer-songwriter, poet and stage-and-screen actor, Vysotsky had an enormous and lasting effect on Soviet and Russian culture. A recent biopic "Vysotsky: Thank God I'm Alive" (with a script by his son) provoked controversy because of the way it presented the artist — who is still idolized today — by largely focusing on his drug and alcohol problems.

Little is known about Vysotsky's personal life despite his immense popularity in the Soviet Union. Since he often sang in the first person, his fans assumed his songs represented his own experiences. But they didn't always. Contrary to his songs' subjects, Vysotsky never took part in World War II, never served time in a prison

camp and never even sailed a ship. His songs took place in worlds created by their author, but they felt so authentic that his listeners often mistook them for the real thing.

The idea behind "Hallways. Seven Worlds of Vysotsky" was to show some of these worlds and explain their roots. The exhibition is literally a sequence of hallways, each symbolizing a certain theme in Vysotsky's poetry. Visitors will be able to walk from one hallway to another and

see replicas of a Moscow communal apartment, a World War II trench, a Moscow alleyway, a mental hospital and a typical Soviet pub. The experience is similar to immersive theater. All the items are authentic: furniture, cutlery and clothing — there's even fresh food in the kitchen. You can touch most of the items and even open drawers in a cupboard.

"Hallways" tackles just one aspect of Vysotsky: his poetry. The exhibition only briefly



Although Vysotsky wore many hats, the exhibition is devoted to his legacy as a poet.

mentions his work as an actor or his tumultuous personal life in the section devoted to the artist's biography. The poems escort you along the way. Handwritten and typewritten drafts are displayed on the walls, while the headphones' recording explains the visuals provided within the "hallways."

In every hallway there's background information explaining why this or that theme appeared in Vysotsky's oeuvre. The communal apartment tells the story of the poet's childhood; a dangerous alleyway refers to widespread crime in Moscow after World War II; and the psychiatric ward is Vysotsky's reflection on the U.S.S.R. as a whole.

The exhibition is the brainchild of Yan Vizinberg, the creative director of Lorem Ipsum, the company that participated in the creation of multimedia installations for the Yeltsin Center in Yekaterinburg and Zaryadye Park in Moscow. To produce the exhibition, he gathered a film crew. Production designer Andrei Ponkratov, who worked with Andrei Zvyagintsev on "Leviathan" and "Loveless," served as the art director; while cinematographer Vladislav Opelyants, known for working with embattled director Kirill Serebrennikov on his last two movies, "The Student" and "Summer," was the lighting designer.

After exhibiting at the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center, "Hallways. Seven Worlds of Vysotsky" will tour Russia and other former Soviet countries. It runs through Sept. 23. **Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center,** 11 Ulitsa Obraztsova, Bldg. 1A. Metro Maryina Roshcha. jewish-museum.ru

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For years, the annual Independence Day celebration was a favorite summertime event in Moscow.

### Russian Americana

By Guy Archer

### Despite the gloom, Moscow remains a strangely familiar place for Americans

appy Independence Americans, the few of you left in Moscow.

Try to remember that things weren't always this bad – in fact, they used to be pretty good.

And maybe they're not as bad now as they seem, though they really are pretty bad on some levels.

But let us step back and take a look at things from a day-to-day perspective, discounting political and economic issues. The Russian affinity for American stuff continues unabated. Hamburgers have supplanted sushi as the de rigueur menu item at *every* restaurant – French, Georgian, Italian, whatever. American-style diners are still massively popular and all over the place. A younger generation of professionals is seduced by hipster-

dom and startups and Silicon Valley and disruption. Older generations still love the Americana of Elvis and Marilyn Monroe, motorcycles, classic cars, rebellion and rock and roll. American-styled clothes are everywhere. Jazz and jazz bars are everywhere. Without any exaggeration at all, I can say that some of the finest country, bluegrass, Dixie jazz and rockabilly musicians I've ever seen are Russian; and they play to wildly enthusiastic Moscow audiences all the time.

The fact is, as most of us Americans in Russia can attest, no matter how bad the political situation has been, the antipathy towards America has never been *personal*. And it certainly has never been cultural. The problem is that there just aren't that many of us Americans left to attest anymore. And most of us figure that about 80 percent of

FIXED H

Russia and the U.S. still have a lot in common: tractor races, like this one in Rostov-on-Don.

the Americans once here have left over the last four years.

A long, strange trip

When I first arrived in Moscow in the late 1990s, the myth of America and many Russians' fascination with America were at a fever pitch. Indeed, in my opinion at the time, things were even a bit overheated.

Per capita, there were very few restaurants in Moscow 20 years ago; and for the expat community, the social center of Moscow was the Starlite Diner at Mayakovskaya metro. Years earlier, a group of U.S. businessmen planted this authentic American diner smack in the middle of the Akvarium Garden, the first in a successful run of them. Go there any time, and you would run into people you knew. And just five minutes away was the notorious American Bar and Grill, a decidedly more seedy variation on the American theme; but just like the Starlite, it was always jampacked with Russians digging the American theme.

At the same time, there was an American as pect to Moscow that was much more fascinating, accidental and authentic. There were genuinely rough bars all over town, and I adored them. In my mind, they were as wild and unpredictable as I imagined that the American honky-tonk bars had once been decades before. One place I enjoyed going was in the basement of the Central House of Artists, called Taxman. My first time there, some kid was playing perfect Jerry Lee Lewis and I really mean perfect - while people around me were fighting and empty beer bottles were flying. I was in heaven. This was a place that wasn't trying to be American, but was more of a genuine and altered glance into an older and cooler America of honkey-tonks, attitude, fighting, great music and whatever happens next. It was in places like this that I began to appreciate one of the genuine connections between Russian and American cultures.

As Russia left its Wild West of the 1990s and Moscow saw the rise of a rapidly growing, more refined middle class, the Taxman was shutdown and replaced with something entirely more respectable — a place that no doubt sold sushi. Most of the dives that I loved disappeared. But the Starlite and the American Bar and Grill were still going strong and packed.

As Russian wealth grew, I noticed a new trend. To my delight, pick-up trucks began appearing in Moscow. Better still, many were jacked-up on huge wheels. Some were outrageously painted with all kinds of wild drawings. You would never find anything in such poor taste ... except everywhere in America.

Over the decades, I've come to appreciate that the two countries genuinely share many attributes and predilections – and a wonderful lack of refinement. I've seen what I thought was an unhealthy preoccupation with American culture balance itself out, become more equal and appre ciative and then become more Russified. Take the hamburger, for example. Russian restaurants are now adding their own unique flare to hamburger recipes and making them their own. American bars and diners are still around, but Russian pubs and craft beer places are evolving from them, finding their own voice and building on those legacies. Thankfully, the passion for over-thetop trucks grows more rampant. We may not be brothers and sisters, but we're certainly cousins.

So while America-Russia relations remain in the ditch, for however long, the Russian and American affinity, to my mind, is still going strong.

Guy Archer was the communications director at the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia in 2007-2014.

#### **Some Righteous Places for American Grub**



#### **Beverly Hills Diner**

Travel through time and space as you enter Beverly Hills, a true 1950s American diner. Old movies play on the retro TVs, Sinatra and Elvis hits float from the jukebox and photos of classic Hollywood stars from Audrey Hepburn to Cary Grant line the walls. The menu is almost too long to read, with build-your-own-burgers, over a dozen milkshakes and five separate French toast combos, all just the tip of the iceberg. Not to worry though: There's more than enough time to try everything that strikes your fancy. Every diner in the chain is open 24 hours a day, so if you're in the mood for pancakes at 4 o'clock in the morning, you know just where to go. Multiple locations

bhdiner.ru/en/homepage

#### Pyany Krab i Schastlivaya Kuritsa

Find yourself on the streets of California as you settle down for a meal at Pyany Krab i Schastlivaya Kuritsa (literally, Drunk Crab and Happy Chicken). Set up with vintage finds from San Francisco flea markets and the owners' own photographs of California, the restaurant is as authentically West Coast as they come. Seafood runs the show, as shrimp come in all shapes and sizes, from marinated with mango to shrimp tempura; and crab dishes take it up an extra notch. You can take a crack at a whole baked Kamchatka or snow crab, or get everyone's favorite, the crab cakes—but if you do, know you'll be hooked for life.

6 Bolshoi Sukharevski Pereulok. Metro Sukharevskaya, Trubnaya. facebook.com/drunk.crab

#### SOS Cafe

Nothing says American fast food quite like a hot dog, and SOS Cafe has put a whimsical and creative spin on the classic dish. Visitors get a choice of Munich white, pepper and eight other types of sausage; and as for hot dogs—well, let's just say you'll get to try something unique. There are four flavors: classic, egg, mac & cheese and pizza, and you can choose to get one wrapped in a Hong Kong waffle. Belying first impressions, SOS Cafe also strives to be accessible for all: In place of sausage, vegetarians can choose to have their meal with carrot, and the restaurant's

fruity beer cocktails are certainly a hit with every customer.

11 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa. Metro Lubyanka. sos.cafe



#### Chicago Grill & Bar

An upscale take on the classic American steakhouse, Chicago Grill & Bar aims to deliver the best, juiciest piece of meat you've ever had. The elegant, warm interior creates an intimate atmosphere perfect for a date, business meeting or family outing, while those in the mood for a more rowdy evening will feel right at home at the restaurant's well-stocked bar—a long-time favorite hangout for the foreign business commu-

nity in Moscow. With a remarkable selection of open-fire steaks ranging from the standard filet mignon and rib eye to Chicago Grill's signature Machete or Denver, the restaurant is a carnivore's paradise. It has a great wine list too. 8 Strastnoy Bulvar. Metro Pushkinskaya. chicagogrill.ru/en

#### Starlite Diner

When the legendary Starlite opened its doors in 1995 as the first diner in Moscow, the city's inhabitants wasted no time embracing the friendly American joint in all its bagels-and-banana-splits novelty. Over the years, Starlite's popularity has grown as the diner stretched its ever-evolving menu to include pretzel bun burgers and—with the advent of the World Cup—an all-American football combo, complete with buffalo wings, nachos and tater tots. No one should leave without a taste of homemade pink lemonade. But if you want something a little stronger, try a summer cocktail. Be it a Hawaiian punch or apple pie kvass, you won't come away disappointed.

Multiple locations starlite.ru/en



#### **Brisket BBQ**

This place is heaven and even the most discerning Texan would agree. A joint venture by innovative chefs Fyodor Tardatyan and Maxim Livsi along with Arkady Novikov, Moscow's best known restaurateur, Brisket BBQ brings the cooking culture of Texas into the heart of Russia's capital. Inspired by Tardatyan's visits to the Lone Star State, where he got a chance to discover all the secrets of the trade firsthand, the restaurant is a Texan style barbecue: The meat is prepared in a traditional smoker at low temperatures and takes several hours to cook, giving it that unmistakable smoky flavor. Offering an overwhelming array of dishes, from its namesake brisket - a cut of beef or veal from the breast or lower chest-to pulled pork or smoked quarter of duck, Brisket BBQ has something new for each visitor. Once you've come in from the bustling streets of Moscow and settled in a booth, the restaurant's tiled walls and simple modern interior give the impression that you're actually in the U.S. And even Texan tourists, skeptically entering the restaurant, ready to catch every mistake, end the meal

with a glass of moonshine and feeling like they never left home.

13

15 Smolensky Bulvar. Metro Park Kultury, Smolenskaya. brisketbbq.business.site



#### **Upside Down Cake Co.**

If you've got a sweet tooth, there's no better place than Upside Down Cake Co. to get your fill of American desserts. Cheesecake, red velvet, carrot cake, brownies—this charming café and bakery has it all, and plenty of other treats for good measure. The jewels of the menu are, of course, the Cake Company's artisanal cupcakes. From the large strawberry and basil or red currant and white chocolate to the bite-sized toasted marshmallow, bursting with flavor, the café's delicious creations are a pleasure for the senses. If you get there hungry, there's also whole menu of standard American fare—just make sure to leave room for dessert.

Multiple locations upsidedowncake.ru/en



#### Tin Woodman Bar

If breakfast is the most important meal of the day, then Tin Woodman is the place to be. Serving all-day American breakfasts and burgers, the staff greets you like an old friend; the cocktails are creative; and the feta burger is to die for. Perhaps best of all, the bar is next door to one of Moscow's must-see sites: the Moscow State University's botanical gardens. After a long walk through the exotic plants and flowers, you're sure to work up an appetite for the deluxe breakfast of eggs, burger, tater tots, toast and jam. 26 Prospekt Mira. Metro Prospekt Mira. facebook.com/tinwoodmanmsk

# INFO FOR U.S. CITIZENS TRAVELING TO THE WORLD CUP IN RUSSIA

#### EMBASSY MOSCOW

Bolshoy Deviatinsky Pereulok 8

+ (7) (495) 728-5577 or + (7) (495) 728-5000 (after hours) moscowacs@state.gov

#### CONSULATE GENERAL YEKATERINBURG

Ulitza Gogolya 15

+ (7) (343) 379-3001 or + (7) 917-569-3549 (after hours) consulyekatacs@state.gov

#### CONSULATE GENERAL VLADIVOSTOK

Pushkinskaya Ulitza 32

+ (7) (4232) 300-070 or + (7) (914) 791-0067 (after hours) *vladcons@state.gov* 

#### SERVICES FOR U.S. CITIZENS DURING THE WORLD CUP

- Replacing lost or stolen passports (only at a U.S. embassy or consulate)
- Providing information on medical resources
- Helping victims of crime
- Assisting after an arrest or detention
- Locating a lost U.S. citizen
- Helping after the death of a U.S. citizen

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES IN RUSSIA

- All Emergency Services: Call 112 or 101
- Police: Call 102 or 112 if using a mobile phone
- Fire: Call 101
- Medical: Call 103

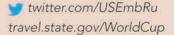
#### **USEFUL LINKS**

- Official FIFA World Cup Russia 2018
   Website
   www.fifa.com/worldcup/index.html
- Fan Guide Information welcome2018.com/en/fan\_guide
- Official ticket reseller www.fifa.com/worldcup/organisation/ ticketing/index.html

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### Russia's 'Weld Queen'

By Dmitry Vasin | > @dmitry\_vasin

### Bold determination, self-promotion and a welding torch

f you go to a modern art exhibition in Moscow or head to Nikola-Lenivets for the Maslenitsa festival, you might come across a young woman dressed in a traditional Russian fur coat, wearing a welding helmet that looks like a *kokoshnik* and with a yoke over her shoulders that holds buckets of iron armature. Alternatively, she might be in rough canvas overalls studded with metal diamonds. Either way, she'll have her helmet on and her visor up.

This is Alexandra Ivleva, aka the "Weld Queen," an artist and performer with a passion for welding and no concern for gender stereotypes. She calls her appearances "art interventions."

You can see Ivleva's massive sculptures at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art, the Flacon Art Center, Khlebozavod, Artplay, Zverev Center and other galleries around Moscow.

The 32-year-old was born in Kislovodsk and moved to Moscow 10 years ago when her friends invited her to use their studio for oil painting. Ivleva says that one morning she woke up with the image of a giant silver bear in her head. She realized at once she needed to give life to this image — and weld it.

Her father was a car-body repairman who taught her welding. This gave her a start. Later

she studied the craft in Moscow and received a diploma. Since 2015 she's been creating art objects such as animals, larger-than-life angels and rocking chairs shaped like people relaxing.

#### Human rocking chairs

One of Ivleva's recent shows at the Zverev Center in Moscow was dedicated to rocking chairs, featuring about 15 of them. To top the event, the artist welded one chair on the spot using an air extraction system to keep it safe. A man posed for the chair.

"The sculpture was called 'Casanova," Alexei Sosna, director of the center, told The Moscow Times. "It was a man lying down and it took her several days to do. It was beautiful. Visitors laughed and applauded when they watched her work."

Sosna invited Ivleva because he was fascinated by her method — heavy metal objects and a welding machine on the one hand, and precise work with a jeweler's touch on the other.

"That's the principle of pop art — when a material or technique gets a new dimension," Sosna said. "She can create whatever she wants with this method, from iron bears to models of jet planes. Her works can grace both parks and factory grounds."



Alexandra Ivleva's helmet is her signature accesory, serving both a practical and artistic role.

#### Art all-in

Ivleva needed determination to pursue her art, especially at first. She calls this process "art all-in," meaning that there's no time to wait for grants and fellowships. In the case of her work, there would never be enough to cover the expenses of the materials anyway.

"On average, my sculptures cost 400,000 rubles (around \$6,500). That's for rocking chairs. And that's not expensive. But the average price of an art object in Russia is around 80,000-130,000 rubles (\$1,200-2,000), and museum grants rarely exceed 50,000 (\$900)," Ivleva told The Moscow Times.

To fund her work, she took out bank loans for the first 18 months of work. Production of her works is expensive, and the loan of 1.5 million rubles (\$25,000) ran out in four months. But luckily, when the loan ran out, buyers came in.

"To be a sculptor in this country is to have no fear. There's nothing bigger for me than making these objects. The fact that I believed in my ideas back then still drives me forward," she said.

#### Critical acclaim

Some curators appreciate Ivleva's performances. "She and her works bring joy to people of different ages," Alya Khestanti, curator of an exhibition at the Nagornaya Gallery, told The Moscow Times. Ivleva's works have also been on display in the gallery for the Moscow Biennale for Young Artists.

Curator Irina Nikolskaya met the artist in her welding outfit at the opening of her eponymous gallery last December. "This combination of a girl and metal sculptor with strong willpower and delicate psyche fascinated me. I invited her to my pop-up museum," Nikolskaya said. Ivleva's works are now on display at Nikolskaya Gallery.

Natasha Krasnook, curator of Artis Gallery at Winzavod, said she had invited Ivleva and her rocking chairs to make an art-weekend interactive and allow people to observe, touch and take selfies with the objects. "In this way the spectator becomes a part of the work of art," she said.

Burning Man festival founder Crimson Rose and PR director Megan Miller recently visited Ivleva's studio and officially invited her to Burning Man in August. Ivleva said she is thinking



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A giant bear was Ivleva's first major project.

about going.

"I'll at least do a performance there in the traditional Russian style: a welding suit and an armature yoke. Maybe we'll make a few costumes for other welding girls to accompany me and present images of Russian beauty and power. As soon as I get a visa I'll start confirming my project with the organizers. I want to exhibit my art abroad — it means an opportunity to carry out big and interesting projects," she said.

Alexandra Ivleva's works can be seen at two

Nagornaya Gallery, 10 Ulitsa Remizova. Metro Nagornaya. gallery-nagornaya.com Nikolskaya Gallery, 35 Nizhnyaya Krasnoselskaya Ulitsa, Bldg. 7, Office 107. Metro Krasnoselskaya, Baumanskaya. nikolskayagallery.com

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#### Les (Forest)

#### July 5

Les (Forest) is part of the program of the Performance Fest at the Meyerhold Center (TsIM). Up-and-coming theater director Dmitry Melkin and actors from Brusnikin's Workshop developed a site-specific performance about complex relationship between city dwellers and the forest and its inhabitants.

#### Meyerhold Center

23 Novoslobodskaya Ulitsa. Metro Mendeleyevskaya. meyerhold.ru



#### **Concert Olya i Sekretny Zavod**

The Garage Museum of Contemporary Art launched a series of performances that will take place in a replica of the original dining hall of the Vremena Goda (Seasons of the Year) restaurant. The restaurant, completely redesigned by Rem Koolhaas, now is the home of the Garage Museum. Olya i Sekretny Zavod (Olya and a Secret Factory) is a duo of amateur musicians: a curator and a neuroscientist. Popular in the art community, they sing quirky, humorous songs with danceable melodies.

#### **Garage Museum of Contemporary Art**

9/32 Krymsky Val. Metro Oktyabrskaya, Park garagemca.org



#### **Concert Sirotkin**

July 4

Sirotkin is an alternative pop band whose music can be best described as a cross between folk and neo-R&B. The group won the Best New Act Award at the Jagermeister Indie Music Awards in 2015 and was nominated for the Best Video in 2017. Sirotkin just released a new EP, "Echopark," which will be featured at their concert at 16 tons.

6/1 Ulitsa Presnensky Val. Metro Ulitsa 1905 Goda.

16tons.ru



#### **Theater Black Sea**

July 5

Praktika, one of Moscow's most experimental theaters, presents a production in which hardly a word is spoken. "Black Sea," directed by the famous choreographer Oleg Glushkov, is a performance by one actor, Yegor Koreshkov, best known for his role in a recent television hit program "The Optimists." Combining video art and plastic theater, it tells the story of a man's life from childhood to adulthood. Some of the music for the production was composed by Pavel Artemiev, a former member of the popular boy band Korni, who now produces catchy indie-pop tunes

#### Praktika

30 Bolshoi Kozikhinsky Pereulok. Metro Mavakovskava praktikatheatre.ru

#### **Exhibition** Impressionism in the Avant-Garde

inrough September 19

The Museum of Russian Impressionism just launched another potential blockbuster exhibition on the heels of "The Wives," a highly successful exhibition about the wives of the greatest Russian painters of the 20th century. The new exhibition's title is a bit misleading: You won't actually see avant-garde works here, except for reproductions. What you will find are early paintings by such artists as Mikhail Larionov, Kazimir Malevich, Natalia Goncharova, Aristarkh Lentulov, Olga Rozanova and many others before they developed a style that would later become known as Russian avant-garde.

#### The Museum of Russian Impressionism

15 Leningradsky Prospekt, Bldg. 11. Metro Belorusskaya. rusimp.su



#### LIFEHACK

#### What Are Those Weird Black Pills?

Ah, the little black pills. You might not know what they are, but your parents or grandparents probably do. And you should know, too, since they are essential part of every medical

These are activated charcoal tablets, sold for a few rubles in strips of ten in every drugstore. They are not the same thing as the charcoal you light up and grill on at the dacha. This charcoal has been cleaned and heated to make it more adsorptive.

Yes, that's right: adsorptive. That means that when you gulp the pills down, they attract all kinds of toxins, which become stuck (adsorbed) on the many pores on the surface of the charcoal. Then, the nasty stuff that has been making you feel queasy sails happily out of your system onboard the good ship charcoal.

This is what you grab when you ate something you shouldn't have, like dodgy street food or market shashlik that has seen better days: Take the whole strip of them with lots of water. It will even work to neutralize an overdose of aspirin or acetaminophen. Swallow a handful

of pills — up to 100 grams — with water right away

Although it does not soak up alcohol, it can adsorb some of the impurities and toxins you imbibe along with it, like some of the chemicals in mixers. Take some before going to bed and another batch in the morning.

It is also very effective for soothing an upset stomach or taking care of the other embarrassing sounds and smells that come from a night of excess.

Another traditional use: as toothpaste. Yes, scrubbing your teeth with black coal dust from a few smashed pills actually cleans them better than the white stuff in the tube. Dip a wet toothbrush into the dust, scrub, rinse and repeat twice a week.

Take it out to the dacha, too. If you get bitten by mosquitoes or stung by a bee, smash a tablet in a teaspoon or so of vegetable oil and slather on the bite or sting, where it will pull out some of the toxins.

The bottom line: Activated charcoal is the best thing you never knew you needed.



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