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Scandal Shrouds Russian World Cup

By **Howard Amos**
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Doubts were cast Wednesday over Russia's legitimacy as the host nation for football's next World Cup as Swiss authorities launched an investigation into criminal mismanagement and money laundering linked to the 2010 decision by FIFA, football's governing body, to give the 2018 sporting event to Moscow.

Documents at the Swiss headquarters of FIFA were seized and the office

of Switzerland's attorney general announced it would question 10 members of the organization's 2010 executive committee, which includes Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko.

"It is suspected that irregularities occurred in the allocation of the FIFA World Cups of 2018 and 2022. The corresponding unjust enrichment is suspected to have taken place at least partly in Switzerland," Switzerland's attorney general said in a statement.

The Swiss investigation was launched at the same time as nine

FIFA officials were arrested in a five-star Zurich hotel on the request of the U.S. Department of Justice, which announced it was carrying out a broad investigation into racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering by FIFA employees.

Officials and commentators in Moscow were quick to condemn the investigations as politically motivated. FIFA denied that there would be any changes to the venue for the next World Cup, or the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, the bidding for which is also being investigated.

Mutko in Zurich

Mutko and other members of the Russian delegation to Friday's FIFA congress were staying in the same hotel as the FIFA officials who were arrested in the raid carried out at dawn on Wednesday by Swiss police.

"They [the police] are here, in the hotel, it's an unpleasant situation. For the moment there have been no questions personally for me from the Swiss police.

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NEWS

Byzantine-Era Ship Found Near Crimea

A 125-meter-long ship dating back to the Byzantine era has been discovered in the Black Sea off the coast of Crimea, according to Russia's Southern Military District.

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NEWS



Alexeyeva to Fight for 'Foreign Agents'

Star activist Lyudmila Alexeyeva, has rejoined the Kremlin's human rights council.

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Economy Shrinks 4.3% in April

The deepening decline dashes hopes that the worst of Russia's economic crisis has already passed.

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Might Is Right in Putin's Russia

Russia's growing cult of ruffians masks an institutional void, writes columnist Ivan Sukhov.

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Weekly Calendar of Moscow's Cultural Life

We've expanded our events calendar to include many more interesting listings! See inside for information on cinema, gigs, exhibits, concerts, operas and ballets.

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CENTRAL BANK RATES RTS INDEX

EURO	USD	RTS INDEX
55.68	51.02	1,012.21
0.84	0.70	00.00%



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Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko speaks at an April press conference in front of a huge image of President Vladimir Putin and FIFA chief Sepp Blatter.

Troika Founder Turns Talents to Charity Work

When it comes to giving in Russia, donors must invest, not "spend a large amount of money immediately," Ruben Vardanian said.

By **Howard Amos**
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On one side of Ruben Vardanian's open-plan office hangs a wall-size photograph of an Armenian mountain panorama. If you look closer you can see — in the center of the photo — a tiny figure of a man in a yellow sweater, with his back to the photographer, staring toward the distant peaks.

The man is Vardanian. "It shows how small you are in a big world," he said.

The photograph was taken by the Tatev monastery in a remote corner of the former Soviet nation. Vardanian

helped pay for a 5.7 kilometer long cable car to the monastery, completed in 2010, which he said gave an economic boost to the region. It is the philanthropic project of which he is most proud.

Since selling one of Russia's most respected investment banks, Troika Dialog, to state-owned giant Sberbank in 2011, Vardanian, 46, has retired from banking. He now plows his money — Forbes magazine estimates him to be worth \$950 million — and time into charity projects in both Russia and Armenia, as well as running an investment boutique.

The Russian financier has always been known for his international links — he set up Troika Dialog with two Americans in the 1990s — and he has studied at U.S. universities. But in an interview with The Moscow Times, Vardanian was reluctant to talk politics or discuss the relations between Washington and Moscow, which have deteriorated to their worst level since the

Cold War over the Ukraine crisis. He merely asserted that Russia's isolation is temporary, and that the country has seen worse.

This year, in partnership with Hollywood celebrities like George Clooney, Vardanian launched the 100 Lives project, to commemorate the centenary of the Armenian genocide through the in-

Q & A

auguration of a new humanitarian prize and retelling stories of heroism.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: How did 100 Lives come about?

A: The idea came from the story of my family. My grandfather from my father's side came from Western Armenia, which was part of the Ottoman Empire. He lost his parents during the genocide and he lost many of his brothers and sisters — not all of them, but most of them. He was 7 years old when

he fled Turkey and came to Armenia.

It was there that he arrived at an orphanage school that was run by American missionaries. He graduated from the school, started teaching at the school and later became a professor of history. He never talked very much about his story, but I remember very well when he spoke a little bit about his childhood.

I soon realized that I cannot give the same emotional feeling to my son. Today I am a successful person, but this is only because some people from an American missionary organization helped save those kids. We need to say thank you. It doesn't matter how you define what happened 100 years ago — the fact is it was a tragedy, we lost our historical land, our historical culture and heritage and we lost 75 percent of the people living in that place.

Despite all this, we are alive and we are successful. Though the plan was to

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WORLD CUP

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What will happen next, I don't know," Mutko said Wednesday morning, according to Russian news site R-Sport.

Mutko, a fervent supporter of current FIFA president Sepp Blatter and one of the 16 members of FIFA's executive committee, later denied media reports that he had been summoned for questioning.

Russia was awarded the 2018 World Cup after a bidding campaign that was marred by allegations of bribe-taking, spying and vote-rigging. An investigation was carried out for FIFA by former U.S. Federal Prosecutor Michael Garcia into such allegations emanating from the bids of both Russia and Qatar. FIFA refused to publish Garcia's report, citing legal concerns. Instead, the organization released a ruling last year concluding that though examples of wrongdoing had emerged, nothing was found that would require a re-vote. Garcia rejected the ruling and resigned.

Construction work in Russia is already under way for the football tournament, which will take place between June 14 and July 15 in 11 cities.

'Against Russia'

Officials in Moscow were quick to accuse Swiss and U.S. prosecutors of playing politics, pointing out that the allegations and arrests came two days before Blatter was due to face an election to win a fifth term at the head of football's top body.

"This situation could be played against Russia and against the holding of the World Cup in Russia," Kirill Kabanov, the head of Russia's National Anti Corruption Committee, was cited as saying by the Russian News Service on Wednesday.

Others were more blunt, alleging that the U.S. investigation into FIFA was a response to the situation in Ukraine and Russia's increasing international assertiveness.

"It is a political move by the Amer-

icans because of what is going on in the world," said Yevgeny Lovchev, a prominent Soviet footballer and former candidate to lead the Russian Football Union.

"Someone is always unsatisfied and starts talking about corruption. ... Anywhere there's big money, there's corruption," he added.

Some Western officials have called for Russia to be deprived of the World Cup because of its 2014 annexation of Crimea and support for separatist rebels in Ukraine. Hawkish U.S. senators John McCain and Bob Menendez released a statement Wednesday calling on FIFA to elect a president who will "work to deny the Putin regime the privilege of hosting the 2018 World Cup."

Economic Value

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has estimated that the World Cup will cost Russia \$20 billion — about double what then-Prime Minister Vladimir Putin predicted when Russia won the games in 2010. But other estimates put the final figure at closer to \$50 billion, approximately what Russia spent on the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Brazil spent \$11 billion on the last World Cup.

The earmarked money is a key source of investment, expected to stimulate infrastructure growth and create jobs, as Russia suffers from an expected economic recession this year. Russian stock markets dropped sharply and the ruble weakened against the U.S. dollar during Wednesday morning trading following news of the Swiss investigations.

"The 2018 World Cup is one of the main public investment projects for the next three years," analysts at the Bank of America in Moscow said in a note to investors Wednesday.

Preparations for 2018

Blatter, who was not arrested Wednesday but who is facing calls to step down, has visited Russia regularly in recent months to check on preparations for the World Cup.

In April, Mutko said that Blatter had

given Russia "five stars" for its preparations.

Large infrastructure projects in Russia often suffer from corruption allegations, and the Sochi Olympics were heavily criticized for the scale of the alleged graft. The Investigative Committee said in a statement Monday that it was opening the first corruption case against World Cup construction projects, with a building company director accused of stealing 4 million rubles (\$77,000).

Blatter and Russia

FIFA spokesman Walter de Gregorio told reporters Wednesday that Russia would not be deprived of the World Cup and that the competition will go ahead as planned.

Russia has been a staunch supporter of Blatter, despite intense criticism of the long-serving football chief. Earlier this week, Mutko announced his intention to back Blatter against Jordan's Prince Ali bin Al Hussein in an election scheduled for Friday to determine who will next lead the organization.

"I support Blatter. I understand that it's possible some sort of changes are needed but I can say one thing: compared with other international federations, FIFA is one of the most transparent and open. ... I think that today there is no alternative to Blatter," Mutko said Tuesday, according to R-Sport.

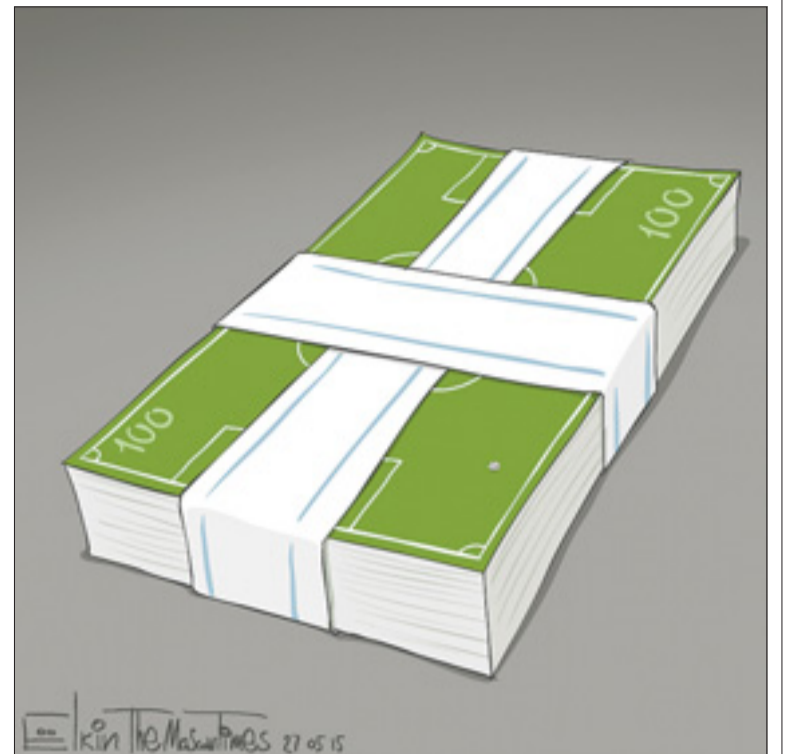
Others have characterized Russia's support of Blatter's FIFA as a marriage between two graft-riddled entities. The relationship between the two is extraordinarily opaque, according to Yelena Panfilova, deputy director of anti-corruption organization Transparency International, which has called for Blatter's resignation.

"We don't know anything about the relationship [between Russia and FIFA] because it is so closed. ... What actually goes on, how it is all arranged, is difficult to understand," she said.

Some of FIFA's recent anti-corruption initiatives have been forward looking and could go some way to changing football's top body, she added. "But they can't change the past."

PUTIN'S RUSSIA

By Sergei Elkin



For more Putin's Russia cartoons, see themoscowtimes.com

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Germany Slams Russia Over Law on 'Undesirable' NGOs

REUTERS

BERLIN — Germany on Wednesday criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin for signing a law allowing security officials to ban foreign and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) if they are deemed undesirable.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said during a regular press conference in Berlin that the law was an attempt to further isolate and discredit members of civil society who were critical of the government.

The decision is a "step into the wrong direction," Seibert said, adding that German-Russian ties could be further strained by the move.

Russia has accused the West of engineering the overthrow of Ukraine's pro-Moscow president Viktor Yanukovich last year through its support for NGOs. Shortly afterward, Russia an-

nexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and has been supporting pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

The disputed law, signed by Putin last week, is aimed at barring foreign NGOs from the country if they are deemed to pose a threat to Russia's constitutional order, defense or security.

The law further increases pressure on NGOs after Russia enforced new rules in 2012 obliging groups that engage in "political activity" and receive any funding from abroad to register as "foreign agents," a move decried by Kremlin critics as an attempt to muzzle dissent.

The new law allows for a ban on the operations in Russia of any NGO declared "undesirable" by the prosecutor general and introduces financial penalties, community service, restrictions on movement or jail terms of up to six years for those violating it.

Israeli Air Force Chief Unfazed Egypt Might Get Russia's S-300

REUTERS

HERZLIYA, Israel — The chief of Israel's air force on Wednesday played down worries voiced by some fellow officials about the possibility of Egypt acquiring advanced Russian-made air defenses.

Russian news agency TASS said in March Egypt would receive the Anтей-2500 missile system, an S-300 variant, and put the value of the contract at more than a billion dollars. Neither Egypt nor Russia has formally confirmed it.

Russia is also in talks to sell the system to Iran, to the open consternation of Israel, which has long threatened to attack its archfoe's nuclear facilities if it deems diplomatic efforts to deny Tehran the bomb to have failed.

"It [an Iranian S-300] is a very big challenge. It is a strategic problem long

before it is an operational problem," air force chief Major-General Amir Eshel told reporters on the sidelines of a conference on Wednesday.

"Someone who has an S-300 feels protected and can do more aggressive things because he feels protected," he said. But Eshel brushed off any suggestions Israel would be concerned about an Egyptian S-300, telling reporters: "Are you kidding me? We're at peace with them." In a state of stable albeit cold peace since 1979, Israel and Egypt have in recent years stepped up security coordination against Islamist militants.

"We're all for Egypt getting anything it needs from the United States for counter-terrorism," a senior Israeli military officer said on condition of anonymity. "The problem is that the S-300 has nothing to do with counter-terrorism."



PAVEL GOLOVKIN / AP

Moscow's new Otkrytie Arena stadium, home to Spartak Moscow, is due to host some 2018 World Cup matches.

Military Equipment Auction House to Open

THE MOSCOW TIMES

Russia's Defense Ministry plans to sell off old military equipment at an army-themed amusement park in the Moscow region, the RBC newspaper reported Wednesday, citing a military official.

A display space and auction hall for surplus military equipment will open at the park in June and help the military free up space in its warehouses by offloading unused or out-of-date equipment, Dmitry Kurakin, head of the Defense Ministry's property man-

agement department, told RBC.

The military will hold auctions there every month, Kurakin said. The first auction in June will see 97 lots sold off with a combined starting price of 143 million rubles (\$2.7 million) for some 1,170 pieces of technical gear, among them Ural and GAZ-66 heavy off-road trucks.

Large equipment such as floating jetties, passenger and cargo train cars and diesel generators will also be sold.

The military hopes the auction will attract farmers, extreme sports enthusiasts and hunters, among others, Kura-

kin told RBC.

All individuals and firms are welcome to participate in the auctions, with the exception of companies with government ownership of 25 percent or more, the report said.

The auction house will be part of the "Patriot" park, a military-themed amusement park now under construction to the west of Moscow. Construction began four months ago and will only be completed in 2017, but parts of the park will open to their first visitors this summer, the TASS news agency reported earlier this month.

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Alexeyeva Returns to Kremlin's Rights Council

The veteran human rights campaigner was previously a member but left in 2012.

By Anna Dolgov
newsreporter@imedia.ru

One of Russia's best-known human rights advocates and the founder of the Moscow Helsinki Group, Lyudmila Alexeyeva, has rejoined the Kremlin's human rights council, saying she intended to look into the persecution of nongovernmental organizations under the country's "foreign agents" law.

President Vladimir Putin signed a decree Tuesday appointing Alexeyeva to the panel, according to a document published on the government's website.

Alexeyeva — who left the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights in 2012 to protest the opaque selection process of new members — welcomed her reappointment as "pleasant news," the Russian News Service reported.

The rights activist had previously turned down a number of invitations to rejoin the council. But recently the panel had submitted a request to Putin to reappoint her, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said last week, adding that the "president has given his consent to it," news agency TASS reported.

Alexeyeva said that her work on the panel would include "above all, research into the practice of the application of the law on foreign agents against various NGOs," RIA Novosti reported.



WIKIMEDIA

Lyudmila Alexeyeva said she would focus on how the controversial "foreign agents" law is used against NGOs.

"All hell has broken loose in the regions: They [the authorities] are simply settling scores with organizations that are unfavorable to them, stripping them this way of their right to operate," she said. "This is the question I want to raise."

The law requiring nongovernmental organizations to register as "foreign agents" if they receive funding from abroad and engage in vaguely defined po-

litical activity has drawn much criticism in Russia and abroad, especially after the Justice Ministry applied the label to an array of respected human rights groups that have criticized the government.

The law also requires groups that carry that label to identify themselves in any publications as "foreign agents" — a phrase that was widely used during the Soviet era to mean a spy.

Justice Minister Alexander Kononov denied that the law puts any pressure on NGOs and said that it does not create any restrictions, according to an interview with business daily Kommersant published Wednesday.

But the implementation of the law has reportedly drawn some skepticism from Putin after the Justice Ministry applied the label this week to the Dy-

nasty Foundation, a group that supports science and education and provides scholarships to the nation's young researchers.

At a closed-door meeting with Russia's business leaders Tuesday, Putin conceded that registering Dynasty as a "foreign agent" might require some looking into, news site RBC reported, citing three unidentified participants in the meeting. Kremlin spokesman Peskov had earlier said that the letter of the law was observed in the Dynasty case.

Alexeyeva said she wanted to "draw the attention of the presidential [human rights] council to the practice of listing NGOs as foreign agents — there are such outrageous things happening there," the Russian News Service reported.

A renowned rights advocate in Russia and overseas, Alexeyeva, 87, was the only Russian civil activist to meet with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland during the American diplomat's visit to Moscow last week, RBC reported at that time. The topics of discussion included concerns about the "foreign agents" law, the report said.

On the presidential human rights council Alexeyeva also plans to look into the operations of Russia's court and prison systems, the activist said, RIA Novosti reported.

"Our courts have very much discredited themselves in the eyes of citizens with their incompetence," Alexeyeva was quoted as saying, adding that she would also join the council's "task force" for monitoring prisons "because there are very many violations of human rights against inmates."

Woman Gets Record Payout From Doctors

THE MOSCOW TIMES

After a botched childbirth led to the death of her baby and left her with severe injuries, a St. Petersburg woman was awarded 15 million rubles (\$289,000) in damages, a sum believed to be unprecedented in medical malpractice cases in Russia, news agency RBC reported Wednesday.

Irina Razina was left with serious health problems after giving birth at the First Pavlov State Medical University's hospital in September 2010. Her baby was severely brain damaged during the operation and died as a result two years later.

An inspection carried out by regional and federal health agencies concluded that doctors' errors had been responsible for the injuries of the patient and her child.

A lawyer quoted by RBC, Alexander Bolomatov, said it was rare for courts to award more than 400,000 rubles (\$7,700) in serious but non-fatal malpractice cases. Medical errors that lead to death can often lead to awards of about one million rubles, he said.

The plaintiffs in other recent malpractice cases have received significantly less in compensatory and punitive damages for their suffering. In February of last year, a Chelyabinsk hospital was ordered to pay 1 million rubles (\$19,000) to a woman whose thyroid gland was accidentally removed during surgery for an unrelated medical issue, the Rosbalt news site reported at the time.

A hospital in the Siberian city of Surgut was ordered to pay 3.5 million rubles (\$67,000) in compensation after a misdiagnosis led to the death of a 2-year-old girl, local news site In-news.ru reported at the time.



VLADIMIR FILONOV / MT

Muscovites enjoying the warm weather near a fountain at the Soviet-era VDNKh exhibition center. Wednesday was the hottest day of the year so far and sunny, but thunderstorms are forecast from Friday through Sunday.

Health Ministry Probes Latest Cancer Suicide

THE MOSCOW TIMES

Russia's Health Ministry has ordered an investigation into the suicide of a pancreatic cancer patient who reportedly had not been able to obtain painkillers, the Interfax news agency reported Wednesday.

The 65-year-old patient, nuclear scientist Alexei Kalagin, committed suicide in his apartment in northeastern Moscow, the tabloid news agency LifeNews reported Wednesday. He had reportedly written a suicide note saying he had nothing that could assuage his pain.

The Health Ministry's press secretary, Oleg Salagai, told Interfax that minister Veronika Skvortsova had ordered the country's Federal Service for the Super-

vision of Health Care to look into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

A recent string of suicides among cancer patients has sparked debate about the country's health care system and the availability of painkillers. The issue received extensive media coverage last year after former Rear Admiral Vyacheslav Apanasenko, a cancer patient, shot himself and said in a suicide note that he had not been able to obtain painkillers.

More than 10 cancer patients took their own lives in the Moscow region in February, media reports said.

Moscow's deputy mayor for social issues, Leonid Pechatnikov, denied that Kalagin had been unable to obtain painkillers, RIA Novosti reported.

Pechatnikov said earlier that most suicides reported among cancer patients were not linked to their medical condition. At the time of Apanasenko's suicide, the municipal official said that the wave of suicides could be explained by psychiatric disorders aggravated by changeable spring weather.

The State Duma amended legislation in December to extend the validity of prescriptions from five to 15 days and broaden the list of facilities that can dispense medication intended for cancer patients. The law comes into force in July.

A hotline opened in April to enable people to report violations in the prescription of painkillers, and received some 300 calls within a month, Interfax reported.

Ancient Ship Discovered Near Crimea

THE MOSCOW TIMES

A ship dating back to the Byzantine era has been discovered in the Black Sea off the coast of Crimea, Russia's Southern Military District said in a statement Wednesday.

The statement said the discovery of the 125-meter-long ship was one of the most archaeologically important in recent centuries.

The ship was found by diving enthusiasts from the nearby city of Rostov-on-Don, who had ventured 82 meters deep into the sea outside the city of Sevastopol, home to Russia's Black Sea fleet. The ship, which is thought to have been used to transport oil and wine, reportedly contains hundreds of amphorae, some of which are still intact, according to the statement.

Russia's Southern Military District said the vessel was from the Byzantine era, an epoch that spanned much of the period between 330 A.D. and 1453. The statement referred to the ship as "ancient" but did not provide the approximate year of its sinking.

The reason for the ship's demise also remains unclear, the statement said. Russian sailors, archeologists and local divers are working to map the area where the ship was found, and collect photographs and video footage of its contents before any artifacts can be recovered.

Stunt enthusiast President Vladimir Putin has in the past shown a penchant for ancient amphorae. In the summer of 2011, Putin went diving in the Black Sea, emerging from the water with what appeared to be two ancient Greek urns.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later admitted the incident was staged.

Kazakh Gay Law Axed Amid Olympic Dream

By Joanna Lillis
EURASIANET

Kazakhstan's Constitutional Council has struck down a controversial law that would have outlawed the "propaganda" of homosexuality to minors, amid signs the legislation was damaging the country's bid to host the Winter Olympics.

The law was "not in line with the constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan," the Vlast.kz website quoted the Constitutional Council (which rules on the legality of legislation) as saying.

The law governed "the protection of children from information causing damage to their health and development." It was passed by parliament in February. The council struck down the law because of unclear wording rather than human rights concerns, the Vlast.kz report said.

The announcement came after a group of household-name sports stars urged the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to reject Kazakhstan's bid to host the Winter Games in Almaty in 2022, arguing that the law outlawing the "propaganda" of homosexuality to minors was incompatible with Olympic principles of equality.

"In light of Kazakhstan's aspirations to host the 2022 Olympic Winter Games and their recent consideration of legislation prohibiting 'propaganda of non-traditional sexual orientation,' we urge the IOC to reiterate to Kazakh authorities that discrimination with regard to sexual orientation is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic movement," the sportsmen and women said in the open letter to IOC chairman Thomas Bach, published by the Athlete Ally group, which fights homophobia in sport.

The 27 signatories included Olympic medalists and stars who have excelled in sports ranging from tennis, rowing and wrestling to snowboarding, speed skating and swimming.

"Athletes Pressure Olympics to Take

a Stand on Kazakhstan's Anti-Gay Legislation — no way should the Olympics be there," tweeted one of its most famous signatories, U.S. tennis player Martina Navratilova (who married her long-term lesbian partner last year), on May 15 after a report on the outcry was published in The Huffington Post.

Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court struck the law down three days later, the Informburo.kz news site said, but the ruling was not reported until May 26.

Choosing Almaty as host city for the games "would directly undermine the IOC's own Olympic Charter, which bars discrimination based on sexual orientation," the letter remarked.

The legislation targeting "propaganda" of homosexuality to minors in Kazakhstan (which has previously come under fire for failing to protect the rights of the LGBT community) was similar to a Russian law adopted in 2013, which caused an outcry during Sochi's hosting of the Winter Olympics last year.

Kazakhstan's government has eagerly promoted Almaty's bid to host the games, which the administration of President Nursultan Nazarbayev sees as an opportunity to raise the country's international profile, though critics dismiss it as a costly vanity project that risks spawning the type of rampant corruption that marred the Sochi games.

Almaty's chances of selection success have risen as other bidders have pulled out, leaving Beijing as the only rival. The IOC is due to make the final decision on the host city on July 31.

It is likely no coincidence that Kazakhstan's Constitutional Council has now struck down the controversial law that was damaging Almaty's bid. The decision could not have occurred in Kazakhstan's top-down political system without a nod from Nazarbayev.

This article was originally published by EurasiaNet.org.



Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, right, welcomes his Venezuelan counterpart Delcy Rodriguez for talks Wednesday.

Latvia Says Russian Sub Seen Near Its Waters

THE MOSCOW TIMES

Latvia's military claimed Wednesday that a Russian submarine and naval ship were found lurking near its territorial waters, adding to a lengthy list of similar reported sightings recently in the Baltic region.

A Russian Kilo-class submarine and GS-66 hydrographic survey ship were spotted in the Baltic Sea some five nautical miles (9.3 kilometers) from Latvian waters, Latvia's armed forces wrote Wednesday on their official Twitter page.

On Tuesday, Latvia's military said that air policing jets had identified a Russian military transportation aircraft, an Antonov An-22, flying near Latvian territory above the international waters of the Baltic Sea.

According to Latvian public broadcaster LSM, the country's military has recorded 51 instances in which Russian military units were seen near its territorial boundaries since the start of the year.

All three Baltic States — Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania — have repeatedly voiced concern over Russia's increased

military activity in the region. The governments of the three states have been some of the most virulent critics of Russia's annexation of Crimea and its alleged role in fueling discord in eastern Ukraine.

Estonia launched the largest military exercise in its history earlier this month amid growing unease surrounding Russia's military activities near the country's eastern border.

Lithuanian authorities summoned the Russian ambassador to the country to complain about alleged Russian naval activity in its exclusive economic zone.

Sharapova Calls for New Fed Cup Timing

REUTERS

PARIS — Defending French Open champion Maria Sharapova called for a change in schedule for the Fed Cup on Wednesday, saying playing ties after grand slam tournaments was "pointless."

The Russian showed no ill effects from a cold as she swept past fellow Russian Fed Cup team member Vitalia Diatchenko 6-3 6-1 on Court Philippe Chatrier to reach the third round.

She will face tough Australian Samantha Stosur next and the world number two said the next day and a half would all be about maintenance and recovery as she tries to plot her way to a third French Open title in four years.

Sharapova skipped Russia's Fed Cup semi-final against Germany last month — a decision that proved wise as she enjoyed a strong run in Madrid where she reached the semi-finals and in Rome where she claimed the title.

She is committed to the Fed Cup team, however, and played in the quarter-final against Poland shortly after reaching the Australian Open final.

The 28-year-old said it can be a hassle though.

"It's more the timing of the events that are just really unfortunate," she told reporters. "I have been very vocal about it. I don't think anyone that's making the Fed Cup schedule is thinking about the players that go far in grand slams.



Tennis star Maria Sharapova playing fellow Russian Vitalia Diatchenko at the French Open on Wednesday.

"They don't understand or appreciate how much mental and physical strength it takes to get to that.

"To schedule a Fed Cup match right after a grand slam; it's just pointless, in my opinion.

"I had an amazing time playing this year, and I want to play in the future, but the schedule just does not give me any chance to do so. As much as I

want to be part of it, it's just — it's really a hassle."

She even suggested the Fed Cup should not be held every year. "I think it would be much more successful if it actually had a legitimate schedule and maybe not every single year."

There was only a scattering of fans inside the stadium as Sharapova took to the court on Wednesday, but after get-

ting into her stride she overpowered the 91st-ranked Diatchenko.

Stosur will be a tougher proposition though, having stretched Sharapova to three sets in the fourth round last year.

"She's always a tough opponent. She enjoys playing on clay, benefits a lot from this surface," she said of the 2010 runner-up. "But I have a pretty good record against her."

Dramatic Exit From Court for Ballerina

THE MOSCOW TIMES

A ballerina who formerly danced with the prestigious Bolshoi Ballet Theater flung herself from the second-story window of a central Moscow courthouse but was not seriously injured, the Interfax news agency reported Tuesday.

Irina Dmitriyeva had been attending a civil court hearing in an apartment dispute with her ex-husband, the former director of the Moscow Art Theater Leonid Monastyrsky, Interfax reported.

But as the judge was deliberating, Dmitriyeva threw herself from the window, Interfax cited a court spokesperson as saying. Her fall was broken by a canopy hanging above an entrance to the building, and she was not seriously injured.

It was not immediately clear why Dmitriyeva jumped out of the window, and she has been sent to a psychiatric hospital for examination, Interfax cited a law enforcement source as saying.

Monastyrsky was sentenced to six years in prison in 2008 after arranging to have Dmitriyeva, his daughter and his son-in-law murdered in a bid to gain sole ownership of their flat, although the plan fell through when the hit man he had hired informed the police, news site Gazeta.ru reported at the time.

After his release, Monastyrsky was unable to return to the apartment on Malaya Nikitskaya Uliitsa in central Moscow and filed a lawsuit against his former wife, the source told Interfax.

Inflation Edges Down Past 16%

THE MOSCOW TIMES

Year-on-year price inflation in Russia slipped below 16 percent for the first time since February, a news report said Wednesday, as the strengthening of the ruble soothes blistering price rises.

Prices rose 0.1 percent in the week ending Monday, a report by state statistics service Rosstat said Wednesday. This brought year-on-year inflation to 15.8-15.9 percent for the week, down from 16.1 percent the previous week, the Interfax news agency calculated. Year-on-year inflation in Russia climbed from 15 percent in January to a high of 16.9 percent in March, according to Rosstat, as the devaluation of the ruble drove up the cost of imported products and components.

Inflation first became an urgent issue during the second half of last year when food prices jumped after Russia banned some food imports from countries with sanctions against Moscow over its role in the Ukraine crisis.

Price rises were then propelled higher by the devaluation of the ruble, which fell more than 40 percent against the U.S. dollar last year on the back of a steep fall in the price of oil — Russia's main export — and Western sanctions.

Now the ruble is in recovery, having risen more than 30 percent against the dollar since the beginning of February. This is good news for inflation too: The Economic Development Ministry in April lowered its inflation forecast for the year from 12.2 percent to 11.9 percent, Interfax reported.

Still, even 16 percent inflation is high, and it is hitting a vital sector of the economy: retail. Retail sales dropped 9.8 percent year-on-year in April after a 6.7 percent fall in the first quarter of the year, according to Rosstat. Falling retail sales hurt the Russian economy as a whole, which has in recent years derived much of its growth from steadily rising consumer spending. Russia's gross domestic product dropped 4.3 percent in April compared to the same period in 2014, state development bank VEB said Wednesday.

Mistral Official Faces Censure

THE MOSCOW TIMES

An official who declared this week that Russia was no longer interested in purchasing two French-built Mistral-class warships has been chastised by a top official for speaking out of turn, the Kommersant newspaper reported Wednesday, citing an unidentified government source.

The outspoken official — Oleg Bochkarev, the deputy chairman of Russia's Military-Industrial Commission — was sternly reprimanded by Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who oversees the defense industry, the report said.

Bochkarev was widely cited by Russian media yesterday after telling the RBC news agency it was “a matter of fact that Russia is not taking [the Mistral ships].”

The unidentified official told Kommersant that Bochkarev had never been involved in negotiations regarding the Mistral ships, which Russia ordered from France in 2011. Paris has suspended delivery of the warships in response to Moscow's support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. Citing inside sources, Kommersant reported two weeks ago that Russia had demanded 1.16 billion euros (\$1.26 billion) to cover not only its 893 million euro (\$972 million) advance, but also additional preparation costs.



DENIS ABRAMOV / VEDOMOSTI

Cheese imports from Ukraine have fallen since Russia banned some producers over alleged health concerns.

Trade With Ukraine Falls by Two-Thirds

THE MOSCOW TIMES

Russian trade turnover with Ukraine fell by around 60 percent in the first four months of this year compared to the same period last year, according to a recent study by researchers at the World Trade Center Moscow, news agency RBC reported Wednesday.

Russian exports to Ukraine fell 63.5 percent, from \$8.1 billion to \$2.9 billion, while imports of Ukrainian goods fell 60 percent from \$4 billion to 1.6 billion between January and April of this year.

Trade is expected to continue to fall

this year, according to report contributor and head of the All-Russian Scientific Market Research Institute, Andrei Spartak.

“We predict a sharp fall in 2015. A turning point in this tendency is only possibly in 2017-18,” said Spartak, RBC reported.

Trade between Russia and Ukraine began shrinking last year when relations between the two countries drastically worsened after the February overthrow of Moscow-friendly Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

Yanukovich's ouster was then fol-

lowed by Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and armed conflict between Kiev and Russian-backed separatists in Ukraine's east.

Russia's total foreign trade turnover dropped 41.8 percent during the first four months of 2015 to \$54.1 billion, RBC reported, citing data from Russia's Federal Customs Service included in the World Trade Center's report. Russian exports dropped 35.2 percent to \$110.4 billion against \$170.4 billion last year as low oil prices and Western sanctions over the Ukraine crisis tightened access to financing.



SERGEY PORTER / VEDOMOSTI

Passengers using Apple-made devices while riding on the Moscow metro.

Apple's Share of Smartphone Market Halved by Weak Ruble

THE MOSCOW TIMES

U.S. tech giant Apple saw its share of the Russian smartphone market nearly halve last year by number of units sold as the collapse of the ruble drove up prices, according to a recent report.

Apple's share of the market by units sold fell to 5.2 percent in April, down from 10.3 percent in April of last year, the Vedomosti newspaper reported, citing a study by German market researcher GfK.

Apple's share of the market in monetary terms also fell, though less drastically: from 26.3 percent to 21 percent, the report said.

Korean rival Samsung retained its lead in the Russian smartphone market but saw its share by units sold drop from 19.3 percent to 17.9 percent, the report said.

Apple's market slide came as the ruble's fall forced the company to raise

prices twice last year, bringing the price of its newest models — the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus — up 35 percent, according to Vedomosti. The ruble fell more than 40 percent to the U.S. dollar last year as sliding oil prices and Western sanctions on Moscow over its role in the Ukraine crisis scared off investment. It plunged further early in the year, but has recovered about 33 percent to the U.S. dollar since the beginning of February as oil prices stabilize and a shaky truce between Kiev and Moscow-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine holds.

Apple could begin recovering market share, however, if the ruble continues its tentative recovery and the tech giant lowers its prices further. Apple lowered the prices of both its coveted smartphones and tablet computers in April, bringing the price of its newest smartphones down 9-10 percent, Vedomosti reported.

Economy Shrunk 4% In April

THE MOSCOW TIMES

Russia's economic recession deepened in April as the decline in gross domestic product accelerated to 4.3 percent year-on-year, quashing hopes that the worst of the crisis had passed, state development bank VEB said in a report released Wednesday.

“The accelerating fall in GDP in April indicates that the crisis still hasn't passed its lowest point,” the report cited VEB's chief economist Andrei Klepach as saying.

The drop exceeded many economists' expectations, nipping hopes for a quick economic recovery in the bud.

Deputy Economic Development Minister Alexei Vedev last week forecast a milder contraction of 4 percent in April, the Interfax news agency reported.

Russia's GDP dropped by 0.6 percent in April, accelerating from a 0.4 percent decline in March. The economy shrank by a total of 2.5 percent in the first four months of the year, according to VEB.

The steep slump in April was led by a 2 percent fall in manufacturing, a 1.5 percent drop in retail and a 0.5 percent decline in mining production, according to the VEB report.

The downturn was also aggravated by a fall in the volume of oil exports, the report said, adding that a surge in exports of oil and oil products had propped up the economy in the beginning of the year.

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CHARITY

Continued from Page 1

destroy a nation, we are alive. I thought that it would be good at the 100 year anniversary to talk not only about how many people were killed and raped, but also to say thank you to those who saved our lives.

Q: Do you know much about how your grandfather escaped?

A: Not so much. The Russian Army helped him and his mother, who died later from disease, to get out in 1915. But, because he was saved by Americans and he grew up in an orphanage in Etchmiadzin, a religious center, it was never very well received by the Soviet system. That is why he was always quiet about the role of the Americans who helped save his life.

Q: Have you been to the part of Turkey where your family was from?

A: Last year I climbed Mount Ararat with my son, but I didn't travel a lot. It was quite emotional to go and to see nothing left. The 100 Lives project was designed to try and help overcome the victimization mood that stems from the surviving and suffering. We are victorious and we are strong and we are saying thank you.

Q: Do people misunderstand that?

A: There are still a lot of Armenians who are very angry. But they accept my point. I was worried about this reaction, but the project was very well received. People really think it is the right time to feel differently about what happened. And how we need to react to what happened. What happened is clear: it was genocide.

Q: How is the current political climate impacting your international projects?

A: I started my business in 1990 with the Soviet system in place and the Communist Party ruling the country. Nobody understood the difference between the equity and debt markets. I have lived many lives: I lived in the Soviet system, I lived in the 1990s.

Overall, it is not good when you have bad relations with neighboring countries



Ruben Vardanian, who earned his \$950-million fortune in Russia's banking sector, sitting in central Yerevan.

or with European countries. [A key part of] my business philosophy has always been trying to build a bridge between the rest of the world and Russia. Trying to bring investment, experience and knowledge from both sides.

From time to time the relationship changes, and the environment changes. It is not an easy time for anybody to do business in Russia. But I don't think it is long term. It is a short-term trend. You cannot do everything yourself, you cannot live by yourself in a post-industrial society.

Q: What is the role of your Family Fund? [Most of Vardanian's projects have been gathered under the RVVZ Family Foundation that he runs with his wife, Veronika Zonabend.]

A: The main issue that this fund is trying to address now is what those Russians, the first generation of rich people, who in the next 20 years will get older, will do when they are 65 or 85 years old. They need to think about how and what

they leave to their kids. How they will do philanthropy and how they will do business succession.

Imagine you are a wealthy person with a mid-sized company in Russia — not a public company — and you want to leave something for your family. You have some flats, some houses and some money. Do you want to leave the business fully to them, can they manage the business, what is the business succession plan?

Q: Is this a money-making venture?

A: Of course it is a money-making venture. But the main goal is creating a culture of respecting and thinking about private ownership. It's also a psychological transformation linked to the future of Russia. It's critical for us to make this project smooth and professional.

I believe the approach to what we are doing needs to be business orientated, or results orientated. It needs to deliver. I don't think charity is just emotions, you need to do something that is self-sus-

tainable. It needs to be very professional, very systematic and results orientated.

Q: Are there any common threads to your projects?

A: There are three major problems in Russia and Armenia and many other former Soviet countries.

Firstly, the level of trust is very low. If you increase the level of trust between people you can increase the efficiency of the business.

The second problem is the lack of long-term planning. And the third is the low level of institutionalization. The goal is to go from personalized to institutionalized infrastructure. Making the rules of the game for everyone more or less equal. At Troika Dialog I had the same goals. To build trust, to bring money to Russia and to build a market economy.

Q: What is the charity project you are most proud of?

A: All my projects will continue for many years. But the most developed of

all my start-ups is the Tatev monastery project. It is very important that we are not just doing restoration of the monastery, but also creating the mechanism for transforming the economic landscape around it. I am very proud of this — you can see the effect of building the cable car. Nobody believed in this when I started it in 2008, they said no-one will come, that you are wasting money. And now it is a big success, much to everyone's surprise.

This is why I like social entrepreneurship. I like to create a chain reaction. However, it's very important to make it self-sufficient, like a business. Just giving money is not enough; you need to provide execution, execution, execution.

Q: Is Bill Gates' "Giving Pledge" [where wealthy people commit to donating a certain part of their fortunes to charity] a good model for Russia to follow?

A: It's one model. Each of us has a very personal approach. For example, in Russia or Armenia I think it will be very detrimental to spend a large amount of money immediately. We are at a stage, in my opinion, where we need first need to invest. I would say I prefer to carry a project out rather than just giving money. I am not retired, I want to be active in the decision-making process. The Giving Pledge is good but I want to be spending not just my money but also my time and effort on philanthropic projects.

Q: Is it particularly difficult for Russians to think long term?

A: If you are going to make a prediction about the future, then all things are difficult. This is one of the challenges for us. Don't forget that Russian farmers during winter would never know if they would have enough food to be alive the next year. Short-term orientation is not a contemporary thing, it's traditional.

Q: What will you leave your children?

A: It's not a secret. I said to my eldest son when he turned 13 that he will get an education and some real estate, but he will not get a significant sum of money. This will apply to all my four children. My wife and I will try and spend all the rest of our money in our lifetime doing some good things.

Expert Led Drive to Pump Oil in Face of Falling Prices

REUTERS

MOSCOW / LONDON — As Russia prepares to meet OPEC next week, a briefing paper from a Moscow think tank has shed light on how the government was warned against cutting oil output late last year even though global prices were plummeting.

Speculation was rife that Russia and the oil exporters' cartel might strike a production deal to arrest the slide when Energy Minister Alexander Novak met his Saudi Arabian counterpart last November.

However, the think tank had already advised Novak that OPEC would not cooperate and unilateral action would be costly at a time when Russian state finances were in a dire state.

"If Russia cuts output, OPEC will take our market share in Europe," a team led by energy expert Grigory Vygon said in the previously unpublished paper, commissioned by the Energy Ministry before the Nov. 25 meeting in Vienna.

The paper was prepared by the Skolkovo Institute's energy team, which has subsequently set up the independent Vygon Consulting group.

In the event, Novak opted against lowering Russia's output and two days later Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi also blocked calls at an OPEC conference for production cuts, sending crude prices to a fresh four-year low and de-

claring a global battle for market share.

Six months on, the agenda at least will repeat itself next week: non-OPEC producers led by Russia are scheduled to meet the cartel in the Austrian capital on Wednesday and Thursday, before an OPEC conference on Friday.

Benchmark crude at around \$63 a barrel remains well below where it was before last November's OPEC meeting. However, it has recovered from a low of \$46 hit in January, easing the pressure for radical action.

Therefore OPEC, which controls a third of the global oil market, and Russia, which produces another 12 percent, are unlikely to reverse their output strategy.

The confidential briefing paper, seen by Reuters, said that should Moscow decide to cut output or exports, similar quality OPEC crude — mainly from Saudi Arabia but also from Iran and Libya — would replace as much as 1 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian oil. That is equivalent to a tenth of both Russian production and of European consumption.

The Energy Ministry declined comment on the paper, which was written in November but carries no exact date.

Vygon predicted Saudi Arabia would refuse to cut production as it could weather the low oil price. Instead, OPEC's leading member would use the opportunity to win market share at the expense of rival and more costly pro-



Energy Consultant Grigory Vygon

ducers, such as in the United States or Russia, it said.

That has proven true. Far from cutting, OPEC has increased production by 1.4 million bpd over the past year with Saudi output alone jumping by 450,000 bpd year-on-year to 10.15 million in April.

The paper also predicted that U.S. shale oil producers would prove resilient in maintaining output, even with the much lower prices. That has also proved correct, at least so far.

In addition to Novak, Russia was represented at the Nov. 25 talks by Igor Sechin, the head of energy giant Ros-

neft and an ally of President Vladimir Putin. They met Naimi, OPEC Secretary-General Abdulla al Badri, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Rafael Ramirez and Pedro Joaquin Coldwell, energy minister of Mexico, which like Russia does not belong to the cartel.

Market expectations were then the highest in years that Moscow and OPEC could agree a simultaneous cut to support prices. Russia's financial situation was troubled, largely due to Western sanctions imposed over its annexation of Crimea and backing for separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine.

But after several hours of talks, Sechin and Naimi left the Grand Hyatt hotel by different back doors. Russia announced it would not cut output even if prices fell to \$40, while Naimi said he had come to the meeting with zero expectations and two days later persuaded fellow OPEC ministers not to cut output.

Russia has pushed its own production up by 200,000 bpd over the past year, hitting an all-time high of more than 10.7 million in April. This is mainly thanks to rising output at state-run Gazprom and freshly nationalized Bashneft.

The Russian firms have achieved the increase despite some predictions of imminent national economic collapse due to the sanctions, which have throttled their access to international financing and Western technology.

"They have always succeeded when a barrier was put in front of them. They need higher production, no doubt it will grow," the head of global trading house Trafigura's Eurasian operations, Jonathan Kollek, said this month.

The paper shows Russia knew a pump war would weaken oil prices and hurt the country's budget, which is running a deficit equal to 4.4 percent of gross domestic product.

However, a source close to the Russian team responsible for talks with OPEC said that much has changed since then. "The oil price has bounced back and Russia is kind of coping. There is also an understanding that the Saudis will not cut as they would lose market share, so nor should Russia," said the source.

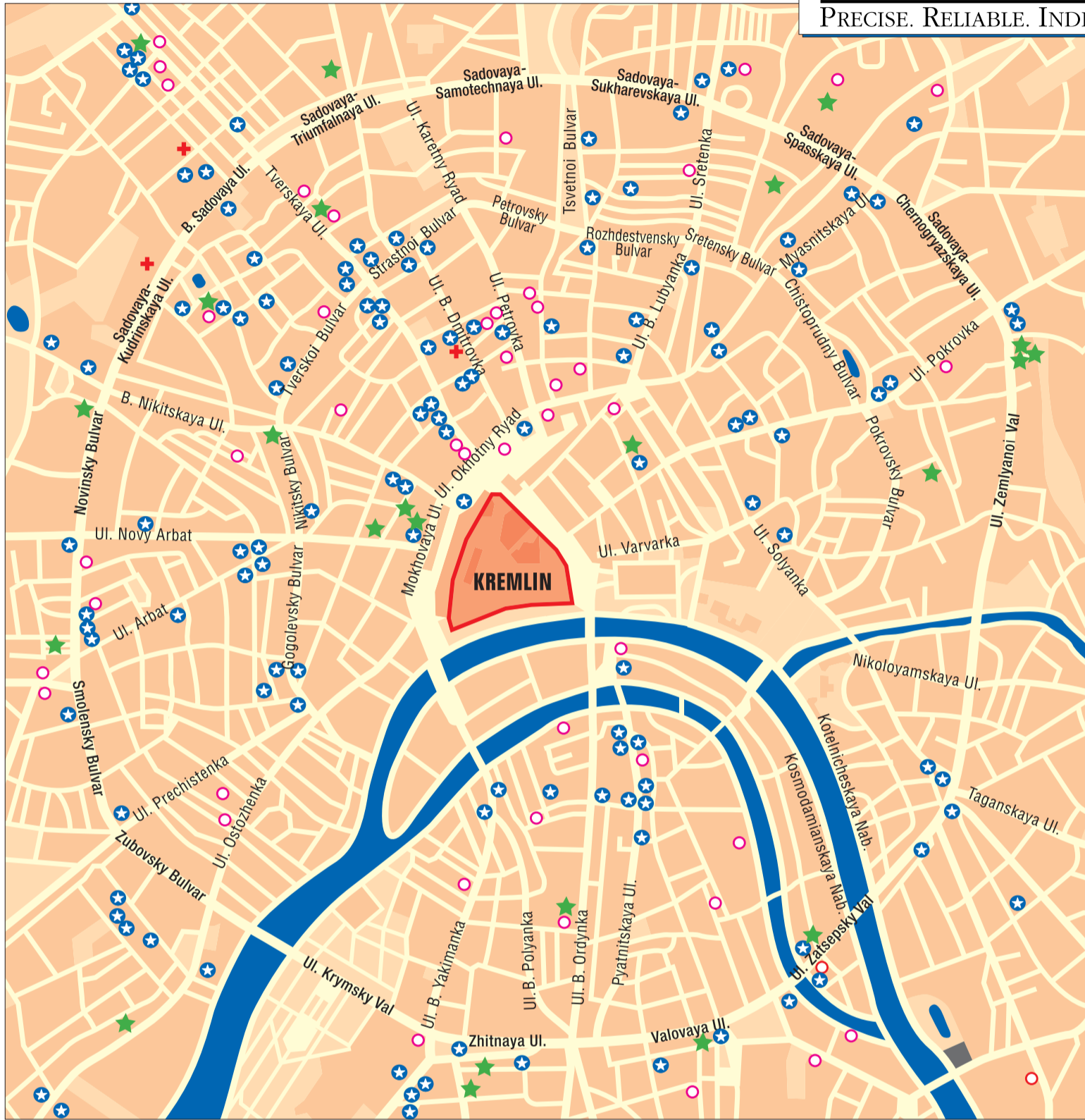
Sechin is not due to attend next week's meeting, adding to expectations of no change in Russian strategy. Vygon Consulting has not been invited to produce a briefing paper this time.

Deputy Energy Minister Kirill Molodtsov suggested this month that Russia was much less worried about the oil price these days, signaling that it is even less willing to cooperate with OPEC on production cuts.

"The consultations [with OPEC] are under way," he said. "Look at the forecasts we had produced earlier. In that sense, you will understand that we are within the [pricing] corridor that we had forecast."

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In Putin's Russia, Might Is Right

By Ivan Sukhov

After losing the final game of the Ice Hockey World Championships, Russia's national team left the ice without waiting to hear the Canadian national anthem performed in honor of the winning team. But if the Canadians had left while the Russian national anthem was playing, Russia's state-controlled television and press would have complained for two weeks straight, saying, "How could they dare disrespect us like that?"

Russia has a strange understanding of respect: that it works in only one direction.

KALASHNIKOV REPUBLIC

For example, I have no qualms about parking my car in the middle of the sidewalk, making it impossible for other parked cars to leave, and also covering my license plate number with a patriotic St. George ribbon to avoid a parking fine. But that does not prevent me from losing my temper if someone else does exactly the same thing to me.

Taken together, these countless episodes of mutual disrespect add up to one giant wave of negativity that affects everything from the "vibe" in the nearest coffee shop to Russia's foreign policy. The behavior of Russia's national hockey team — and professional athletes in general — is connected with foreign policy. What's more, international athletics are often the only outlet through which two countries locked in political rivalry can send each other friendly signals.

But Russians consider such friendly signals a sign of weakness. The same goes for anyone who actually parks in a paid parking area without masking over his license plate. Anyone who does that is viewed as a simpleton unworthy of respect. Russia has no place for public displays of gentleness or kindness — only for strength and gruffness.

In this system, strength is more important than right. The annexation of Crimea is only one proof of this, and in the end it is very difficult to explain that annexation in terms of international law to people who are often unaware not only of their constitutional rights, but also of their basic rights as employees.

And then we have the country's president in the company of bearded members of the Night Wolves motorcycle club, a group that once positioned itself as inveterate enemies of the state. Police records from the early 1990s show that the Night Wolves is far from a harmless club of wealthy men under 50 who bought themselves fancy U.S. motorcycles: they have outright criminal episodes in their past.

But such is Russia's image today: criminal types riding motorcycles team up with the president to speak out in support of so-called "conservative values."



And it so happens that the head of one of the North Caucasus republics also has a beard and his entourage is not unlike the Night Wolves biker club in that it is full of people who not only have problems with the law, but even fought an armed struggle against the Russian army.

More than a few people occupying senior administrative posts in Grozny were on Moscow's list of wanted men in the past. But federal police never received and never will receive permission to snap handcuffs on their wrists because delinquent boys who grew up as men in trouble with the law are the main heroes in today's Russia: they can do whatever they please — even openly and publicly disregard the law.

This is the reason for the public's dissatisfac-

tion, and not merely the fact that a middle-aged and married Chechen police chief recently took a 17-year-old girl as his second wife with a dozen news cameras looking on.

Polygamy in Chechnya, as well as early marriage everywhere in Russia, is not news. The real problem is not ethnography, but the fact that the protagonist in this story is an employee of the federal police.

And if it were not enough that the bigamous marriage violating Russian law was held before television cameras, it turned out the registrar who made it official was actually a journalist invited especially to play that role in the scandalous event.

Even if it turns out that the young bride was not forced into the marriage, that the couple's relation-

ship was somehow not bigamous and that the reporter posing as a registrar actually had the right to perform the service, the whole episode does nothing to improve the reputation of the Chechen police.

And yet Moscow will not impose any disciplinary measures or changes to the police department there because it happened in a republic controlled by one of President Vladimir Putin's personal bearded favorites.

These bearded favorites of the president certainly do look like tough and unforgiving fellows, and God forbid anyone would refuse to get out of their way quickly enough.

Strength is their main principle, and strength is how they force others to respect them — while totally disregarding the rights of everyone else. They are really the heroes of the day, the ideal, the role model to emulate, the very image of charming provincial macho. Every Russian would like to be the same. These are also men who would never consent to hang around on the ice waiting for the Canadian national anthem to play.

As a skilled populist, Putin obviously exploits such characters for his own benefit: now every office grunt who parks his Toyota across the sidewalk can imagine himself a little Ramzan Kadyrov or an aspiring Night Wolves biker.

But when that same grunt leaves the office at 6:30 p.m. to go home and watch television to see how Russia's ice hockey team thumbs its nose at the Canadians or how their president scores eight glorious goals in a demonstration hockey game, he often finds that somebody else has double-parked behind him.

And to get his car out, he must spend half an hour and half a dozen calls screaming at various people at the top of his voice. At that moment, he has no need of Ramzan Kadyrov or the Night Wolves, but finds himself wishing that at least the police would do their job.

But these presidential bearded boys are apparently just what's needed considering that something is seriously wrong with the police — and with all public institutions in Russia. It turns out that, after 15 years of Russian authoritarianism, the institutions that existed before have reached such a deplorable state that the president himself has little choice but to befriend incorrigible street thugs.

That cult of ruffians and punks masks a gaping institutional void. It is a game of force that disguises weakness — a real and horrifying weakness, one that makes a leader's knees tremble out of fear that everyone else will soon discover it as well.

For now it is just a game, but in a country that honors the "law of the pack," the one who betrays the least sign of weakness finds himself in a singularly unenviable position.

Ivan Sukhov is a journalist who has covered conflicts in Russia and the CIS for the past 15 years.

R U L E S O F T H E G A M E

What Uber Can Teach the Russian Economy

It is difficult to come up with new and convincing arguments proving that free market competition improves living standards. There are convincing theoretical arguments in support of both free market and state-managed economies, but there are few good comparisons based on hard data. That is partly because it is very difficult for economists to conduct experiments.

Of course, economists conduct many experiments, including laboratory tests, but it is difficult to stage a lab experiment that will answer the question of whether a free market is more efficient than a regulated economy.

The only option is to rely on "natural experiments" — situations where something in the market changes due to external causes, and then comparing the conditions before and after.

By the way, astronomers face a similar problem: they cannot conduct laboratory experiments on many phenomena and often have to wait for a specific event to occur in the cosmos in order to study it.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s — one of history's largest peacetime economic disasters — served as one such natural experiment and demonstrated the consequences of

the absence of a free market.

However eloquent and persuasive the arguments are concerning the collapse of the planned economy, they are only convincing with regard to a fully nationalized economy.

They are less convincing when they concern only a slight change in the level of competition.

Consider the appearance of Uber, Yandex Taxi and other Internet-based taxi services. This is a full-fledged "natural experiment" — a new technology that changed the market, bringing the customer into even more direct contact with potential taxi drivers.

The result is that the price of a taxi ride decreased.

No full-scale survey has yet been made of the taxi market, but no one doubts that prices for a taxi ride in Moscow have fallen substantially since those services entered the market.

While many firms previously charged a minimum of 400-500 rubles (\$7.70-9.60) for a taxi



Konstantin Sonin

ride in Moscow, it is not uncommon now for Internet service to offer prices of 150 rubles to 200 rubles for a comparable route.

But why do lower prices indicate higher efficiency?

If taxi trips costing 200 rubles are now possible, it means there are passengers who want to pay 200 rubles for a ride and drivers for whom that price is acceptable.

They both benefit from the fact that the trip takes place.

Previously, when the minimum market price for the same taxi ride was 400 rubles, that transaction might never have happened.

Facing low competition, taxi drivers were previously able to maintain artificially high prices.

That might seem like a minor example, but perhaps the same rule applies to the larger Russian market. If competition were to double — for example, by reducing the number of regulatory requirements — would prices also drop by 50 percent?

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Nothing 'Hybrid' About Russia's War in Ukraine

By Ruslan Pukhov

Russia's actions in Crimea and eastern Ukraine over the past year gave rise in the West to a widespread theory about some kind of "hybrid war," an innovative form of military intervention that Moscow created specifically for this crisis. However, upon closer inspection, the term hybrid war is more a propaganda tool than hard fact and any attempt to fully define it strips the idea of any novelty.

One Western attempt at defining the term states that hybrid war is a combination of overt and covert military actions, provocations and diversions in conjunction with denial of involvement, significantly complicating any full-scale response to those actions.

A more extensive definition of hybrid war appears in the editor's introduction to "The Military Balance 2015" published by The International Institute for Strategic Studies. It describes hybrid war as "the use of military and non-military tools in an integrated campaign designed to achieve surprise, seize the initiative and gain psychological as well as physical advantages utilizing diplomatic means; sophisticated and rapid information, electronic and cyber operations; covert and occasionally overt military and intelligence action; and economic pressure."

It also points out that during the Crimean operations in February-March 2014 "Russian forces demonstrated integrated use of rapid deployment, electronic warfare, information operations (IO), locally based naval infantry, airborne assault and special-forces capabilities, as well as wider use of cyberspace and strategic communications. The latter was used to shape a multifaceted and overall effective information campaign targeted as much at domestic as foreign audiences."

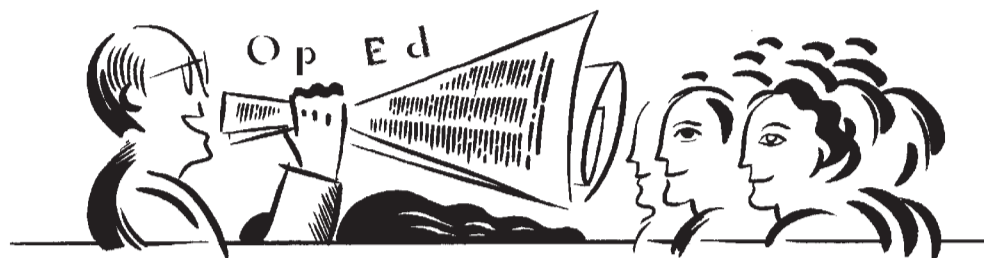
In eastern Ukraine, Moscow demonstrated the ability to quickly create "pressure groups" composed of "elements of the local population" but that are managed and supported from outside, and that such a tactic can be used to defend ethnic minorities.

In this regard, the document stated that NATO considers hybrid warfare a serious challenge because it takes place in a "gray zone" of the alliance's obli-

gations and could lead to a split between its members.

It is not difficult to see that these definitions of hybrid war, and especially the characterization of Russia's actions in 2014 as such, are out of touch with reality. For example, it is unclear which special "information" and "cyber operations" — much less which "wider use of cyber space and strategic communications" Moscow employed during its operations in Crimea. No information has come to light concerning "cyber operations" in Crimea — and what need was there for them considering the archaic condition of the Ukrainian armed forces?

Russia conducted only a sluggish propaganda campaign in support of the Crimea operation, for both foreign and domestic audiences. In fact, Mos-



cow did not so much broadcast its actions in Crimea or the reason behind them as keep silent on the subject, concealing its end game.

As a result, the annexation of the peninsula came as a surprise to many. The de facto justification for those actions also seemed like an afterthought. The annexation of Crimea enjoyed wide popular support in Russia without much propaganda because most Russians already believed that Crimea is Russian land. On the other hand, Russian forces occupying Crimea apparently waged an active propaganda campaign aimed at the besieged Ukrainian soldiers there, proposing that they switch allegiance to the Russian side.

That effort was successful. Only about 20 percent of those Ukrainian soldiers decided to retain their allegiance and evacuate Crimea, while the other 80 percent either joined the Russian army or deserted.

At the same time, this success was due more to the

fact that most of the military personnel on Crimea were residents of the peninsula and had no desire to leave than to any particular merits of the propaganda employed.

The actions attributed to so-called hybrid warfare are fairly standard to any "low intensity" armed conflict of recent decades, if not centuries. It is difficult to imagine any country using military force without providing informational support, using methods of "secret warfare," attempting to erode enemy forces, exploiting internal ethnic, social, economic, political or other divisions in the enemy camp, and without the use of retaliatory economic sanctions. These have been the fundamentals of war since antiquity.

The widely accepted definition of a hybrid war as

using a combination of overt and covert actions, including the deployment in Crimea of "polite men in green" ignores the unique nature of that military operation. In Crimea, Russia relied on the nearly total support of the local population and the resultant complete isolation of the Ukrainian forces there.

It was this fact that made it possible for soldiers in unmarked uniforms to remain in place as long as necessary. However, that is also specific to the situation in Crimea. Such polite men in green would not last long if they showed up in, say, Poland or the American Midwest. In that case, simply concealing their origins would not help them.

In fact, there is a long history of soldiers concealing their identities and using unmarked uniforms for limited military actions and special operations, just as there are historical precedents for claiming that regular army soldiers are actually local "volunteers."

In essence, history shows that any external mil-

itary intervention by a foreign army into another country's civil war has inevitably involved similar practices. Neither is this the first time that a government has used both regular army and rebel forces together. Such practices are standard when deploying military resources under specific conditions. Recall that one of the main tasks of the U.S. Special Forces is the organization and support of "friendly" rebel and guerrilla movements.

With this in mind, the current Ukrainian conflict bears less resemblance to Germany's annexation of the Sudetenland in 1938 — where, by the way, German irredentist militia were active — and more to the United States' Mexican War of 1846-48 that led to the accession of Texas and a number of other Mexican states to the U.S., and also to the Italian Risorgimento that unified Italy in the mid-19th century.

In both cases, the reason for an irredentist war is evident, as well as the fact that the "mother country" could not openly intercede militarily on behalf of the irredentists. That is why they used the widest possible array of methods to support the irredentist cause — by supporting and replenishing their fighting formations, sending large numbers of real and alleged volunteers, as well as camouflaged units of their armed forces, and by staging limited interventions.

Thus, the novelty of this so-called hybrid war begins to fade upon a closer look at history. Russia's hybrid war is simply a modern application of an age-old set of military and political practices.

It is the presence of forces friendly to the outside power that makes it possible to employ methods that have now become known as "hybrid." In applying the term hybrid war to the conflict in Ukraine, modern observers use politically biased wording to overstate the importance of external factors in the conflict and to downplay the significance of internal factors.

That attempt to downplay the significance of internal factors in the Ukrainian conflict goes over very well in the West, and explains why it persists in suggesting that Russia's hybrid war is something new.

Ruslan Pukhov is director of the Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies and publisher of the journal Moscow Defense Brief.

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BEAT FILM FESTIVAL

The Beat Film Festival shows legendary documentary filmmaker Albert Maysles' final work examining the legacy of fashion icon Iris Apfel and her impact over the decades on the New York fashion scene. In English at Formula Kino.

CINEMA

10.000 KM (2014): Carlos Marques-Marcet's award-winning film chronicles a couple's (Natalia Tena, David Verdaguer) attempts to maintain a long-distance relationship between Los Angeles and Barcelona.

35MM Thurs. at 10:40 p.m., Fri. at 12:25 p.m., Sat. at 10 a.m., Sun. at 10:35 p.m., Mon. at 10:15 p.m., Wed. at 11 a.m. **In Spanish and English; Russian subtitles.**

Center of Documentary Cinema Thurs. at 9 p.m., Fri. at 5 p.m., Sun. and Tues. at 3 p.m., Mon. at 7 p.m., Tues. at 1 p.m. **In Spanish and English; Russian subtitles.**

Pioneer Thurs. at 12:15 a.m., Fri. at noon, Sat. at 1:25 p.m., Sun. at 4:40 and 11:25 p.m., Mon. at 11:55 a.m. and 7:10 p.m., Tues. at 11:35 p.m., Wed. at 7:10 and 11:25 p.m. **In Spanish and English; Russian subtitles.**

Pyat Zvyozd-Novokuznetskaya Thurs. to Wed. at 2:55 p.m. **In Spanish and English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: ALL WE HAVE IS NOW (Tolko Seichas, 2014): A documentary about three childhood friends, the Swedish girls Cissi, Lisa and Rebecka, who became famous with their band Those Dancing Days while still in high school. Directorial debut feature by Swedish actress Alexandra Dahlstrom.

Center of Documentary Cinema Fri. at 9 p.m., June 2 at 7 p.m. **In Swedish; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: AUSTIN TO BOSTON (2014): James Marcus Haney's musical adventure documentary starts after the final night at Austin's SXSW Music Festival, where bands Ben Howard, The Staves, Nathaniel Rateliff and Bear's Den pile into their vehicles and head north.

Center of Documentary Cinema June 3 at 7 p.m., June 6 at 5 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: B-MOVIE: LUST AND SOUND IN WEST BERLIN 1979-1989 (2015): Music, art and chaos are intertwined in this documentary that features young Nick Cave, Tilda Swinton, Blixa Bargeld, and New Order.

Formula Kino Gorizont Sat. at 9 p.m., June 4 at 8 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: BANKSY DOES NEW YORK (2014): Documentary chronicling the famed street artist's "31 works of art in 31 days" in New York City.

Formula Kino Gorizont Sun. at 7 p.m., June 5 at 10 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: BURROUGHS: THE MOVIE (1983): Howard Brookner's documentary explores the life and times of novelist William S. Burroughs.

Center of Documentary Cinema Sat. at 9 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

Formula Kino Gorizont June 4 p.m., June 6 at 8 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: HEAVEN ADORES YOU (Lyubimy Nebesami, 2014): an intimate inquiry into the life and music of Elliott Smith (1969-2003).

Formula Kino Gorizont Fri. and June 2 at 8 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: IRIS (2014): The last film of the late legendary filmmaker Albert Maysles features Iris Apfel, a 93-year-old interior designer, business-woman, and style maven whose impact on New York fashion can be traced back decades.

Formula Kino Gorizont Sun. at 5 p.m., June 5 at 8 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: LAMBERT AND STAMP (2014): A documentary that reveals how the unlikely partnership between aspiring filmmakers Christopher Stamp and Kit Lambert produced one of the greatest rock bands in history: The Who.

Formula Kino Gorizont Fri. at 10 p.m., June 1 at 8 p.m. **In English, German and French; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: LEE SCRATCH PERRY'S VISION OF PARADISE (2015): Volker Schaner's fairytale documentary about one of the major figures of contemporary music.

Mezeon Park of Arts Fri. and June 4 at 10 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: ORION: THE MAN WHO COULD BE KING (2015): Jeanie Finlay's documentary follows the story of Elvis impersonator Jimmy "Orion" Ellis, a masked singer whose voice sounded exactly like that of the King of Rock.

Center of Documentary Cinema Sat. at 9 p.m., June 5 at 7 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: SATION TO STATION (Ot Stantsii k Stantsii, 2014): A train travels across North America with a revolving community of artists and musicians who collaborate on recordings, artworks, films, and 10 happenings. A high-speed road trip through modern ideas by visual artist Doug Aitken is composed of 61 individual one-minute films that feature profiles shot before, during, and after the trip.

Formula Kino Gorizont Thurs. and June 3 at 8 p.m., Sat. at 7 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

FESTIVAL BEAT FILM: THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS (Vozmozhnosti Bezgranichniye, 2014): James Hall and Edward Lovelace make an intimate film about celebrated lyricist Edwyn Collins who, in 2005, suffered a stroke, effectively erasing the contents of his brain.

Center of Documentary Cinema Sat. at 7 p.m., June 4 at 9 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

KIDNAPPING MR. HEINIKEN (2015): The inside story of the planning, execution, rousing aftermath and ultimate downfall of the kidnapers of beer tycoon Alfred "Freddy" Heineken (Anthony Hopkins), which resulted in the largest ransom ever paid for an individual. Directed by Daniel Alfredson.

35MM Thurs. at 6:30 p.m., Fri. at 6:40 p.m., Sat. at 10:40 p.m., Sun. at 2:25 p.m., Mon. at 3:40 p.m., Tues. at 2:35 p.m., Wed. at 5:30 p.m. **In English, Dutch and German; Russian subtitles.**

Pioneer Thurs. at 1:45 and 9:40 p.m., Fri. at 2:30 and 7:10 p.m., Sat. at 3:55 and 9:25 p.m., Sun. at 6:05 and 10:45 p.m., Mon. at 11:30 p.m., Tues. at 2 and 7:15 p.m., Wed. at 11:15 a.m. and 9:45 p.m. **In English, Dutch and German; Russian subtitles.**

Pyat Zvyozd-Novokuznetskaya Thurs. to Wed. at 2 and 6:40 p.m. **In English, Dutch and German; Russian subtitles.**

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD (Bezumny Max: Doroga Yarosti, 2015): In a stark desert after the destruction of civilization, two rebels may be able to restore order: Max, a man of action and of few words, and Furiosa, a woman of action. George Miller's action adventure starring Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron and Nicholas Hoult.

35MM Thurs. at 10 a.m., Fri. at 2:20 p.m., Sun. at 4:15 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

Pioneer Thurs. at 2:40 p.m., Fri. at 4:10 p.m., Sat. at 3:30 p.m., Sun., Mon. and Wed. at 9:05 p.m., Tues. at 1:30 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

NIGHT WILL FALL: Researchers discover film footage from World War II that turns out to be a lost documentary shot by Alfred Hitchcock and Sidney Bernstein in 1945 about German concentration camps. Andre Singer's 2014 version.

Center of Documentary Cinema Thurs. at 7 p.m., Fri. at 3 p.m., Sun. at 1 p.m., Tues. and Wed. at 5 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

SAN ANDREAS (Razlom San Andreas, 2015): In the aftermath of a massive earthquake in California, a rescue-chopper pilot makes a dangerous journey across the state in order to rescue his estranged daughter. Directed by Brad Peyton, stars Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino and Alexandra Daddario.

Pyat Zvyozd-Novokuznetskaya Thurs. to Wed. at 1:35, 4:15, 6:15 and 10:50 p.m. **Dubbed.**

Pyat Zvyozd-Paveletskaya Thurs. to Wed. at 10 a.m., 12:15, 2:30, 4, 4:50, 7:10, 9:35, 11:10 p.m. and midnight. **Dubbed.**

Rolan Thurs. to Mon. and Wed. at 1:15 and 8:05 p.m. **Dubbed.**

SHE'S FUNNY THAT WAY (Miss Perepolokh, 2014): Peter Bogdanovich's comedy about a married Broadway director who falls for a prostitute-turned-actress and seeks to advance her career. Stars Jennifer Aniston, Imogen Poots and Quentin Tarantino.

Pyat Zvyozd-Novokuznetskaya Thurs. to Wed. at 11:25 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

THE AGE OF ADALINE (Vek Adaline, 2015): Lee Toland Krieger's romantic drama starring Blake Lively, Michiel Huisman and Harrison Ford.

35MM Thurs. at 12:10 p.m., Fri. at 4:35 p.m., Sat. at 2:15 p.m., Sun. at 12:25 p.m., Mon. at 1:30 p.m., Tues. at 12:30 p.m., Wed. at 3:20 p.m. **In English; Russian subtitles.**

A comprehensive set of listings and the addresses for all venues can be found at www.themoscowtimes.com

CONCERTS

THURSDAY THE 28TH

Anastasia Bykova (organ) and Yelizaveta Kanauzova (soprano) in concert. *St. Andrew's Anglican Church.* 7:30 p.m.

Chamber Orchestra of Russia performs Geminiani, Biber, Schmelzer, Bizet and Piazzolla. *Philharmonic-2 Hall.* 7 p.m.

Jazz Concert features opera soloists of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater and the Edelweiss Quintet. *Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater small stage.* 7 p.m.

Novaya Opera Chamber Choir performs spirituals. *Novaya Opera Foyer.* 7 p.m.

Pavel Slobodkin Center Chamber Orchestra performs Dvorak's Serenade for strings, his Slavic Dances, Schubert's Symphony No. 5 and Brahms' Hungarian Dances No. 1, No. 3 and No. 10. *Pavel Slobodkin Center.* 7 p.m.

Piano Duet of Sivan Silver and Gil Garburg performs Liszt, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Saint-Saens. *Conservatory Rachmninov Hall.* 7 p.m.

Rachmaninov Trio performs Beethoven. *Masterslvi Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

Svetlanov Symphony Orchestra Soloists perform Rubinshtein, Rachmaninov and Dvorak. *Philharmonic Chamber Hall.* 7 p.m.

Symphony Capella of Russia performs Mozart's Short Mass in F major, his Short Mass in D major, Schnittke's Piano Concerto and his Violin Concerto No. 4. Soloists Viktoria Postnikova (piano), Alexander Rozhdestvensky (piano), Tatyana Fedotova (soprano), Yekaterina Bolshakova (mezzo-soprano), Igor Vyalykh (tenor) and Kirill Filin (bass). Gennady Rozhdestvensky conducts. *Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.* 7 p.m.

Young Talents: Pianists Andrei Gugin, Mikhail Turpanov and Lukas Geniusas perform Beethoven, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Brahms and Chopin. *Conservatory Great Hall.* 7 p.m.

FRIDAY THE 29TH

Alexander Strukov (piano), Tair Khisambeyev (violin), Mikhail Kovalkov (viola), Igor Nechayev (cello) and others perform Bach, Ravel and Saint-Saens. *Conservatory Rachmninov Hall.* 7 p.m.

Evening Brass: New Life Brass Quintet and Yekaterina Spirikina (organ) perform Bach, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and Piazzolla. *St. Mary's Cathedral.* 8:30 p.m.

Fabrizio Paterlini: Italian pianist and composer in concert. *Dom Muzyki Svetlanov Hall.* 8 p.m.

Mark Varshavsky (cello) and Rustem Kudoyarov (piano) perform Respighi, Rossini, Stravinsky, Paganini and Piatti. *Conservatory Small Hall.* 7 p.m.

FESTIVAL Moscow Meets Friends: Vladimir Spivakov Foundation features young performers. *Bolshoi Theater Beethoven Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

Mozart's Requiem performed by the Blagovest Ensemble, the Brass Orchestra of Russia and soloists. *Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Cathedral.* 8 p.m.

SATURDAY THE 30TH

Alexei Semyonov (organ) performs Bach. *Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Cathedral.* 9 p.m.

Svetlanov Symphony Orchestra performs Richard Strauss. *Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.* 3 p.m.

FESTIVAL The Universe of Sound: traditional Indian music. *Conservatory Rachmninov Hall.* 7 p.m.

Vesna Children's Choir performs spiritual compositions by Rachmaninov, Bortnyansky, Poulenc, Haydn, Podgaitis and others. *Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Cathedral.* 4 p.m.

SUNDAY THE 31ST

Alexei Shmitov (organ) performs Bach's toccatas. *Conservatory Small Hall.* 7 p.m.

Anastasia Gamalei (piano) performs Chopin. *Conservatory Rachmninov Hall.* 7 p.m.

Cartoon Opera (Multik-Opera): Helikon Opera soloists, choir and orchestra perform songs from popular Russian children's films. *Helikon Opera on Arbat.* 2 p.m.

Celtic Bagpipes, harp, organ and the Lege Artis Dance Ensemble in concert. *Vernadsky Geological Museum.* 8 p.m.

From Baroque to Modernism: Alexei Lundin (violin), Daniil Sayamov (piano), Yevgeny Zhadanov (violin), Mikhail Kovalkov (viola) and Yevgeny Rumyantsev (cello) perform Brahms, Schumann and Chopin. *Tsaritsyno Bazhenovsky Hall.* 4 p.m.

Fyodor Stroganov (organ) and Pyotr Glavatskikh (marimba) perform Bach, Handel, Rameau and Dowland. *Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Cathedral.* 7 p.m.

Gaik Kazazyan (violin) and the Pavel Slobodkin Center Chamber Orchestra perform Bach, Paganini, Venyavsky and Tchaikovsky. *Pavel Slobodkin Center.* 7 p.m.

Garri Grodberg (organ) performs Bach. *Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.* 7 p.m.

Music Gardens: Maria Aria (soprano), Natalya Dubrovskaya (mezzo-soprano), Ksenia Dubrovskaya (violin) and Maria Moiseyeva (organ) perform Vivaldi, Purcell, Monteverdi and Purcell. *St. Mary's Cathedral.* 8:30 p.m.

Natalya Letyuk (organ) and Rozmurat Arnakuliyev (trumpet) in concert. *St. Andrew's Anglican Church.* 7:30 p.m.

Royal Opera Youth Theater soloists and orchestra perform Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Rimsky-Korsakov. *Kolomenskoye Khoromina Hall.* 6 p.m.

MONDAY THE 1ST

Eleonora Karpukhova (piano) performs Tchaikovsky. *Conservatory Rachmninov Hall.* 7 p.m.

Musica Viva Chamber Orchestra performs Haydn's Symphony No. 102, Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 and Kraft's Cello Concerto. Soloist Alexander Rudin, conductor Matthew Halls. *Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.* 7 p.m.

Tchaikovsky Gala: Dinara Aliyeva (soprano), Alexei Neklyudov (tenor), Andrei Zhilikhovsky (baritone), Alexei Tikhomirov (bass), the Novaya Rossiya Symphony Orchestra and the Masters of Choral Song Choir in concert. *Conservatory Great Hall.* 7 p.m.

TUESDAY THE 2ND

FESTIVAL The Universe of Sound: concert of Armenian vocal and instrumental music. *Conservatory Great Hall.* 7 p.m.

Yurgenson Competition of Young Composers: award ceremony and concert. *Conservatory Rachmaninov Hall.* 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY THE 3RD

Organ and Trombone. Crossroads: Dmitry Bulkin and Adelya Askerova in concert. *St. Mary's Cathedral.* 8:30 p.m.

Russian National Orchestra, Anna Samuil (soprano), Ksenia Dudnikova (mezzo-soprano), Sergei Skorokhodov (tenor) and Andrei Zhilikhovsky (baritone) perform Tchaikovsky's arias and duets. *Conservatory Great Hall.* 7 p.m.

Sergei Kuznetsov (piano) performs Rachmaninov. *Conservatory Small Hall.* 7 p.m.

Tchaikovsky. Children's Album: 16 Children's Songs and 24 Pieces for piano performed by Alexei Goribol and vocalists of the Bolshoi Theater Youth Opera Program. *Bolshoi Theater Beethoven Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

DANCE

THURSDAY THE 28TH

FESTIVAL Chekhov Theater Festival: I, Carmen (Ya, Carmen): Maria Pages stages

a flamenco dance show that undermines the myth of Carmen as a femme fatale. Maria Pages Comapny production (Spain). *Mossoviet Theater*. 7 p.m.
Tango de Buenos Aires: music and dance show. *Dom Muzyki Chamber Hall*. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY THE 29TH

NEW Cafe Idiot: Alexander Pepelyayev's dance staging on the themes of Dostoevsky. Moskva Ballet production. *Meyerhold Center*. 8 p.m.
FESTIVAL Chekhov Theater Festival: I, Carmen (see Thurs. listing). *Mossoviet Theater*. 7 p.m.
Cinderella (Zolushka): Prokofiev's ballet based on the fairy tale. Choreographed and staged by Oleg Vinogradov. *Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater*. 7 p.m.
Fire of Anatolia: dance show from Turkey. *Kremlin Palace*. 7 p.m.
Onegin: John Cranco's ballet set to Tchaikovsky's music. *Bolshoi Theater Main Stage*. 7 p.m.
Othello: Anzhelika Kholina stages a choreographic composition based on Shakespeare. *Vakhtangov Theater*. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY THE 30TH

NEW Cafe Idiot (see Fri. listing). *Meyerhold Center*. 8 p.m.
FESTIVAL Chekhov Theater Festival: I, Carmen (see Thurs. listing). *Mossoviet Theater*. 7 p.m.
Onegin (see Fri. listing). *Bolshoi Theater Main Stage*. Noon and 7 p.m.
Ruslan and Lyudmila: a folkloric ballet based on Mikhail Glinka's operatic treatment of Pushkin's poem. A young man must employ magic to rescue his beloved from the clutches of an evil dwarf. *Kremlin Ballet production*. *Kremlin Palace*. 2 p.m.

SUNDAY THE 31ST

FESTIVAL Chekhov Theater Festival: I, Carmen (see Thurs. listing). *Mossoviet Theater*. 7 p.m.
Onegin (see Fri. listing). *Bolshoi Theater Main Stage*. 6 p.m.

MONDAY THE 1ST

FESTIVAL Chekhov Theater Festival: I, Carmen (see Thurs. listing). *Mossoviet Theater*. 7 p.m.
First Flash (Pervaya Vspyshka): Jorma Elo's ultra-modern dance piece to Sibelius' music, staged by Christophe Dozzi. Also in program are Nacho Duato's "Por Vos Muero" to early Spanish music, and his triptych "Na Floresta." *Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater*. 7 p.m.
The Nutcracker (Shchelkunchik): Tchaikovsky's classic Yuletide ballet staged by Natalya Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilyov. Grand Moscow Classical Ballet production. *Novaya Opera*. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY THE 3RD

FESTIVAL Chekhov Theater Festival: Red Tobacco (Krasny Tabak): James Thierree's choreographic drama includes dance, circus, drama and pantomime. La Compagnie du Hanne-ton production (France). *Mossoviet Theater*. 7 p.m.
FESTIVAL Chekhov Theater Festival: Red Tobacco (see Wed. listing). *Mossoviet Theater*. June 4, 5, 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.
Igor Moiseyev Folk Ballet in concert. *Tchaikovsky Concert Hall*. 7 p.m.
Le Corsaire: Adolphe Adam and Leo Delibes' ballet based on Byron's poetic love story about a pirate captain and his beautiful young captive. Yury Grigorovich's staging for the Kremlin Ballet. *Kremlin Palace*. 7 p.m.
Swan Lake (Lebedinoye Ozero): Yury Grigorovich applies psychology to his revival of Tchaikovsky's ballet. *Bolshoi Theater Main Stage*. 7 p.m.

OPERA

THURSDAY THE 28TH

IN ITALIAN Tosca: Puccini's opera about the tragic love of a beautiful Roman singer for an artist. Performed in Italian. *Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater*. 7 p.m.
Violist Danilov (Alti-st Danilov): Alexander Tchaikovsky's opera, based on Vladimir Orlov's 1980 novel, is dedicated to Yury Bashmet. Directed and choreographed

by Mikhail Kislyarov. *Pokrovsky Chamber Musical Theater*. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY THE 29TH

Gianni Schicchi: the concert version of Puccini's one-act opera performed by the Moscow Conservatory Opera Theater. *Conservatory Great Hall*. 7 p.m.
NEW Orchestra Rehearsal (Repetsitsiya Orkestra): an operatic staging based on Fellini's film. *Natalya Sats Children's Musical Theater*. 6 p.m.
The Story of Kai and Gerda (Istoriya Kaya i Gerdy): Sergei Banevich's opera based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen." *Bolshoi Theater New Stage*. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY THE 30TH

IN ITALIAN La Boheme (Bogema): a moving production of Puccini's opera about the loves, passions and deceptions of a group of artists in the Latin Quarter of Paris in the 1830s. Performed in Italian. *Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater*. 7 p.m.
NEW Orchestra Rehearsal (see Fri. listing). *Natalya Sats Children's Musical Theater*. 4 p.m.
Pinocchio: Pierangelo Valtinoni's opera for children retells the classic fairy tale by Carlo Collodi. Performed in Russian. *Pokrovsky Chamber Musical Theater*. 4 p.m.

unknowing brothers decades later. Directed by Marco Gandini. Performed in Italian with Russian subtitles. *Novaya Opera*. 7 p.m.
NEW La Belle Helene (Prekrasnaya Yelena): Jacques Offenbach's operetta parodies the story of Helen's elopement with Paris, which set off the Trojan War. Performed in Russian. *Helikon Opera on Arbat*. 7 p.m.
IN ITALIAN La Sonnambula (The Sleepwalker): Vincenzo Bellini's bel canto opera staged by Pier Luigi Pizzi. Performed in Italian with Russian subtitles. *Bolshoi Theater New Stage*. 7 p.m.

THEATER

THURSDAY THE 28TH

NEW Boris Godunov: Alexander Pushkin's verse play as staged by Peter Stein. *Et Cetera Theater*. 7 p.m.
NEW Electrocabaret. Vertinsky on Tverskaya: a theatrical concert. *Stanislavsky Electrotheater*. 10 p.m.
NEW Fatal Attraction (Rokovoye Vlecheniye): Vera Vasilyeva stars as a former Hollywood star in Andrei Zhitinkin's new play. *Satire Theater*. 7 p.m.
NEW Flight (Beg): Yury Butusov's production of Mikhail Bulgakov's novel. *Vakhtangov Theater*. 7 p.m.



Dostoevsky's dark, existentialist themes will be explored through the medium of dance Friday by the always-innovative Moskva Ballet in Alexander Pepelyayev's "Cafe Idiot," on at the Meyerhold Center. baletmoskva.ru.

The Story of Kai and Gerda (see Fri. listing). *Bolshoi Theater New Stage*. Noon and 7 p.m.

SUNDAY THE 31ST

Pinocchio (see Sat. listing). *Pokrovsky Chamber Musical Theater*. 4 p.m.
Tasty Tales (Syedobniye Skazki): Mikhail Bronner's musical for kids and parents. *Natalya Sats Children's Musical Theater*. 1 and 5 p.m.
The Magic Flute (Volshebnaya Fleita): Mozart's lyric opera as staged by Alexander Titel and Igor Yasulovich. *Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater small stage*. 7 p.m.
The Story of Kai and Gerda (see Fri. listing). *Bolshoi Theater New Stage*. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY THE 2ND

MT PICK Eugene Onegin: a simple and dazzling staging of Tchaikovsky's opera by Sergei Artsibashev with sets by Sergei Barkhin. *Novaya Opera*. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY THE 3RD

IN ITALIAN Aida: Verdi's opera about the forbidden love between an Ethiopian slave girl and an Egyptian army commander. Directed by Peter Stein. Performed in Italian. *Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater*. 7 p.m.
IN ITALIAN Il Trovatore (Trubadur): Verdi's tragic opera, set in 16th-century Spain, about the search for a boy, mistakenly thought to have been murdered in infancy, which leads to a duel in love between two

Two in Your House (Dvoye v Tvoyem Dome): Yelena Gremina's documentary play about KGB agents living in the apartment of a Belarus presidential candidate held under house arrest. Directed by Mikhail Ugarov and Talgat Batalov. *Teatr.doc Na Razgulyaye*. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY THE 30TH

All About Cinderella (see Thurs. listing). *Moscow Musical Theater*. 7 p.m.
NEW All Shades of Blue (see Fri. listing). *Satirikon Theater*. 7 p.m.
NEW The Cherry Orchard (Vishnyovy Sad): Vladimir Mirzoyev's melancholy production of Chekhov's play about an aristocratic family that is out of touch with the times. *Pushkin Theater*. 7 p.m.
The Gamblers (Igroki): Oleg Menshikov's rendition of Gogol's comedy about card sharks cheating a cardsharp. *Yermolova Theater*. 7 p.m.
The Lioness of Aquitaine (Akvitanskaya Lvitsa): Gleb Panfilov stages James Goldman's screenplay, "The Lion in Winter," about the gamesmanship between Henry II of England (Dmitry Pevtsov) and his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine (Inna Churikova). *Lenkom Theater*. 7 p.m.
The Precipice (Obryv): Adolf Shapiro's stage adaptation of Ivan Goncharov's novel. *Chekhov Moscow Art Theater*. 7 p.m.

NEW Yours, Chekhov (Vash Chekhov): Actress Anna Artamonova stages her own play about Anton Chekhov. *Et Cetera Theater*. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY THE 31ST

NEW All Shades of Blue (see Fri. listing). *Satirikon Theater*. 7 p.m.
trical concert. Yermolova Theater. 7 p.m.
MT PICK Idiots: Kirill Serebrennikov's staging on the themes of Lars von Trier's film of the same name. *Gogol Center*. 8 p.m..
MT PICK Light My Fire (Zazhgi Moi Ogon): Yury Muravitsky stages Sasha Denisova's play that is ostensibly about American musicians Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin, but actually explores rebels who could be from anywhere. *Teatr.doc Na Razgulyaye*. 8 p.m.
NEW The Cherry Orchard (Vishnyovy Sad): Igor Yatsko's new interpretation of Chekhov's play. *School of Dramatic Art*. 7 p.m.
The Kreutzer Sonata (Kreitzerova Sonata): Anton Yakovlev dramatizes Leo Tolstoy's story about a marriage on the rocks. Stars Mikhail Porechenkov. *Chekhov Moscow Art Theater*. 7 p.m.
The Mother Cat (Mama-Kot): a family musical based on Luis Sepulveda's story about a cat who taught a baby seagull to fly. *Mayakovsky Theater*. Noon and 4 p.m.
Va Bank: Mark Zakharov's show based on Alexander Ostrovsky's comedy "The Final Sacrifice." *Lenkom Theater*. 7 p.m.
MT PICK Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (Kto Boitsya Virdzhinii Vulff?): Kama Ginkas stages a bracing version of Edward Albee's play about the adversarial relationship that somehow keeps a middle-aged couple's

marriage together. *Theater Yunogo Zritel'ya*. 7 p.m.

MONDAY THE 1ST

MT PICK Idiots (see Sun. listing). *Gogol Center*. 8 p.m.
Nine Months, 40 Weeks (9 Mesyatsev, 40 Nedel): An all-male cast plays pregnant women in Alexei Kulichkov and Sergei Shevchenko's documentary play. *Teatr.doc Na Razgulyaye*. 8 p.m.
NEW Tartuffe: Moliere's play as staged by Brigitte Jaques-Wajeman. *Pushkin Theater*. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY THE 2ND

MT PICK Eugene Onegin: Rimas Tuminas stages a bold remake of, and commentary on, Pushkin's classic verse novel. *Vakhtangov Theater*. 7 p.m.
MT PICK Idiots (see Sun. listing). *Gogol Center*. 8 p.m.
NEW Jeweler's Jubilee (Yubilei Yuvelira): Oleg Tabakov stars in Konstantin Bogomolov's staging of Nichola McAuliffe's play "Maurice's Jubilee" about a man preparing for his 90th birthday and final weeks. *Chekhov Moscow Art Theater*. 7 p.m.
NEW One Must Be Grateful (see Sun. listing). *Praktika*. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY THE 3RD

MT PICK London Show: Konstantin Raikin stages a comedy based on George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion." *Satirikon Theater*. 7 p.m.
NEW One Must Be Grateful (see Sun. listing). *Praktika*. 8 p.m.

GIGS

THURSDAY THE 28TH

69FM - Radio Absolyutnogo Doveriya: swing, bossa nova, flamenco, folk. *Kitaisky Lyotchik Dzha Dao*. 8 p.m.
Alexei Davletshin: blues. CD release party. *Forté*. 8 p.m.
IN ENGLISH Ali Caldwell: r&b vocals. *Durov*. 8 p.m.
Ameli Na Meli: singer-songwriter. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Big Hall*. 8 p.m.
Atlantida: folk jazz. *Teatr Club*. 8 p.m.
Daniil Kramer: jazz piano. *Conservatory Small Hall*. 7 p.m.
Doch Monroe and Kennedy: punk, chansons and folk. CD release party. *China Town Cafe*. 8 p.m.
Dumma and The MPs: electric fusion. *Kitaisky Lyotchik Dzha Dao*. 10 p.m.
Horsepower: funky fusion. *Kozlov Club Second Floor*. 8 p.m.
Ivan Zhuk and VoFka Kozhekin: rock, folk, r&b. *Roadhouse*. 9 p.m.
MT PICK IN ENGLISH J.C. Smith: blues guitar, vocals. *B.B. King*. 8:30 p.m.
Jazz Art Club: jam session. *Jazz Esse*. 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Battle. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Small Hall*. 8 p.m.
Jermook: folk rock, electronic, experimental. *Duma Club*. 9 p.m.
Latin American Dances: master class. *Pancho Villa*. 8 p.m.
Levan Lomidze and Blues Cousins. *Igor Butman Club Na Taganke*. 8:30 p.m.
Marakatu: carnival music orchestra. *FAQ-Cafe*. 8 p.m.
Neschastny Sluchai: rock. *16 Tons*. 9 p.m.
Pled: indie rock. CD release party. *Concert Club*. 9:30 p.m.
Sedmaya Rasa: post-grunge, alternative. *YotaSpace*. 8 p.m.
Sergei Manukyan: soul, jazz vocals, keyboards. *Soyuz Kompozitorov*. 8:30 p.m.
IN ENGLISH Stick to Your Guns and Being as an Ocean: melodic hardcore from California. *Volta*. 7 p.m.
Svidaniye: new band. Debut CD release party. *ArteFAQ*. 8 p.m.
Traditional Indian Music: Subshi Dzhannardan (vocals, sitar) and Kirill Parenchuk (tabla). *Dom*. 8 p.m.
Xenique Acoustic-Electric: jazz, electric soul from vocalist and composer Ksenia Lebedeva. Guest Gulfam Sabri (vocals, tabla). *Kozlov Club*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY THE 29TH

7B: rock. *Concert Club*. 9:30 p.m.
Alexei Kozlov and Arsenal: jazz rock, funk, fusion. *Kozlov Club*. 8 p.m.
MT PICK IN ENGLISH Ali Caldwell (r&b vocals) and the Oleg Butman Trio. *Igor Butman Club Na Taganke*. 8:30 p.m.
Auktsyon: rock. *16 Tons*. 9 p.m.

Balls of Fire: rockabilly. *Forte. 8 p.m.*
Blues Gravity: power rock and blues. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Big Hall. 11:30 p.m.*
Denis Mazhukov: boogie, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll. *B.B. King. 8:30 p.m.*
Diamond Hand: rockabilly. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Small Hall. 8:30 p.m.*
IN ENGLISH Enter Shikari: British post-hardcore band. *Ray Just Arena. 8 p.m.*
Fedulova: blues rock. *Roadhouse. 10 p.m.*
MT PICK Goran Bregovic and his orchestra in concert. *YotaSpace. 8 p.m.*
FESTIVAL Ionosfera: Red Samara Automobile Club, Voditel Dlya Vera, Velvet Breasts, Okolo Poludnya, Lode Runner, Vtoriy Biryuki, Devushka Shkolnika and others. *Kitaisky Lyotchik Dzhao Da. 7 p.m.*
FESTIVAL Ionosfera: Stranniye Igry, Shortparis, Scofferlane, Hellspin, Velvet Breasts and others. *China Town Cafe. 8 p.m.*
Kira Lao: experimental, folk, trip-hop. *Dewar's Powerhouse. 8 p.m.*
Korsika: rock. *Teatr Club. 7 p.m.*
MT PICK Opera Night: classical, jazz, pop, experimental vocal and instrumental music. *Kozlov Club. 10:30 p.m.*
Pervoye Solntse: jazz fusion show. *Yermolova Theater. 8 p.m.*
Phurpa: Tibetan ritual music. *Dom. 8 p.m.*
Pyotr Vostokov Big Jazz Orchestra. *Jazz Esse. 8 p.m.*
Red Rocks: rock covers. *DeFAQto. 10 p.m.*
Sin Fronteras: Latino. *Pancho Villa. 9 p.m.*
Sofi Okran: jazz vocals. *Soyuz Kompozitorov. 8:30 p.m.*
The Dartz: folk rock. *Vermel. 8 p.m.*
The Kikipickles: jazz. *Duma Club. 9 p.m.*
The Matrixx: Gothic glam rock. *Red. 8 p.m.*
Trud: Russian rock, post-punk. *ArteFAQ. 9 p.m.*
Yevgenia Rybakova and Gruppa 8: acoustic rock. *FAQ-Cafe. 9:30 p.m.*

SATURDAY THE 30TH

Alisa Gitsba (soprano) and Tatyana Andrianova (organ) perform Bach and Handel. *Kuskovo. 5 p.m.*
Concert in Memory of Frank Sinatra features Sergei Mazayev (vocals), Allan Harris (vocals), Oleg Akkuratov (piano, vocals) and the Igor Butman Moscow Jazz Orchestra. *Dom Muzyki Svetlanov Hall. 2 and 7 p.m.*
Cubania: Latino. *Pancho Villa. 9 p.m.*
Dizzy Riders: funk, r&b, blues rock, soul. *Duma Club. 9 p.m.*
Doro: heavy metal from Germany. Jubilee concert. *Red. 8 p.m.*
Iceage: Danish punk band. *Teatr Club. 7 p.m.*
Igrushki and Pornofilmy: punk. *China Town Cafe. 8 p.m.*
Jazz Dance Orchestra: jazz, pop. *Kozlov Club. 8 p.m.*
Kalashnikov Band: post-folk. *Vermel. 8 p.m.*
Klyagin and Tryoshkina Band: rock, r&b, country, blues, swing. *B.B. King. 8:30 p.m.*
Konstantin Nikolsky: blues rock. *Soyuz Kompozitorov. 8:30 p.m.*
MT PICK Kubana Pre-Party features punk bands Goldfinger from California, Koza Mostra from Greece, Gomad! & Monster from Spain, and Elysium from Russia. *YotaSpace. 7 p.m.*
Layna Shery: blues, soul, r&b vocals, keyboards. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Big Hall. 11 p.m.*
Levan Lomidze and Blues Cousins. Guest Dmitry Chetvergov (guitar). *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Big Hall. 9 p.m.*
Louna: alternative rock. *Izvestia Hall. 8 p.m.*
Musical Wave School Summary Concert. *Kozlov Club. 2:30 p.m.*
Nastya Poleva: art rock. *Schwein. 8 p.m.*
Newlux: jazz from St. Petersburg. *ArteFAQ. 9 p.m.*
Petrovich and Hot Rod Band: blues. *Roadhouse. 9 p.m.*
Polina Kasyanova and Django Band: retro jazz, folk jazz, swing, blues. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Summer Hall. 7 p.m.*
Sofi Okran: jazz vocals. *Forte. 8 p.m.*
The Rocks: rock. *Grand Bourbon Street. 7 p.m.*
Toronto: cover band. *DeFAQto. 10 p.m.*
MT PICK Tres Muchachos y Companeros: Latino, ska, rumba, reggae. *Kitaisky Lyotchik Dzhao Da. 9 p.m.*
Triangle Sun: lounge. *16 Tons. 9 p.m.*
Vadim Eilenkrig (trumpet) and band: jazz. *Igor Butman Club Na Taganke. 8:30 p.m.*
Vahagn Hayrapetyan and Sergei Manukyan: jazz. *Jazz Esse. 8 p.m.*
Valery Skorodet: Mongol Shuudan leader in concert. *Schwein. 11 p.m.*
Zheleznyak Planet: metal bands Master, Chyorny Obelisk, Mavrin and others. *Volta. 7 p.m.*
Znaki: Russian rock. *Concert Club. 9:30 p.m.*

SUNDAY THE 31ST

MT PICK IN ENGLISH Ali Caldwell (r&b vocals) and the Oleg Butman Trio. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Big Hall. 8 p.m.*
Dmitry Novokolsky: blues, country, acoustic. *B.B. King. 8:30 p.m.*
Esh: Brazilian jazz. *DeFAQto. 8 p.m.*
Gramm: avant-jazz, improvisations. *Kitaisky Lyotchik Dzhao Da. 8 p.m.*
Gypsy Rose: Gypsy folk. *Vermel. 8 p.m.*
Igor Bril Trio: jazz. *Jazz Esse. 8 p.m.*
Jazz Brunch with the Pyotr Vostokov Big Jazz Orchestra. *Jazz Esse. 3 p.m.*
Latinos Band: Latino. *Pancho Villa. 8 p.m.*
Mango-Mango: lively post-punk show. *YotaSpace. 8 p.m.*
Max Ivanov (Torba Na Kruche) with a solo acoustic indie rock program. *ArteFAQ. 8 p.m.*
Modern Blues Band. *Forte. 8 p.m.*
Mysteries of French Romanticism: Cyrill Dubois (tenor) and Tristan Raes (piano) in concert. *Dom Muzyki Chamber Hall. 7 p.m.*
Oleinikova Rock 'n' Roll Show. Guest Yevgeny Khavtan. *Kozlov Club. 8 p.m.*
Open Blues Jam. *Roadhouse. 8 p.m.*
Pizhony: swing, jive. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Small Hall. 8:30 p.m.*
Polina Kasyanova: retro jazz, folk jazz, swing, blues. *Soyuz Kompozitorov. 8:30 p.m.*
Sasha Frid: jazz, funk, soul vocals. *Kozlov Club Second Floor. 8 p.m.*
Serebryanaya Svadba: cabaret band from Minsk. *Red. 8 p.m.*

TUESDAY THE 2ND

Anar Yusifov (violin) and Moscow Jazz Passengers interpret Vivaldi. *Igor Butman Club Na Taganke. 8:30 p.m.*
Anton Gorbunov Trio: jazz. *Soyuz Kompozitorov. 8:30 p.m.*
Delta Blues Party. *B.B. King. 8:30 p.m.*
Die Farbfunken: Russian rock band. *China Town Cafe. 8 p.m.*
Esh: Brazilian jazz. *Forte. 8 p.m.*
Ivanov Vibe Band: fusion, ethno jazz, Latino, jazz rock. *Kozlov Club. 8 p.m.*
Jack Wood: Moscow guitar rock band. *16 Tons. 8 p.m.*
Jam Session With Yakov Okun. *Jazz Esse. 9 p.m.*
Latinos Band: Latino. *Pancho Villa. 8:30 p.m.*
MT PICK Motorama: twi pop, post-punk. *YotaSpace. 8 p.m.*
Nadya Alexeyeva and Gordo Rei Latino: Brazilian music. *Kozlov Club Second Floor. 8 p.m.*
Omira: Russian funk, jazz, soul, rock and romance. *Duma Club. 9 p.m.*
Open Blues Jam. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Big Hall. 7 p.m.*
Salt Peanutz: funk, soul. *DeFAQto. 8 p.m.*
World Music: Radik Tyulyush (throat singing, vocals, folk instruments), Sergei Kalachyov (bass guitar) and Gennady Lavrentyev (violin, folk instruments). *Dom. 8 p.m.*
Yury Kaverkin and Alexander Novosyolov: blues. *Roadhouse. 9 p.m.*

EXHIBITS

ALEXANDER FERMAN MINERALOGICAL MUSEUM:
MT PICK Permanent display: a collection of minerals from all over the world. *Located at 18 Leninsky Prospekt, Bldg. 2. M. Oktyabrskaya, Leninsky Prospekt, then any bus to Bolnitsa Svyatitelya Alexia. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Mon. and Tues. 495-954-3900, www.fmm.ru*
ANDRIYAKA'S WATERCOLOR SCHOOL:
NEW Russian Watercolorists Society. A Time of Flourishing (Obshchestvo Russkikh Akvarelistov. Vremya Rastsveta): drawings and watercolors from the turn of the 20th century from museum and private collections, *to July 12. Located at 17/1 Gorokhovskiy Pereulok. M. Kurskaya. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed Mon. and Tues. 499-267-5435, www.andriaka.ru*
ARTPLAY:
World Press Photo 2015, to June 13. *Located at 10 Nizhnaya Syromyatnicheskaya Ul. M Kurskaya, Chkalovskaya. Noon to 8 p.m. 495-620-0882, www.artplay.ru*
BROTHERS LUMIERE CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
MT PICK Laurent Cherere's Flying Houses: works by this acclaimed French art photographer, *to June 21.*
The Birth of Formula One: photographs by Jesse Alexander from 1955 to 1971, *to June 7.*
The Soviet Photo: 20th-century

engravings by French Baroque printmaker and draftsman Jacques Callot, graphic works by Rembrandt, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, Honore Daumier, Theodore Gericault and others, and texts and music by E.T.A. Hoffmann, *to Aug. 23. Located at 17 Prechistskaya Naberezhnaya, entrance from Kursovoi Pereulok. M. Kropotkinskaya. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sat and Sun. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed Mon. 495-640-0249, www.inartibus.org*

IRAGUI GALLERY:
MT PICK The Untouchable Lightness of Being (Neprikosnovennaya Lygkost Bytiya): Brigitte Nahon's sculptural works address opposites: balance and imbalance, solidity and fragility, heaviness and lightness, the temporary and the eternal, *to Sun. Located at 7 Malaya Polyanka. M. Polyanka. Tues. to Sat. 2 to 7 p.m., or by appointment 8-903-562-7241, 495-978-3213, www.iragui.com*

JEWISH MUSEUM & TOLERANCE CENTER:
History of the Jews: This multimedia interactive exposition focuses on key historical periods and begins at the Beginning Theater with a 4D film based on the Torah, *permanent display. Located at 11 Ul. Obraztsova, Bldg. 1A. M. Savyolovskaya, then two stops by bus 12 to Ulitsa Obraztsova. Sun. to Thurs. noon to 10 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. closed Sat. and Jewish holidays. 495-645-0550, www.jewish-museum.ru*

MEYERHOLD CENTER:
NEW Witkacy: exhibit of photographs by Polish writer, painter, philosopher, playwright, novelist, and photographer Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz (1885-1939), commonly known as Witkacy, *Fri. to June 30 in the Green Foyer. Located at 23 Novoslobodskaya Ul. M. Mendeleevskaya. 495-363-1048, www.meyerhold.ru*

MOSCOW MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ON GOGOLEVSKY:
MT PICK Vladimir Nemukhin and Lidia Masterkova: retrospective of works by these two avant-garde artists from museum and private collections, *to Sun. Located at 10 Gogolevsky Bulvar. Metro Kropotkinskaya. Noon to 8 p.m., ticket office to 7:15 p.m., Thurs. 1 to 9 p.m., ticket office to 8:15 p.m., closed every third Monday of the month. 495-231-3660, www.mmoma.ru*

MOSCOW MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ON PETROVKA:
The Living Dead (Zhivye Myortviye): Ivan Korshunov shows portraits of the last eight inhabitants of his native Village of Olshanka, *to Sun. Located at 25 Petrovka. M. Chekhovskaya. Noon to 8 p.m., ticket office to 7:15 p.m., Thurs. 1 to 9 p.m., ticket office to 8:15 p.m., closed every third Monday of the month. 495-231-3660, www.mmoma.ru*

MOSCOW MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ON YERMOLAYEVSKY:
Figures of Intuition (Figury Intuitsii): retrospective of photographs, videos and installations by Timofei Parshchikov, *to June 21. Located at 17 Yermolayevskiy Pereulok. M. Mayakovskaya. Noon to 8 p.m., ticket office to 7:15 p.m., Thurs. 1 to 9 p.m., ticket office to 8:15 p.m., closed every third Monday of the month. 495-231-3660, www.mmoma.ru*

MULTIMEDIA ART MUSEUM:
MT PICK Annisia: retrospective of neon works by American conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth, *to June 25.*
FESTIVAL Fashion and Style in Photography: "Coming into Fashion: A Century of Photographs at Conde Nast," *to June 7.*
MT PICK Robert Capa: Retrospective of works by this Hungarian photojournalist who covered five wars: the Spanish Civil War, the Second Sino-Japanese War, World War II across Europe, the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, and the First Indochina War, *to July 19. Located at 16 Ul. Ostozhenka. M. Kropotkinskaya. Ticket office open noon to 9 p.m., closed Mon. 495-637-1100, www.mamm-mdf.ru/en*

NEW TRETYAKOV GALLERY:
20th-Century Sculptures from the gallery collection, *to Sept. 27.*

MT PICK Georgy Yakulov. The Master of Multicolored Suns (1884-1928): paintings, graphics and scenography from major museum collections, *to July 19.*
MT PICK Hyperrealism. When Reality Becomes Illusion (Giperrealizm. Kogda Realnost Stanovitsya Illyuziyei): Soviet hyperrealism from the 1960s to the early 1990s, *to July 26. Located at 10 Krymsky Val. M. Oktyabrskaya, Park Kultury. Ticket office open 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., closed Mon. 499-230-7788, 238-1378, 495-951-1362. Excursions 495-953-5223. An Autoline minibus runs from outside the New Tretyakov Gallery to the Tretyakov Gallery at 10/12 Lavrushinsky Pereulok. www.tretyakovgallery.ru*



A woman looking at a photo from the Artek pioneer camp, on the Black Sea in Crimea, which was founded in 1925. The exhibit in GUM shopping center has both old and new photos of the camp, which is now under Russian control.

Two Siberians: instrumental duet, art rock, folk, blues. *16 Tons. 8 p.m.*
Yevdokia Lerer (jazz vocals) and the Daniil Nikitin Quartet. *Igor Butman Club Na Taganke. 8:30 p.m.*

Yuryn Miemi: garage pop. *Kitaisky Lyotchik Dzhao Da. 8 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY THE 3RD

2Dreams Duet: jazz, soul. *Soyuz Kompozitorov. 8:30 p.m.*
Anna Klesun (jazz vocals) and Esh: Brazilian jazz. *Igor Butman Club Na Taganke. 8:30 p.m.*
BadBadNotGood: Canadian post-bop, instrumental hip hop jazz trio. *Izvestia Hall. 8 p.m.*
Buff 'n' Stuff: Moscow funk quartet. *FAQ-Cafe. 9 p.m.*
Dmitry Murin (guitar) and Margarita Yeskina (organ) perform Bach, Vivaldi and Rodrigo. *Kuskovo. 7 p.m.*
Haleo: Cuban ethno fusion. *Forte. 8 p.m.*
Irina Bogushevskaya: retro, chansons, cabaret, bard songs. *Fomenko Workshop Theater. 7 p.m.*
Mishouris Blues Band. *Roadhouse. 9 p.m.*
Nueva Sociedad del Caribe: Latino. *Pancho Villa. 8:30 p.m.*
Oleg Kireyev Exotic Band: ethno jazz. *Kozlov Club. 8 p.m.*
Red Panty: indie. *China Town Cafe. 8 p.m.*
Rock 'n' Roll Show. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Big Hall. 8:30 p.m.*
The Jazz Loft: New Orleans jazz. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Small Hall. 8:30 p.m.*
MT PICK Tinavie: downtempo, ambient, new jazz. *16 Tons. 8 p.m.*
Trad.Attack!: folk rock from Estonia. *Kozlov Club Second Floor. 8 p.m.*

MONDAY THE 1ST

MT PICK IN ENGLISH Allan Harris (jazz vocals) and the Igor Butman Moscow Jazz Orchestra. *Igor Butman Club Na Taganke. 8:30 p.m.*
Anastasia Glazkova: jazz vocals. *DeFAQto. 8 p.m.*
Anna Korolyova and Jump: jazz, funk, ethno jazz. *Forte. 8 p.m.*
Anna Rakita (violin): jazz fusion. *Kozlov Club Second Floor. 8 p.m.*
Blues Gravity: power rock and blues. *B.B. King. 8:30 p.m.*
Dr. Nick: rock, folk, r&b. *Roadhouse. 9 p.m.*
MT PICK Francois Carrier (saxophone), Michel Lambert (drums), Alexei Kruglov (saxophone) and Denis Shushkov (double bass) play new jazz. *Kozlov Club. 8 p.m.*
Gulishian Trio: electric blues. *Rhythm & Blues Cafe Big Hall. 9 p.m.*
Jazz Jam Session. *FAQ-Cafe. 9 p.m.*
Sergei Nikitin: singer-songwriter and composer in concert. *Fomenko Workshop Theater. 7 p.m.*
Sonora Latina: Latino. *Pancho Villa. 8 p.m.*
Tablao Flamenco: dance party. *Soyuz Kompozitorov. 8:30 p.m.*
Trad.Attack!: folk rock from Estonia. *Kitaisky Lyotchik Dzhao Da. 8 p.m.*
Trikapitana: rock. *16 Tons. 10 p.m.*



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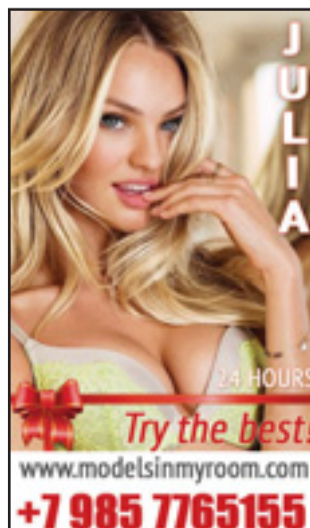
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Yoga Journal Celebrates Its First 10 Years in Russia

By Lara McCoy
artsreporter@imedia.ru

To celebrate its 10th anniversary this spring, the Russian edition of Yoga Journal didn't make plans for a huge party, or even a special yoga retreat. Instead, the magazine marked the milestone by launching an extensive analytical survey of yoga in Russia and its practitioners, which appears in the May/June issue of the magazine. The study, conducted by Yoga Journal with marketing company TNS Russia, showed that yoga in Russia today is both a widespread activity and a serious business.

More than 1.3 million Russians practice yoga — more than play basketball, tennis or hockey, according to the survey, and practitioners are a fairly elite group. Three-quarters of them are middle or upper class and 64 percent have a university degree. Half of them are between 16 and 34. And they spent 41 billion rubles on yoga last year.

The growth of yoga and Yoga Journal in Russia is not something the magazine's editor, Ellen Verbeek, could have foreseen when she went to San Francisco in 2004 to get the Russian rights to Yoga Journal from the American publishers.

"In Russia at that time there were very few studios, maybe four or five. You had basically the Iyengar community and the Ashtanga community. The people who did yoga were extremely serious, but it was not popular," Verbeek said.

By the time of Yoga Journal's fifth anniversary in 2010, however, the landscape had changed significantly.

The magazine's staff made the decision to host international conferences under the Yoga Journal brand from the very beginning of its publication. Russia was an exotic destination then, and for-



Yoga Journal's annual yoga marathon, which takes place every year on June 1, was held twice on Red Square.

eign teachers were excited to come and see the state of yoga in the country, Verbeek said. In 2009, Yoga Journal Russia invited B.K.S. Iyengar, the founder of the Iyengar school of yoga, to lead a conference in Moscow.

"He was already 90 then and it was his last trip to the West — well, from India this is the West — and it was a huge event, and from all over Europe people came," Verbeek remembers.

If the conference with Iyengar put Russia on the yoga map internationally, two important events the following year

showed the expansion of the practice closer to home.

In its fifth-anniversary issue — May/June 2010 — Yoga Journal featured a story about the Yeltsin family's yoga practice.

"I had at that time an Iyengar studio in Zhukovka [an elite Moscow suburb]," said Verbeek, "and the Yeltsin family started to take teachers from my studio to do yoga. So for our five-year anniversary we had the whole Yeltsin family doing yoga. We had a photo of Naina Yeltsina doing a shoulder stand in the issue."

The association with the Yeltsins gave the magazine more than a fascinating photo essay.

Verbeek had been trying for some time to organize a yoga marathon on Red Square, but had not had much luck breaking through the bureaucracy.

"This was my dream — to do yoga on Red Square. After we had this issue, the next year we got the permission to do our marathon. We do our marathon every year on June 21 — International Yoga Day. Now we do it at a different location, but we did it twice on Red Square."

The yoga marathon is one of two annual events Yoga Journal hosts each year. The event, which consists of 108 sun salutations performed over four hours, raises money for charity. Participants can register on a special website and ask people to sponsor them for the session.

The magazine also hosts a major international conference every fall, bringing the best international teachers to Moscow. This year's event, in October, will feature American yogi Briohny Smyth.

"All the teachers we invite find the level of students in Russia really high because people are serious here," Verbeek said. "They are more serious than Americans. They don't go once a month; they go three times a week."

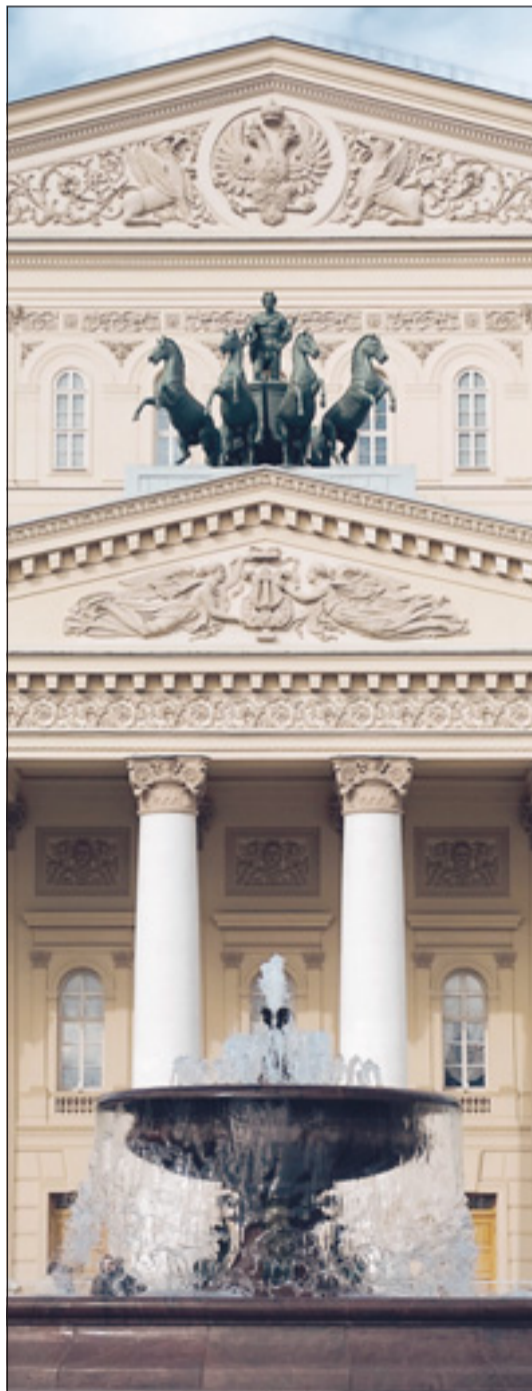
All that practice adds up. According to the Yoga Journal survey, the average practitioner spends 2,500 rubles (\$48) a month on yoga classes and seminars, although the numbers change depending on the length of time someone has practiced yoga. A new student may spend as little as 9,000 rubles a year, while a yogi with more than a decade of experience averages 30,000 rubles annually.

Verbeek said that the costs of running a yoga studio remain high, however, particularly in Moscow, because of the property values.

"The yoga business in Moscow is very difficult because the rents are so high. You lose on that. I think all the studios struggle," she said.

Verbeek sees more potential for future growth in businesses that are associated with yoga, such as clothing, accessories and organic or vegetarian food.

"In America, yoga is a multibillion-dollar business, but mostly because of the clothes, the interest in healthy food. I think it will all grow, because in the end, Russians are no different."



The Moscow Times Summer Guide

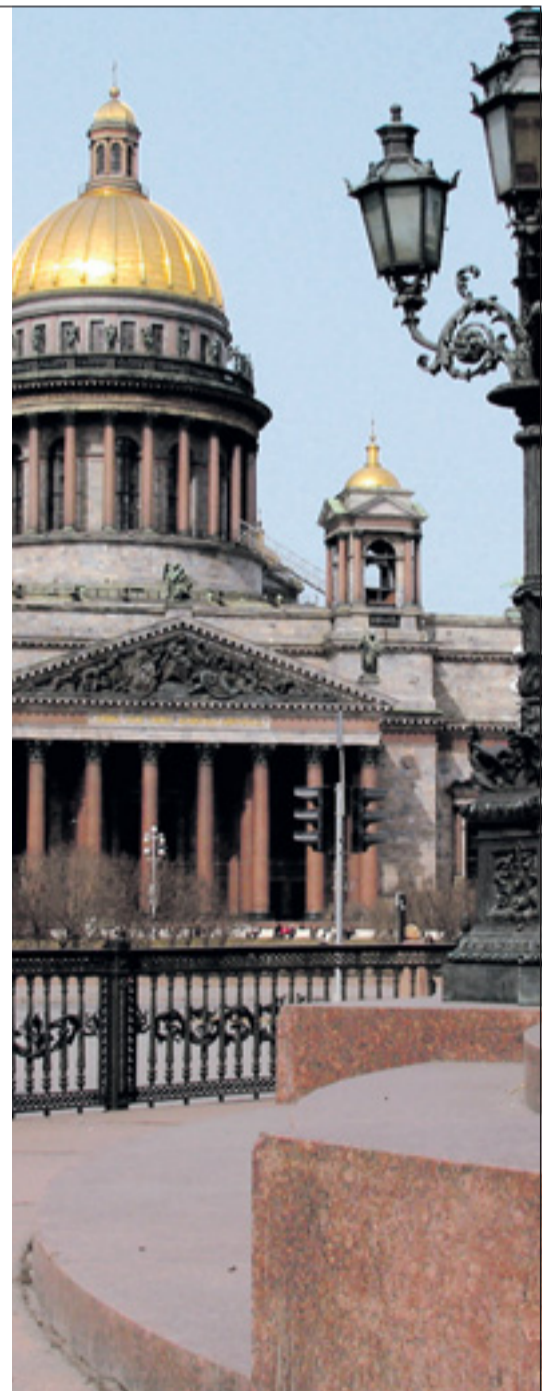
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KEVIN O'FLYNN / MT

Two men sitting in baths of mayonnaise Wednesday on Ulitsa Arbat. The pair, activists from "The Truth About Food" group, raced along the street in an event designed to promote what is already one of Russians' favorite foods.

VORONEZH

Continued from Page 16

History and politics aside, however, Voronezh is very much a modern metropolis.

In less than one season, the Chamber Theater has become one of the most innovative cultural centers in Voronezh. Aside from its repertoire of 13 shows playing on two stages, it hosts lectures, literary readings, formal meetings with actors, film screenings, art exhibits, festivals and more.

The venue is a wonder of contemporary architecture whose abundance of mirrors, glass and cleverly lit space gives it a sparkling, warm, welcoming and aesthetically pleasing demeanor. The entire five-story structure, including a basement floor housing an art gallery, book store, library, lounge and cafe, is centered around a huge open space that allows visitors on the second floor to glimpse what people are up to on the basement level.

I can't think of a single Moscow venue that can compete with the beauty, comfort and usability of this impressive space.

Even now as the theater is offering up two shows alongside two or three other events every day, it is gearing up for the annual Platonov Festival of Arts. Opening June 3, it runs through June 14 at the Chamber Theater and other stages in Voronezh, featuring a packed schedule of drama, music and dance from around Russia and Europe.

The festival honors native son Platonov, whose works form the foundation for four of the dramatic productions on tap. But it also offers works by Gogol, Ibsen and Brecht by such directors as Lev Dodin, Philippe Genty, Yury Butusov and Vladimir Pankov.

All aboard for Voronezh!

See platonovfest.com for details of the Platonov Festival of Arts. For more information on the Voronezh Chamber Theater, see chambervm.ru.



JOHN FREEDMAN / MT

The Chamber Theater's snazzy new brick, glass, metal and oak building.

Beauty Contest for All Sizes This Weekend

THE MOSCOW TIMES

Models from across Russia will gather in the Moscow suburb of Zavidovo to compete in a beauty pageant featuring contestants of all shapes and sizes.

The contest, called "Envable Beauties" as the town's name translates as an "enviable" place, is being promoted as the only one of its kind where women with "classical" 90-60-90 measurements compete against plus-size models.

"For the first time in Russia we have a unique beauty contest that welcomes standard and plus-size models to compete as equals," pageant director Olga Moisey-

enko told The Moscow Times in a phone interview. "The fashion world is finally getting ready to accept the beauty of the human body in all its forms. The aim of our battle of models is to show that beauty doesn't depend on size and weight: via our pageant the 'big' girls will prove that they are just as beautiful and unique as the skinny ones."

Moiseyenko has her own fashion house, which focuses on clothes for the woman not built like a model.

"This will be a totally new experience for me," said a 90-60-90 model Masha Amirova, who made the final. "The pageant's format offers a perfect way to dis-

play the variety of beauty. Such events help women love themselves as they are."

Hundreds of applications were sent in from all across Russia, Belarus, the United States, Britain and even Morocco.

"We've received 10 times more applications from plus-size models than from regular ones, and this fact proves that the borders of the modeling industry are becoming more flexible," said Moiseyenko.

The winner will represent Russia at Fashion Week in Rome this October.

The "Envable Beauties" contest runs Thursday to Sunday at Radisson Resort Zavidovo. Zavidovo.Sezon.ru.



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VLADIMIR FILONOV / MT

Picture of the Day

Visitors standing at the opening of the Anatoly Zverev museum near Mayakovskaya metro. Zverev, who died in 1986, was a part of the non-conformist movement. He was harassed by the government and his work was shown in underground galleries. His first real exhibition only took place just before his death. www.museum-az.

Head Down to Voronezh for Innovative Theater

By John Freedman

artsreporter@imedia.ru

If you thought St. Petersburg was the only place to head for a long weekend, let me say just one word: Voronezh.

It's not that I'm so smart and have all the answers to all the questions. I have lived in Moscow for 27 years and I just made the 515 kilometer trek to Voronezh for the first time. How's that for ignorance?

A pair of six-hour, daytime train rides got me there and back with such ease and comfort you can bet I'll be on that run again.

Voronezh gave us the great writers Ivan Bunin and Andrei Platonov. It once sheltered the remarkable poet Osip Mandelstam. The renowned actress Vera Komissarzhevskaya performed here during a pass through town in 1903, but the city remembers her so vividly it named a street after her.

And how about Mikhail Lermontov?

There is a plaque on the city's lovely central post office reminding everyone entering that the famous poet stopped by on unspecified business a couple of times between 1837 and 1841. Sending postcards home to Mom, perhaps?

But, for all its well-preserved history and architecture, Voronezh is by no means a city with its head buried in the past. There are many reasons for that, although today we focus on one, the Voronezh Chamber Theater.

Originally founded by Mikhail Bychkov in 1993, the Chamber Theater's name has long been a trademark of excellence. Its shows are frequent participants in the Golden Mask Festival, and its artists have walked away



JOHN FREEDMAN / MT

A scene from Voronezh Chamber Theater's bold take on Alexander Pushkin's classic play "Boris Godunov," which opened in the new building in April.

with several awards.

This year Bychkov received a Golden Mask for his production of "City Day," a verbatim project that used interviews with city residents to build a performance that looks at the bright and dark sides of life in the city.

But that pales in comparison to another event occurring this season — the unveiling of the theater's spectacular

new home in the center of the city.

Built of brick, glass, metal and hardwood oak in just 14 months, and coming in under budget, it was first opened to the public in September with a preview of scenes from Bychkov's latest production, Alexander Pushkin's "Boris Godunov." This show eventually premiered in April, by which time operations were in full swing.

I wouldn't be surprised to see "Godunov" among next year's Golden Mask nominees. It is a bold, highly theatrical take on the classic play that neither fears to tinker actively with Pushkin's canonical text, nor to draw uncomfortable parallels between Russia's political past and present.

This, perhaps, makes perfect sense when one considers Voronezh's role in

Russian history.

The city was a stronghold of support for the False Dmitry against Godunov in particular, and Moscow in general, during the so-called Time of Troubles in the early 17th century, which provided the material for the play Pushkin wrote in 1825.

See VORONEZH, Page 15