

The Moscow Times

SINCE 1992

NO. 5790

FEBRUARY

2-8

2017

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LOOKING BACK

A Great Fall

Dramatic arrests at the heart of Russian intelligence community linked to hacking. → Page 3

LOOKING FORWARD

Beyond Sanctions

American Chamber of Commerce pushes for better trade relations. Just don't call it lobbying. → Page 5

LIVING HERE

Champagne Socialist

The best bars, parks and art galleries for those with a nose for Soviet nostalgia. → Page 12-13

Angels and Demons Cleansing Russia's Souls

→ Page 6, 11



18+



"The shelling is massive. Who would dare talk about lifting the sanctions in such circumstances?" - Ukrainian president **Petro Poroshenko**.

3,800

Number of workers at Avdiivka's coking plant.

9,800

Estimated number of total deaths over course of conflict (Source: United Nations).



-16 C - Temperature in frontline Avdiivka. Much of the town is now without electricity and heating.

Ukraine's Alternative Peace

By **Oliver Carroll** o.carroll@imedia.ru

New clashes come as Moscow and Kiev adapt to Trump foreign policy

With news of military escalation, civilian evacuation, and humanitarian catastrophe — plus an assurance from the Ukrainian Commander-in-chief that the situation was "100-percent under control" — it was hardly surprising that many in Kiev began talking about a "second Debaltseve." That bloody battle, which culminated two years ago this month, saw the Ukrainian army come under crippling, Russian-backed firepower, before withdrawing. The withering losses forced Ukraine to accept the end of its ambitions to retake occupied territories militarily.

This latest fighting flared up on January 29 in a notorious hot zone northeast of Donetsk airport. It is, without doubt, the most serious fighting in the region for over a year.

What we know is that the Ukrainian-held town of Avdiivka suffered the most — with dozens of heavy missiles landing in residential areas, numerous civilian injuries, one civilian death, and seven military deaths. According to Eduard Basurin, a spokesman for the opposing side, separatist fighters also suffered casualties, including five killed in action.

What happened in the days before is murky.

Both sides have been guilty of pulling at the edges of the Minsk peace deal. Finalised during the Debaltseve endgame, the agreement sets out weapon and troop withdrawal, alongside new election regimes, prisoner exchanges and border transfers. Since its signing, the agreement has seemed quixotic in its aims, and in recent months the reality gap has only widened.

In the immediate run-up to the fighting, OSCE special monitoring reports documented a series of violations. Weapon systems and troops



Avdiivka's huge coking plant is the town's lifeline

on both sides have been doing things they shouldn't, and doing those things where they shouldn't. In particular, the monitoring mission observed incursions by Ukrainian troops into "grey" demilitarised zones.

Less contested than who started it is the disaster that threatens Avdiivka's 8,000 residents.

With the mercury at minus 16 degrees Celsius, much of the town is without electricity, phone lines, and heating, undermined by problems at the coking plant to the north of the city, the largest in Europe, which usually provides the town's heating. An evacuation operation has begun. Depending on success in repairing crucial infrastructure, it might extend to the majority of the population.

Speaking by phone to the Moscow Times on Wednesday, Feb. 1, the manager of the Avdiivka coking plant, Musa Magomedov, said that the situation remained critical. No missiles had landed inside the coking plant itself, but they had affected its electricity supply, while "grad missiles continue to fly

into residential sectors of the old town."

At press time, negotiations were underway to access damaged electricity lines. The future of the frontline plant and its 3,800 workers remained under question, Magomedov said: "Sometimes you think that's it; we're finished."

The immediate political context to the uptick provides any number of possible theories as to why it happened. Most focus on America's unexpected presidency.

On the one hand, Ukraine fears being dumped by its one-time closest ally, and, so the logic goes, wanted to force a military upsurge, and move the new U.S. administration away from any notions of sanctions relief. On Tuesday, Dec. 31, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko released a video arguing exactly this. "Who would dare talk about lifting the sanctions in such circumstances?" he said.

Others note that the fighting happened shortly after the first phone call between President Putin and Trump. Had the Russians been given assurances, felt emboldened by the prospects of a new start, or simply wanted to send a salvo over to the new administration?

Whatever happens in the coming days and weeks, neither side is likely aiming for territorial gains. Since winter 2015, Ukrainian and separatist positions have been so heavily fortified that significant offensive movement yields diminishing returns.

Occasional, lethal skirmishes, however, offer more tactical promise. Both sides are unhappy with the status quo provided by Minsk, while Russia would relish the opportunity to ratchet up pressure on a regime in Kiev it views as unfriendly. **TMT**



The Moscow Times

No. 5790 (54) February 2 - 8, 2017

Editor-in-Chief Mikhail Fishman
Advertising Director Maria Kamenskaya
m.kamenskaya@imedia.ru

Director Elena Stepanova
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Founder and publisher
OOO Moscovtimes

Founder's, publisher's and editorial address

3 Polkovaya Ul., Bldg. 1, Moscow 127018
Editorial +7 (495) 234 3223

Advertising Sales +7 (495) 232 4774

Subscription +7 (495) 232 9293

Distribution +7 (495) 232 9295

Internet www.themoscowtimes.com

The views expressed in the opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the position of The Moscow Times.

Любое воспроизведение материалов или их фрагментов на любом языке возможно только с письменного разрешения редакции.

Время подписания в печать по графику 19:30, фактическое 19:50. Заказ № 170172.

Отпечатано в ООО «Первый полиграфический комбинат», 143405, Московская область, Красногорский район, п/о «Красногорск-5», Ильинское шоссе, 4 км

Тираж 55 000 Цена свободная

Cover photo by Maxim Shemetov / TASS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Liberal vs Illiberal: Welcome to the New Bipolar World

By **Leonid Ragozin**
Independent journalist



Shock, as ever, was followed by denial. The American people couldn't have consciously committed such a suicidal act, so the logic went. They must have fallen under the charms of Russian agents of influence.

If you were to read the headlines, you would think Moscow had an unrivalled capacity to change the course of world history. The Kremlin, no doubt, is revelling in the idea of its supposedly supernatural abilities. In reality, however, the impact of its hectic interventions was quite modest, if not insignificant.

It's not Russian hackers or FSB spooks who made half of America vote for Trump. The reason that Trump pulled off his shock victory is the deep polarisation of U.S. society; the emergence of two American nations — one liberal, the other illiberal.

The United States is not unique. Pretty much every nation in Europe is either already polarised, or drifting in that direction.

The new global political barricade cuts through nations, ethnicities, religion, and even families. Notions of right and left, or geopolitical divides are no longer relevant. In simple terms, it is the conflict between the 20th and 21st century.

Those who look back at the 1930s or 1960s with nostalgia invariably end up voting for Trump, Putin, Brexit, or the swarm of populist nationalists besieging the European Union. People on the other side of the barricade — weak and naive as they may be — want the world to keep mov-

ing forward as it did during the post World War II era.

The breakdown differs from nation to nation. In Russia, polls show only between 14% and 20% actively oppose Vladimir Putin's regime, which has built a broad support base by glorifying (and falsifying) Soviet and imperial history. In the U.S., with its healthier political culture and stronger institutions, a relative majority actually voted for Hillary Clinton, even though Trump eventually won on account of the adjusted electoral college vote.

Yet it is exact same divide that runs through the U.S., Russia and much of Europe. The split is generated by contemporary global culture, not by these countries' rather different histories. A modern Russian (or Polish, or British) progressive liberal is culturally closer to their American equivalents than to compatriots in the opposite political camp. Progressive liberals all around the developed world live in the same cultural bubble. They watch the same TV series, read the same books, copy the same role models and laugh at the same jokes. Their opponents, meanwhile, live in a shared global bubble of kitsch infotainment, sleazy tabloids and fake news inciting hatred towards immigrants and intellectuals.

Ironically, it was the camp of backward-looking isolationists that completed the process of political globalisation when they started liaising and helping one another in their endeav-

ours. The likes of Trump, Putin, Nigel Farage and Marine Le Pen are now acting as a united front in their effort to undo the imperfect, yet rather comfortable, world that emerged after the fall of European Communism in 1991.

As with many historical macro-alliances, the emerging Nationalist International is full of internal contradictions. The main one derives from the fact that it is hard to sustain a global alliance while spreading hatred and animosity toward neighbours and minorities. These movements and regimes suffocate without a clear enemy they can vent people's anger at. For this very reason, it will be hard for Vladimir Putin to operate domestic politics in the absence of a perceived American threat.

Hitler, of course, resolved this dilemma and found valuable allies all across Europe by directing people's fury towards the Jews, a minority present in every European country. In a similar fashion, today's far-right are all targeting Muslim immigrants and, increasingly, their own liberal-minded compatriots.

The main immediate result of Trump's victory is that the structured and more-or-less predictable post-1991 world is gone. In its place is a window of possibility for both horrible and unbelievably optimistic scenarios.

Ultimately, our future will depend on the moral, intellectual and — alas — physical strength of those on either side of the global barricade. **TMT**



"Some inside the Kremlin like fights. When I come to Moscow, I meet them for lunch. I give them information" - "Lewis" told journalist **Daniil Turovsky**

20 years

the maximum penalty for treason.



Russia's communications watchdog Roskomnadzor blocked access to Shaltai-Boltai's website in July 2014. Its Twitter account @b0ltai was also blocked.

\$12 mln

reportedly found at the accused FSB official's apartment.

I Spy, Shaltai Boltai

By **Eva Hartog** and **Mikhail Fishman** newsreporter@imedia.ru | Illustration by **Olya Khaletskaya**

A spy saga plays out at the heart of Russia's intelligence community



Even for a spy thriller, the plot is borderline fantastical. Two top FSB cyber crime fighters hunt down a group of hackers behind the personal data leaks of some of the Kremlin's most powerful and mighty.

Rather than arrest them, they take over the organization and put it to their own use. Several months on, the chief cyber detective is outed by his own colleagues at an FSB meeting and escorted out of the room with a bag over his head.

Since the nationalist Tsargrad outlet first broke the story on Jan. 25, more murky details have emerged every day. Citing anonymous leaks from within the security apparatus, the Russian press reports the men have been accused of colluding with American intelligence services to expose Russian hacking there.

Real information is scant, but one thing is sure: the three accused are being held at Moscow's notorious Lefortovo prison. Both FSB officials refused to talk to her, Kogershin Sagiyeva, a member of the independent prison watchdog ONK, told the Moscow Times. "I was amazed by how young they look — not what you expect of a high ranking law enforcement official."

Whether or not the men are double agents or victims of an internal power struggle, a purge is underway and it is expanding like an oil spill.

The Art of Black PR

The story begins in 1990s St. Petersburg, where Vladimir Anikeev started his career in journalism, according to the Rosbalt news agency. A mediocre writer, Anikeev nonetheless excelled at "getting necessary information."

Soon, Anikeev shifted to doing "black PR." He coozed up to secretaries and insiders to collect incriminating information on officials and businessmen. He would then either extort money from his victims or sell the information to rivals or media outlets, the report claims.

Joining forces with a number of hackers, he used phishing emails and set up fake Wi-Fi networks at venues he knew were popular with high-placed Kremlin officials. After gaining access to the victims' gadgets, he stored their stolen information on servers in Estonia, Thailand and Ukraine.

Anikeev's team took up aliases inspired by British author Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*. Anikeev became Lewis, his right hand was Alice and others went by Shaltai and Boltai (Russian for Humpty and Dumpty.)

"That world of inside-out logic best describes Russian politics," Shaltai told the Apparatus.ru website during an encrypted chat interview several years ago, explaining their name choice.

The group organized anonymous bitcoin tenders, offering leaked content to the highest bidder. One source, who claimed to have participated in the tenders, told The Moscow Times that an average lot would sell for up to \$30,000.

FSB Ties

Shaltai-Boltai, as the team became known, first appeared in 2013, when the group published an online transcript of Vladimir Putin's New Year's Eve speech hours before it hit the airwaves.

In 2014, they hacked Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's Twitter account and sent out tweets announcing his own resignation "out of shame for this government's actions" and criticizing the annexation of Crimea.

The group also published the private email correspondence of a number of other high officials and businessmen.

From the outset, the group elicited suspicion. Some argued that the nature of the information being leaked proved the group had ties to the FSB. One person, who claims to have been blackmailed by Shaltai Boltai, insists the information that Shaltai had gathered "could be found only by surveillance and operative action." This would mean that Mikhailov could have been involved in Shaltai's activities from its founding.

According to Rosbalt, the head of the FSB's cyber crime investigation unit (TsIB), Sergei Mikhailov, and his deputy, Dmitry Dokuchayev, uncovered Shaltai-Boltai's real identities in 2016. Instead of dissolving the group, they took control.

In autumn 2016, the group got hold of thousands of messages from the official email account of Vladislav Surkov, the coordinator of Russia's Ukraine policy, and shared it with Ukrainian news websites.

In October 2016, Anikeev was detained after crossing the border into Russia. The arrest was the culmination of an operation that took at least a few months and involved several exchanges with the group, according to a source close to the top-level state authorities. It was not the FSB that arrested Mikhailov, but the Federal Security Guard service (FSO), he claims.

Within Russia's security apparatus, the FSO is the FSB's main competitor. If the sting operation was under FSO control, it would suggest the detentions were part of an in-

ternal power struggle between security bodies.

It was then that Anikeev allegedly started cooperating with the authorities and revealed the supposed involvement of the FSB's own cyber crime chief, Mikhailov, Russian media reports.

Cover-Up

Mikhailov and deputy Dokuchayev were detained in December and charged with treason.

It is unclear, however, what the men stand accused of doing.

On Jan. 31, the Interfax news agency connected the treason charges to American accusations of Russian hacking ahead of the U.S. presidential elections. It is as close to an official statement as can be expected in Russia.

U.S. intelligence agencies have expressed "high confidence" the cyber attacks emanated from Moscow. Some now think Mikhailov and his deputy might have funneled confidential information to the U.S. on Russian hacks of the Arizona and Illinois voter registration databases. To Steven L. Hall, a former CIA head of Russian operations, the connection between the Russian hacking scandal and the recent arrests seems "reasonable."

"Certainly U.S. intelligence would have loved to talk to Mikhailov," Hall told The Moscow Times. "But how that could have happened is a complicated question."

However, according to two Moscow Times sources, the treason charges and links to America are likely a cover story.

Politically, the loss of Shaltai Boltai is a big blow to the FSB's reputation. The U.S. connection makes it easier to explain to an external audience what is, in fact, an internal power struggle.

Rabbit Hole

The scandal shows no sign of ending. So far, according to several media reports, six people have been detained, including the FSB officials, Anikeev and Ruslan Stoyanov, the head of investigations at Russia's Kaspersky Lab cybersecurity company.

Meanwhile at Lefortovo prison, only Kaspersky Lab's Stoyanov agreed to talk with prison activist Sagiyeva, and he only confirmed the date of his detention.

Sagiyeva also twice tried to visit Anikeev but both times was told he was away, meeting investigators. "Something's going on," she told The Moscow Times. "I doubt he is even there."

As in Shaltai-Boltai's description of Russian politics, nothing in this case is what it seems. **TMT**



"Because Auschwitz was liberated by the Red Army, it has become an important part of the patriotic spirit that is active today." — **Alla Gerber**

2–2.5Mln

Soviet Jews killed by the Nazis.

72

years since the Red Army's liberation of Auschwitz.



During the **Soviet period**, official commemoration of the Nazi's victims referred only to "Soviet citizens," not Jews.

Selective Memory

By **Matthew Kupfer** and **Eva Hartog** newsreporter@imedia.ru

The Kremlin is pushing for greater Holocaust recognition, but Soviet narratives die hard

On Jan. 26, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev took a tour of Moscow's Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center. With two religious leaders at his side, he examined the museum's hi-tech exhibits on Jewish history and culture.

Then, before a group of journalists, Medvedev gave a speech. "The Holocaust is one of the most horrific crimes of the Nazis [...]," he said. "We can never forget what happened."

The speech topped the bill of a weeklong commemoration of the Holocaust. Starting on Jan. 20, Moscow theaters and cinemas organized performances and film screenings. There was an official ceremony with Israeli representatives. And on Jan. 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, children across the country learned about Nazi Germany's genocide of European Jews.

The commemorations demonstrated Russia's newfound commitment to remembering the Second World War's Jewish tragedy. But it wasn't always this way.

In 2013, two 19-year-old game show contestants gained Internet infamy for incorrectly referring to the Holocaust as a brand of "wallpaper glue." The gaffe became synonymous with Russians' weak memory of the Holocaust.

Russia has a complicated historical narrative of WWII, which was both a great victory and an enormous catastrophe. Over 25 million Soviet citizens lost their lives in the fight against fascism.

Nazi Germany's genocide of European Jews was seldom discussed publicly in the Soviet Union. Even the word "Holocaust" was uncommon. Instead, the Holocaust was subsumed under the Soviet Union's state narrative of the war, which emphasized the killing of Soviet citizens.

Soviet scholars presented the killing of Jews as part of a larger Nazi project often described in Russian as *chelovekonanavisticheskiy* — literally, human-hating. Contrary views were also suppressed. The Soviet authorities destroyed manuscripts of the Black Book, an attempt by Soviet Jewish journalists Ilya Ehrenburg and Vasily Grossman to document the Nazi atrocities against Jews, for "grave political errors."

As a result, the Holocaust remained "on the periphery of public attention and historical research," says Oleg Budnitsky, a historian of WWII at Moscow's Higher School of Economics.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought new intellectual freedoms. But proper understanding of WWII's Jewish tragedy remained elusive. Budnitsky blames this, in part, on the demographic realities of the war. The Nazis killed over 7 million Soviet civilians, of whom 2 to 2.5 million were Jews.

"The Soviet Union was one of a few countries in Europe where more non-Jews were killed than Jews," he says. As a result, many fail to understand that the Nazis intended to fully exterminate

only the Jews, and over half of the Soviet Jewish population perished in the Holocaust.

Alla Gerber, director of the Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center, takes a more pessimistic view.

"Our society doesn't know about the Holocaust and doesn't want to know," she says.

In recent years, however, there has also been a significant, if complicated, improvement. Medvedev's visit to the Jewish Museum "shows [that] the government understands the importance of the lessons that can be drawn from the Holocaust," Alexander Boroda, a Jewish community leader, told The Moscow Times.

But, judging by the speeches at the commemoration, those lessons appeared to mix both Soviet and modern concerns.

"The Holocaust is not just a tragedy of the Jewish people — it's a tragedy for all of humanity," Boroda said, echoing Soviet rhetoric. He then compared Islamic extremism to Nazism.

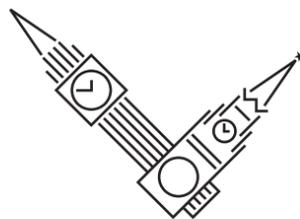
That message seemed in tune with the Kremlin's own hymn book.

"Ethnic and religious xenophobia is taking on a new, ugly side in the form of terrorism," Medvedev said. "It is a similar deadly ideology and shares a similar maniacal desire to kill and destroy."

The Holocaust may no longer be wallpaper glue in Russia, but it also isn't free from politics. **TMT**



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FEBRUARY 2ND, 2017

CENTRAL MANEGE

18+

V ANNIVERSARY THE ART NEWSPAPER RUSSIA AWARD

Реклама

MUSEUM OF THE YEAR EXHIBITION OF THE YEAR BOOK OF THE YEAR
RESTORATION OF THE YEAR PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION

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ARTANDHOUSES

Искусствознание



“If sanctions against FSB aren’t lifted, China could overtake U.S. companies in the Russian electronics market,”
Alexis Rodzianko, AmCham CEO.

500

number of registered companies in AmCham.



American Chamber of Commerce in Russia

AmCham began as an idealistic reform-oriented organization, but one member says it has become increasingly conservative as the political environment in Russia soured.

1994

launch of the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia.



Waiting in the Wings

By **Matthew Bodner** m.bodner@imedia.ru | Illustration by **Elena Rasputina**

America’s business lobby isn’t happy about sanctions. But don’t call it a policy position

In mid-December, with Donald Trump’s ascension to the presidency looming, former Republican congressman Jack Kingston flew to Moscow. Kingston, a senior Trump surrogate, was dispatched to liaise with American firms working in Russia. The topic on everyone’s minds was the U.S. sanctions imposed on Russia in response to its 2014 annexation of Crimea and support for a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

For the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), a non-profit organization that acts as a lobbying firm for U.S. business interests in Russia, Kingston’s visit was an opportunity to be heard by the incoming administration.

The Chamber’s position was as straightforward as it was predictable: sanctions have harmed U.S. business efforts in Russia and, in any case, have been ineffective.

“There is a change in priorities...of the strategic objectives under the Trump administration,” says Alexis Rodzianko, President and CEO of AmCham. “Business just moved up a few notches, while politics has moved down. We think — we hope — there will now be a more sympathetic ear to U.S. business in Russia.”

Changing Tack

Historically a vocal lobbying group, AmCham has been relatively mute over the past three years as Moscow and Washington clashed over Ukraine. While the change in business environment in 2014 in large part determined AmCham’s embrace of a more subtle, muted tack, the approach is also characteristic of Rodzianko, who took over from chief Andrew Somers in 2013.

One long-time AmCham member, speaking on a condition of anonymity, says that Rodzianko avoids the political: “He plays things quiet, and down the middle.”

Rodzianko, the soft-spoken American-born son of Soviet refugees, is used to playing the role of faithful intermediary. He got his start in U.S.-Russia affairs working as an interpreter for President Jimmy Carter’s negotiating team during the second Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in Geneva. He later moved on to investment banking in Moscow during the 1990s and 2000s.

As the head of AmCham, Rodzianko is charged with representing the collective interests of the American business community. In this capacity, his three years with the organization have not been easy. “Sanctions have been a real wet blanket,” Rodzianko told the Moscow Times.

Complaining to the Obama administration would have been

counterproductive because Washington would just pass it off as evidence sanctions were working, Rodzianko says.

Trump on the other hand has given the Russian-American business community an unexpected opportunity. Several times during his presidential campaign Trump signalled he was open to the idea of lifting sanctions against Moscow in a bid to restore relations with the Kremlin. While it remains unclear if Trump will pursue sanctions relief, AmCham is ready to make their case.

“We have some thoughts on paper and have requested an early meeting with the new administration to argue our case,” Rodzianko says. “We are not going to lobby to lift sanctions. We are going to lobby for improved U.S.-Russia relations and [ask] that if you argue with Russia, you don’t use business as a weapon.”

The Cost of Sanctions

The Chamber represents hundreds of American firms working in Russia. Its board of directors is a who’s who of American international corporations — Boeing, Microsoft, Apple, Intel, and Exxon-Mobil. Almost half of AmCham’s member companies have been in Russia for 21 to 30 years and view the Russian market as strategically important. Half of its members are in the energy and natural resources business — an industry heavily disrupted by sanctions.

While investment in Russia rebounded to \$1 billion in 2015, import volumes dropped by 50% compared to 2014. The Chamber does not yet have data compiled for 2016.

AmCham has been critical of the excesses of the U.S. sanctions regime, which Rodzianko says have had unintended consequences for firms operating in Russia. And much of the organization’s work has focused on helping its members understand and lobby against aspects of the sanctions.

The most recent example came on Dec. 29, when Obama signed his final sanctions order against Russia. The sanctions, which placed a moratorium on working with the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), were drawn up in response to Russia’s alleged interference in the 2016 Presidential Election.

According to Rodzianko, the sanctions were drawn up hastily and without thought. “Naming the FSB means literally if you are US citizen, then crossing the border is against sanctions, because you are receiving a service from the FSB — border guards are a department of the FSB,” Rodzianko says. “The FSB also issues licenses for electronics, so if you have a new chip, a new phone, a new piece of software, it has to be approved by the FSB:

so theoretically, we are done — Microsoft, Intel, and Apple are all in trouble.”

Since 2014, AmCham has seen its remit drastically change. From a broad lobbying organisation, focused on business reforms in Russia, it has become a liaison body between American firms and the U.S. Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC), which administers sanctions. It writes letters to the OFAC on behalf of American firms in order to resolve issues that unnecessarily hinder their work.

AmCham also works with the Russian government to ensure that Russian counter-sanctions and counter-actions, such as the ban on foreign ownership of mass media outlets, do not impact the operations of international companies. This has come to dominate the Chamber’s work over the years, Rodzianko says.

One long-time member of the foreign business community says the Kremlin also uses AmCham as its direct line to foreign corporations, and vice-versa. In this way, the organization is an effective insurance mechanism for international corporations operating in the sometimes opaque Russian business environment.

Lobby By Proxy

For the moment, the visit by Trump surrogate Kingston is the only acknowledged contact the group has had with the new regime. Both sides have been evasive about these discussions.

A Dec. 12 statement on AmCham’s website says Kingston briefed the group on “doing business with the U.S. under the [Trump] Administration, touching on the challenges and opportunities that may lie ahead.” A representative for Squire Patton Boggs, the law firm Kingston represents, declined to elaborate on the discussions he had with AmCham in Moscow.

Rodzianko, for his part, says the group informed Kingston that AmCham doubts the effectiveness of sanctions in altering Russian policy toward Ukraine. Moscow’s September 2015 intervention in the Syrian civil war — widely interpreted as a bid to force the US to make a deal on sanctions — was likely encouraged by the sanctions, he argues.

But when asked directly about AmCham’s official position on sanctions, Rodzianko plays it right down the middle: “It is of course our stated desire [to see sanctions lifted], but it is not a policy position — that is beyond our scope.” **TMT**



"Hysterical subjects can imitate possession, especially when they're among believers. It's autohypnosis."
Grigory Gorshunin (psychiatrist).

2001

1973 American horror *The Exorcist* premieres in Russia.

6,000 rubles

Cost of an exorcism by Father Vladimir at Pokrov Center.



According to the Book of Job, demons can only torment a person with the direct permission of God.



COURTESY OF FATHER VLADIMIR

Father Vladimir, a 64-year-old former rockstar, has been practicing exorcism since 1996. In 2006, he opened a rehabilitation center in the village of Stanovoi Kolodez, 300 kilometres south of Moscow.

The Devil Inside

By [Diana Khachatryan](#) and [Takie Dela](#) newsreporter@imedia.ru

Convinced they are possessed by demons, thousands of Russians are turning to a rockstar exorcist for help

More than 100 pilgrims from all over Russia have come to witness the exorcism. Father Vladimir stalks between them — breathing heavily and looking into their eyes. "Lord, forgive my Soviet forefathers for repudiating God," he intones. With their heads hung in fear, the pilgrims repeat: "Lord, forgive my Soviet forefathers for repudiating God."

"God is willing to forgive our grandmothers who were Communists and burned icons," says Father Vladimir. "But you must pray for them."

A woman falls to the floor and begins convulsing immediately after Father Vladimir's ritual prayers conclude. Cries and moans go up on all sides of the circle of pilgrims. Gradually, they grow louder.

"Shut your devil's mouth!" Father Vladimir shouts — presumably to the evil spirit possessing the women — before thrashing her across her mouth and stomach with a book.

"By the power of Christ, begone you demons," the priest yells. "Out with the generations of alcoholism, drug addiction, and cancer. Expel the demon as you exhale. Out with the demons that make us gain weight! Out with the demon of our parents' curse! I command you, begone you filthy devils!"

The pilgrims exhale loudly, wave their arms and legs, and bend over. They do everything they can to expel the demons from their bodies. One nauseated person spits into a clear plastic bag, projecting the remains of a demon out of her body.

From Rockstar to Exorcist

Only a handful of priests in Russia perform exorcisms, and 64-year-old Vladimir Gusev is chief among them. Much like his work as a priest, his path to the altar was anything but conventional. Gusev first studied to become a dog handler, before serving in the army and studying singing.

In 1992, he and his wife moved to the village of Stanovoi Kolodez, some 300 kilometers south of Moscow, where he



DIANA KHACHATRYAN

The church at Pokrov center is the weekly venue for exorcism rituals.

received the blessing of the patriarch. Soon afterward, he began reading prayers for casting out evil spirits.

Ten years later, Gusev founded the Pokrov (Shroud) rehabilitation center for people afflicted by drug and alcohol addiction, occult practices, and membership of repressive cults. At the same time, Gusev became lead vocalist in the newly formed musical group The Exorcist, the first band — as legend has it — to receive the blessings of the Russian Orthodox Church.

But Gusev left the band after a public uproar over a photoshoot, which depicted him as a fallen woman. The move would kickstart a solo career.

In a video he posted to Vkontakte for his song "Lenin from the Walls of the Kremlin," which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the "1917 tragedy," Gusev dons a black robe, his hair flutters in the wind. Vladimir Lenin appears in the background with a burning pentagram on his forehead. Gusev sings: "You erected an altar to Satan in the heart of the Motherland and defiled the ancient Kremlin with the mausoleum of Lenin. You and Lenin will burn together in hell!"

Father Vladimir's Vkontakte page now features rave reviews of his miraculous exorcising abilities. One satisfied client explains how his home life improved — and family members even managed to lose weight — after Vladimir rid their home of demons. Another reviewer testifies that he was able to sell his apartment only after the priest evicted ghostly residents: "Father Vladimir freed me of my ancestral curses," 30-year-old Anastasia, a Muscovite, happily wrote.

Continued on Page 11 →

Out & About



February 2 – 8, 2017

7

Weekly round-up of all that's new, delicious and fun in Moscow.



BELUGA / FACEBOOK



Beluga offers caviar for every pocketbook, exquisite reimagined Russian cuisine in a glam setting overlooking Manege Square and the Kremlin.

Beluga Opens at the National

By **Andrei Muchnik** artsreporter@imedia.ru

Caviar and vodka on the Kremlin's doorstep

Alexander Rappoport, lawyer turned restaurateur, added another restaurant to his ever-growing empire. It's called Beluga (a type of sturgeon), and it's located at the Hotel National, where one of his most successful restaurants, Doctor Zhivago, has been open since 2014.

Beluga is on the second floor of the National, and its large windows face the Kremlin, commanding breathtaking views. While dining, you can check out the Kremlin towers or the Arsenal building peeking from behind the walls. Or you can watch crowds milling about Manege Square.

The interior design is an updated version of 2000s glamour: large chandeliers, sturgeon caviar cans, and portraits of women in kokoshniks.

Billed as a restaurant of "Russian delicacies" as well as a "caviar brasserie," Beluga offers almost twenty varieties of caviar. You can try salmon or other red fish caviar (from 260 rubles) or splurge on black caviar, including classic sturgeon caviar (just 700 rubles) or the most expensive varieties — Iranian beluga (4,550 rubles) and albino sturgeon (4,850 rubles). The prices quoted are for a tasting-size portion — 25 grams, served with a shot of cold Beluga vodka. You can also get a tast-

ing set for two with three types of black caviar (sturgeon, beluga and sterlet) for 8,600 rubles.

The "delicacies" are prepared by Yevgeny Meshcheryakov, winner of the Bocuse d'Or Battle in 2014 who had worked in Rappoport's first restaurant in St Petersburg, Blok, named after the famous poet Alexander Blok. The "non-caviar" section of Beluga's menu focuses on traditional Russian and Soviet cuisine, but some of the recipes have been reimagined. So the Soviet staple Olivier salad is made with slow-cooked beluga (660 rubles), while sugudai, Siberian sushi, is served with potatoes and onion spread.

From the main dishes, try Eskimo, which is more commonly a treat of chocolate-covered ice-cream on a wooden stick, immensely popular during the Soviet era. Meshcheryakov gave the name to his version of Chicken Kiev: a pounded chicken file covered in breadcrumbs with hot butter inside (480 rubles). Pair it with a garnish of fried potatoes with porcini mushrooms (300 rubles). Duck with morels and gratin is also great (880 rubles). **TMT**

+7 (495) 901 0336
rappoport.restaurant/restaurants/beluga.html
15/1 Mokhovaya Ulitsa, Bldg. 1
Metro Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

NEWS & OPENINGS



SPICES / FACEBOOK

Spices

Spice up your life

Spices has all the hallmarks of a high-class restaurant: beautiful design, unique concept and elegant dishes. The leg of lamb with quinoa and sea buckthorn sauce (920 rubles) practically slides off the bone. Pair it with a wood-oven baked side, another Spice's innovation. Wash it down with one of their selection of Chinese teas or a sweet and spicy pot of Masala milk tea (500 rubles).

+7 (499) 922 2188

facebook.com/pg/spicesmoscow
4/1 Kamergersky Pereulok
Metro Teatralnaya, Pushkinskaya



MAGNUM WINE BAR / FACEBOOK

Magnum Wine Bar

Save water, drink wine

This new wine bar and emporium comes from the owners of the hugely popular Boston Seafood. With over 800 vintages on offer, your problem won't be finding a tippie you like, but making your choice. The wine menu is handily split into sections like "everyday" and "gourmet," with a glass starting at 350 rubles and rising to eye-watering amounts. The food menu features chic, beautifully presented European dishes.

+7 (495) 775 8805

facebook.com/Magnumwinebar
5 Lesnaya Ulitsa. Metro Belorusskaya



RAKOVAYA / FACEBOOK

Rakovaya

Crawfish and beer

Rakovaya has impressive menu of German and American IPAs, but the top picks here are Punk IPA (320 rubles) and Russian-made Volkovskaya IPA (230 rubles). The menu offers a short, but diverse selection of good food to drink by. You can't got wrong with steamed muscles in an herb cream sauce (980 rubles). But you have to try the crawfish (raki) that Rakovaya is named after.

+7 (495) 908 5585

vk.com/public135260474
3 Tishinskaya Plushchad
Metro Belorusskaya, Mayakovskaya



AFISHA.RU

Tartaria/Cevicheria

Meat- and fish-lover's paradise

Tartaria opened next to its sister restaurant Cevicheria on the waterfront of the Moscow River. Tartaria offers a choice of succulent chicken, venison, duck or rack of lamb. You can tuck into 10 kinds of tartar, but we recommend the venison with juniper aioli (890 rubles). If you want to see the chefs at work, tilt your head up to peek into the elevated open kitchen in the back corner.

+7 (495) 132 2399

facebook.com/tartariamoscov
15/1 Prechistenskaya Naberezhnaya
Metro Kropotkinskaya, Park Kultury

Take it and go!

Four pages packed with the best places in Moscow to eat, drink, walk, shop, listen, watch, dance and sightsee. A new walking route and listings every week! **Take it, use it, save it!**

4. Miusky Tram Depot

The tram rails running along the street lead you to the red-brick Miusky Tram Depot complex, where you stop and gape in astonishment at the fact that this richly ornamented façade is used for a boring service building. Given the public admiration for industrial progress when it was built in 1874 — and the tram, Russia's first form of public transportation, was one of its first breakthroughs — industrial design was as much art as functionality. Architectural greats like Mikhail Gleinig, Nikolai Zhukov, and Vladimir Shukhov contributed to the design of this immense complex, which provided stables for 114 horses and a park for 214 tram cars. The tram depot is currently used by the trolleybus park, although the idea of opening a museum is pending.

20 Lesnaya Ulitsa



Butyrsky Val

**2. Belaya Ploshchad Office Center**

Follow the quiet narrow lane behind the church to the three pie-shaped skyscrapers of Belaya Ploshchad (White Square) office center. Built in the era of Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, the structures house multinational corporations, bank and consulting giants. Locals, who call them the “Flatirons,” don't like them much, but the first-rate restaurant cluster on the ground floor will make you forget about the architectural imperfections of the site (food critics name Boston Seafood & Bar, Madame Wong, and The Box among must-visits here). In 2014, sculptor Georgy Frangulyan fitted seven giant anthropomorphic figures made of stainless steel sheets into the space between the buildings. The locals don't like them much, either, but check them out for yourself.

10 Butyrsky Val

1. St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Church

Start this walk on the corner of Tverskaya Zastava opposite the Belorussky Train Station and pause to admire the white St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Church, rising grandly over the busy crossroads. Old as it may seem, this Old Believer church was built only about a century ago when imitating Russia's gothic style was in vogue. For this church, architect Anton Gurzhiyenko chose the mighty cathedrals of Veliky Novgorod as the prototype. Even after the church was closed in 1941, it retained its spiritual calling, as it were: it was the art studio where sculptor Sergei Orlov created the bronze statue of Prince Yuri Dolgoruky that now stands opposite the Mayor's Office on Tverskaya Ulitsa. After the building went back to the Old Believers community in the 1990s, religious services resumed.

8/3 Butyrsky Val



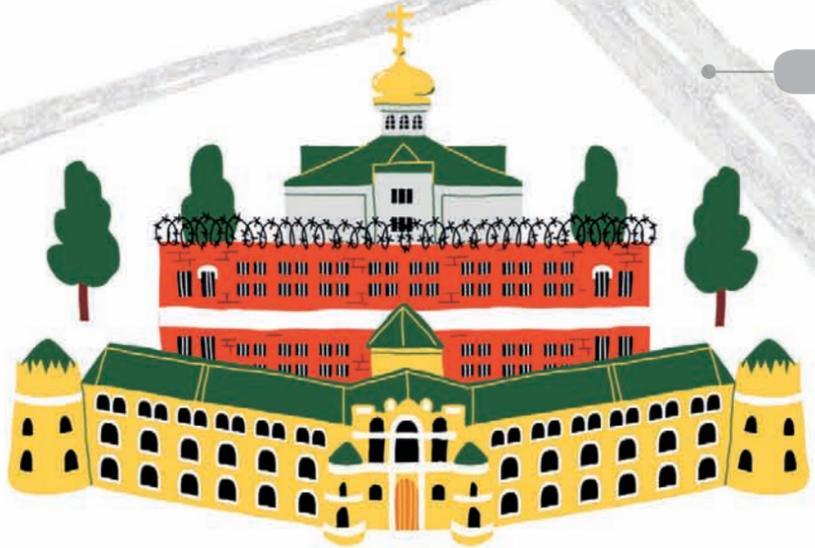
Lesnaya Ulitsa

**3. Zuyev Workers' Club**

As you walk along Lesnaya Ulitsa, pause before house number 18 on the right side. The combination of rectangular boxes stacked around a circular glass axis makes the Zuyev Workers' Club one of the city's constructivist jewels. Acclaimed architect Ilya Golosov designed the club, but, like many buildings of that time, it was named after a revolutionary: Sergei Zuyev was a tram depot technician executed in 1905. It is worth noting that concrete walls of the club were once a noble taupe but they lost their original color in an unfortunate attempt to refresh Moscow's image with pink paint in 2012.

18 Lesnaya Ulitsa

Novoslobodskaya Ulitsa



7

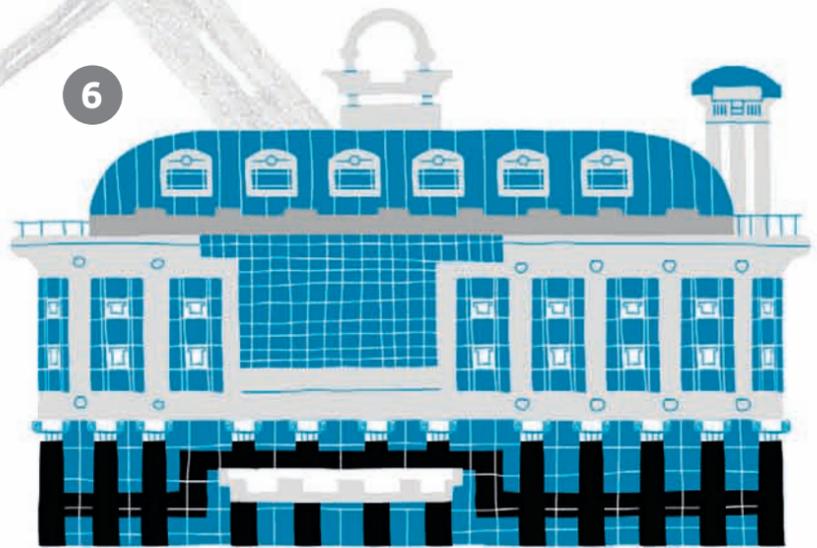
7. Butyrka Prison

You probably won't notice the rather bland building with a visa center in it, but if you slip through the first arch, you'll find yourself staring at Butyrka Prison, Moscow's largest detention center. Built in the late 18th century, its four towers and cell blocks are still holding prisoners over 200 years later. The first dangerous criminal to be confined here was Emelyan Pugachyov, leader of the peasant rebellion. The poet Vladimir Mayakovsky was arrested for distributing propaganda leaflets in 1909 and served his sentence here as well. But one man didn't make it into the prison: American illusionist Harry Houdini. He bet he could escape from the metal box used to transport convicts, and in 28 minutes he succeeded. The penitentiary also has a remarkable museum of prison life in Russia. 45 Novoslobodskaya Ulitsa

5. Museum of the Underground Printing House (1905-1906)

Continue down Lesnaya. Did you notice the old-fashioned sign for a wholesale fruits from the Caucasus? If you didn't, the revolutionaries' attempt to disguise an underground printing house as a shop was successful. Don't feel bad: the tsarist police never found the shop either, not before nor after the 1905 Revolution. Pop into the shop, which hasn't changed much since the museum opened here in 1924. Pretend you are a shopper and inspect rows of fruits and vegetables, tour the living quarters furnished in petit-bourgeois style, and then head down to the basement to discover piles of revolutionary leaflets stacked behind fruit crates and a well-hidden printing-press. 55 Lesnaya Ulitsa

5



6

6. Chaika Plaza Business Center

The street ends with another business center - Chaika Plaza, a controversial mixture of glass, columns, domes and portals. This frenetic mishmash is just one of many nouveau riche misfits created under Mayor Luzhkov, when the high demand for office space trumped good taste. This is one of several dubious office buildings that have sprung up in the last 20 years. Leave this fantastic beast of design behind and turn left on Novoslobodskaya Ulitsa. 41 Novoslobodskaya Ulitsa

4



3



Along Lesnaya Ulitsa

Old Depots and Warehouses Mingle With Modern Business Centers

By [Daria Demidova](#) artsreporter@imedia.ru | Illustration by [Ilya Kutoboi](#)

Named after a firewood market, an industrial street goes upscale with business centers, clubs and cafes





William Meyers, middle school teacher
Don Giulio has fantastic homemade Italian, plus there is an Italian grocery store next door so you can take some food home to try and cook it yourself!



THE FOREIGN BOOKS / FACEBOOK

The Best Bookstores in Moscow

There is nothing quite like a good book to cheer you up on a cold winter's day. Fortunately, there is no lack of choice here in Moscow, and all types of readers will be able to find what they need. Whether you prefer the bustle of the big 3-story bookshops or the quiet serenity of smaller second-hand stores, Moscow has something for everyone. Here is our selection of the best bookshops in the city, so you can snuggle up in front of the fireplace as you watch the snow fall.



PIONEER CINEMA / FACEBOOK

Pioneer Cinema

A cinephile's paradise

The Pioneer Cinema has more to offer than just film screenings, with both a fantastic cafe and one of the best bookshops in the city. If you have time before your film starts, make sure to check out their extensive collection of children's books, Russian classics, foreign literature and coffee table gems. For those who want to stay longer, sit down in one of the comfy armchairs and flick through the pages of your favorite book. They also sell high quality prints of classic movie posters, the perfect gift for any cinephile.

+7 (499) 240 5240

pioneer-cinema.ru

21 Kutuzovsky Prospekt

Metro Kievskaya, Kutuzovskaya, Studencheskaya

Bukinist

Antiques and rarities from all over the world

Bukinist, one of the oldest second-hand bookshops in Moscow, is jam-packed with treasures dating back hundreds of years. Its shelves are filled with antique books about everything and anything, from all over the world. Their collection includes (but is not limited to) collected works of Russian and foreign classics, encyclopedias, maps, pre-revolutionary works, etc. Want to get rid of the pile of dusty books

accumulating in the attic? Bukinist will buy them from you!

+7 (495) 625 3772

bukinist23.ru

23 Trubnaya Ulitsa

Metro Trubnaya, Tsvetnoi Bulvar



BIBLIO-GLOBUS / FACEBOOK

Biblio-Globus

One stop-shop for all your bookworm needs

Walking into Biblio-Globus can be as daunting as walking through a shopping mall on Black Friday. There are people everywhere and very little space to move around. That said, if you know what you are looking for, it is very likely that they will have it. Every type of book is on sale here, whether it be travel guides, coloring books for grown-ups, or Soviet satire. If it all gets a bit too much, you can always pop downstairs to the cafe for a restorative coffee and pastry.

+7 (495) 781 1912

biblio-globus.ru

6/3 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, Bldg. 1

Metro Kuznetsky Most, Lubyanka, Kitay-Gorod

Chook and Geek

Comic books and more

Comic book lovers, rejoice! Chook and Geek specializes in comics, manga and graphic novels

in both English and Russian. In this little shop off Tverskaya Street, you will find an extensive collection of comics, from mainstream Marvel hits to comics by Russian artists. Chook and Geek cater to even the most particular of tastes, with books based on TV shows such as "Twin Peaks," "Sherlock" and "The Big Bang Theory." If you're shopping for kids, you'll be delighted by the beautifully illustrated books that any child would be love to own.

+7 (909) 151 7078

chookandgeek.ru

Bolshoy Palashevsky Pereulok

Metro Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya



LUMIERE.RU

The Lumiere Brothers Center for Photography

Incredible finds for photography buffs

A trip to the Lumiere Brothers Gallery would not be complete without a look around their wonderful bookshop. They specialize in photography books from all around the world, from compilation editions of major photographers to books about the theory and practice of photography, as well as more unusual and hard-to-find Russian editions. They also sell photo albums for most of their exhibitions, so you can take a piece of your favorite exhibition home.

+7 (495) 228 9878

lumiere.ru

3 Bolotnaya Naberezhnaya, Bldg. 1

Metro Kropotkinskaya, Polyanka



THE FOREIGN BOOKS / FACEBOOK

House of Foreign Books

The polyglot's choice

This literary hub on Kuznetsky Most is perfect for anyone looking to learn or perfect a foreign language. In the basement, you will find educational books and games, both for children and for adults, beginners and the more advanced.

Upstairs, you can apply your linguistic skills with one of your favorite books in a foreign language. Whether you want to learn English, Russian, Spanish, Italian or French, this spot has a great choice of books for linguists of all levels and ages.

+7 (495) 692 6595

mdk-arbat.ru

18/7 Kuznetsky Most

Metro Kuznetsky Most, Lubyanka



GARAGE MUSEUM / INSTAGRAM

Garage Museum of Modern Art

Art central

Garage, in the famous Gorky Park, is not just a museum. As well as hosting some of the most cutting-edge exhibitions in Moscow, with artists from all over the world, Garage now also boasts a restaurant, a public library specializing in modern art and a fantastic bookshop. Fans of modern art will be delighted with Garage's wide selection of photography books, modern art theory guides, children's books, as well as little treasures and souvenirs, such as jewelry, posters, postcards and printed Garage merchandise.

+7 (495) 645 0520

garagemca.org

9 Krymsky Val, Bldg. 32

Metro Park Kultury, Oktyabrskaya

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7 Bolshaya Tatarskaya Ulitsa

Metro Novokuznetskaya

реклама

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Pevcheskiy lane, 4, bld.1, Kitay-Gorod Moscow

реклама



“Exorcism was revived in Russia 25 years ago, along with the Church.”
Father Alexei Uminsky

2011

Pokrov center reopened as a Charitable Fund.



Protopope Avvakum (1620-1682), a famous Russian cleric, describes exorcisms in his autobiography.

20 minutes

The longest prayer in the Orthodox canon is a prayer to drive out demons.

← Continued from Page 6



Blessed sunflower oil and water are an important part of Russian exorcist practice. They are used to purify the soul.

Fighting the Demons

Father Vladimir offers two services: individual meetings or a pilgrimage to Mikhailovskoye village in the Oryol region, where he serves a congregation. Pilgrims can choose to take up a tour package in a minibus that leaves Moscow every weekend. This program includes two nights bed and board, religious rites, prayers, communion, confession, a one-on-one discussion with the priest and, most importantly, exorcism.

One of the pilgrims making their way to Oryol this week is Nikolai, a 67-year-old security guard. He works at an elite Moscow restaurant, and this is where his problems began. He'd met a female chef from Ukraine, who, he says, “began loading him up” with baked pies. Later they began an affair. His mistress demanded that he divorce, but Nikolai could not leave his wife.

Nikolai believes that his mistress consulted a sorcerer and that all of his bodily ailments are that wizard's handiwork. “One priest told me that my demons come from Ukraine,” he says. “War is raging there and people are killing each other. I will go to Father Vladimir, fall at his feet, and pray: ‘Cast them out however you can.’”

Another pilgrim, Nelly, has a lump on her wrist the size of a pea. “This demon travels through my body, making me suffer,” she says.

The minibus stops at a grocery store where the pilgrims buy cooking oil. Father Vladimir promises to bless the oil which they can then rub on their sore spots.

Nelly's demon has been with her for a year. She originally suffered from problems with the vertebrae in her neck restricting the blood flow to her head. Doctors prescribed pills, but they did not stop the pain. Then she visited a healer who advertised on television. Unfortunately, the healer turned out to be a sorcerer. So Nelly paid him a fee equal to three monthly pension checks and lost 13 kilograms as a result.

“He opened a portal in me,” she says. “I am withering away and want to die. It feels as if these peas are wriggling all through my body. They prevent me from sleeping. It is so painful. I am a mess.”

The faithful refer to the Pokrov facility — a former hospital with a guesthouse, church, well, summer gazebo, and river just across the road — as a “retreat for the soul.” The building itself smells of fresh paint. Uncomfortably so. New rooms are under construction to meet the growing demand for exorcism. The walls are still made of simple concrete, but now stand adorned with life-size images of saints.

Sins of the Forebears

After conversing with the priest, a pilgrim named Yelena lies down on her side and quietly cries. She says she came here from Nizhny Novgorod.

“I feel offended,” Yelena says through her tears. “The priest told me my father is cursed, and that the curse began three generations back with my grandfather who was a communist. I am a physical therapist and I do not appreciate such harsh statements. My father is a decent man, a great family man. He fought in the war, and everyone who fought in the war goes to heaven.”



The sign is leading pilgrims to the church where the prayers take place before the exorcism ceremony.



↑ The kitchen, where pilgrims dine during their stay at Pokrov Center.

→ A pilgrim is filling the bottle with water ready to be blessed by the priest.



Her troubles began, she believes, after she pulled out a wine cork that had been wedged in a doorway. The cork had a piece of black hair wrapped around it, which she understood to be black magic. She immediately had the apartment blessed by a priest, and when she went to take communion, the priest told her she was bewitched and needed an exorcist.

“My legs hurt, my tailbone feels like it's falling off and I have pains near my heart,” Yelena complains. “The doctor tells me I'm neurotic and need to go to a psychotherapist.”

According to priest Alexei Uminsky, exorcism grew in popularity as new people without theological education entered the church following the fall of the Soviet Union twenty five years ago. “It is typical shamanism,” he says. “The idea of sacrificing something

for your ancestors existed in ancient paganism and in very primitive cults.”

Eventually, my turn comes. The priest sits across from me at a table cluttered with icons. He looks quickly through my list and says: “The curse comes from man to woman through lustful relations. Science, as well as Orthodox traditions, have proven this.”

Father Vladimir suddenly pours holy water over me. I shudder. As he mops up the floor he says, “You have an impure spirit in you. I tested that just now and it appeared. Don't you feel it yourself? It will leave only when you start leading a proper Christian life.”

That night I go to the kitchen. “This is war and the path is difficult. After prayers, the demon wants to rob you of your grace,” I am told by Svetlana, who organized the trip.

After a short pause, she reaches into her bag for a blister pack of tablets. I recognize them as Phenazepam, a drug designed for psychiatric and neurological disorders. **TMT**

This is an abridged and adapted version of an article first published on the Takiedela.ru website.



"Soviet-era nostalgia has strong support among the people. But not among the elite" Presidential assistant **Vladislav Surkov**.

The Moscow Times
No. 5790

40

number of games restored by the Soviet Arcade Museum.

20 kopecks

The approximate price of plombir ice cream until the mid-1980s.



Bunker 42 was declassified in 1995, though parts of it are still used by the FSB.



Soviet arcade games were designed and manufactured by the military, meaning user manuals were often classified documents.

In the Shadow of Empire

By **Bradley Jardine** newsreporter@imedia.ru

Where to go if you want to glimpse Moscow's Soviet past

In a fortified nuclear bunker, sixty-five meters below Moscow, a man sits transfixed by a computer console. Its green text informs him of an impending threat. "On my command, turn the key and prime the weapon," the man behind him barks with the melodrama of a Bond villain. He reaches across the mass of buttons and levers in front of him and turns the key. A countdown begins.

"When the timer reaches zero, turn the second key and hit the launch button!" he commands.

Three. People watch. Two. His finger hovers over the red button. One. His right hand grabs the key. Zero. A nuclear strike against the United States, sworn enemy of Lenin's Revolution is launched.

A Requiem for a Dream soundtrack, which echoes

through the steel shell of the bunker, brings spectators back down to reality. It is just a game — played out in Bunker 42, a fascinating museum and a relic of the Cold War.

Bunker 42 is just one of a number of venues across the capital embracing a newfound interest in Soviet nostalgia. More than 25 years on from the collapse of the USSR, Russia is reestablishing its influence on the world stage, and memories of the Cold War hold new weight.

Bunker42.com/eng/
115172, 5th Kotelnicheskii Lane. 11

Generation Pepsi

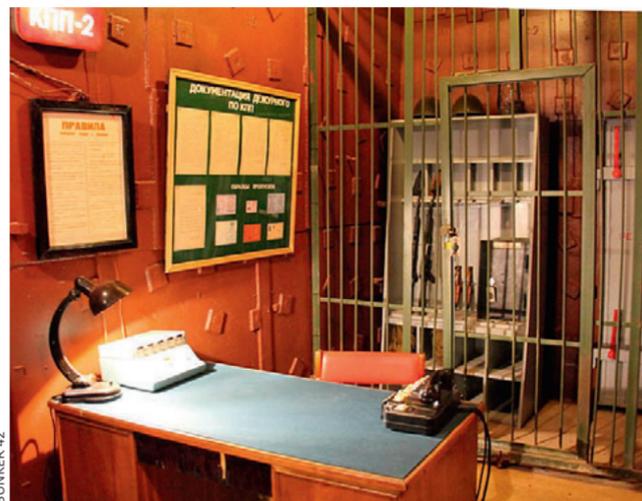
After the collapse of the Soviet Union, social welfare gave way to uncertainty and predatory capitalism. Millions lost their jobs. Hyperinflation wiped out Russians' life savings. As cult author Victor Pelevin put it in his novel *Homo Zapanians*, Russia exchanged "an evil empire for an evil banana republic."

"My family and I suffered great trauma," Olga, a 52-year-old market-stall owner near Muzeon Park, told *The Moscow Times*. "Our country was the most beautiful in the world, we were proud of it. Then suddenly, it was gone."

"Russia is rotten," her colleague, another market-worker, adds. "We're an American warehouse with nothing to sell."

The narratives of the older generations share a common thread — the feeling of drifting into the unknown. And Moscow's Park Muzeon, or Park of the Fallen Heroes, is the material manifestation of this drift.

Here you can find statues that were torn down during the collapse of the USSR. Busts of Lenin are thrown around chaotically throughout the park. A noseless Stalin watches on. Even more controversial is the monument of Felix Dz-



Bunker 42, a decommissioned nuclear bunker in southeast Moscow, is now a museum and a monument of cold war paranoia.

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РЕСТАУРАЦИЯ

erzhinsky, founder of the Soviet secret police. This was the first statue to fall with the Soviet regime.

Their bold outlines, created in traditional socialist-realist style, remind passersby of the one-time ubiquity of the regime.

Muzeon.ru
119049, 2 Krymskiy Val. 2

Culinary Revolution

Somewhat at odds with the values of communism, Soviet nostalgia has also crystallised into an easily marketable consumer brand.

The trend is visible across Moscow: from restaurants such as *Kommunalka*, which borrows its interiors from those of the USSR's communal apartments, to the ironic Soviet-style abbreviations used by bars such as *Glavpivmag* (built from the Russian words *Glavniy-pivnoy-magazin*, or main-beer-store).

The most visible display of Soviet nostalgia is arguably GUM's supermarket, *Gastronome No.1*. The store is packed



“Nostalgia is memory tainted by emotion” – Russian cultural scholar **Svetlana Boym**.

1961

Yuri Gagarin orbits Earth in the Vostok spacecraft.



Irony of Fate is a Soviet film that remains a key fixture of Russian Christmas and New Year's.

1964-1982

Rule of Leonid Brezhnev, leader whose tenure is most associated with nostalgia.

with immediately recognizable goods like the USSR's famed Plombir vanilla ice cream, marketed as “the taste of childhood.” There are strange, cone-shaped glass containers filled with drinkable syrup and even chocolate flavoured butter, a throwback to the days before Nutella flooded Russian kitchens.

For many, products of the Soviet era embody a sentiment of forgotten quality. At a time of sanctions and counter-sanctions, they also cross over into defensive feelings of national pride.

“Food is getting better now, and there are standards again,” one shopper told *The Moscow Times* despite that the quality of food in Russia has actually diminished rapidly since a trade embargo began in 2014.

Many of the new outlets sentimentalize the Soviet era as a time of innocence and simplicity. These ideas, for example, are at the heart of the Varenichnaya No.1 chain of cafes. Old books line the shelves and wall-mounted black and white televisions play Cold War-era movies. You can even try traditional vareniki (dumplings) with a side order of pickled vegetables from jars.

Occasionally, things have gone too far. In December 2016, a Moscow restaurant called NKVD — after Stalin's brutal secret police — opened to widespread criticism. Many condemned the business for profiteering from the victims of Stalin's regime. The building of the restaurant itself was the one-time home of 4 people later executed during the Great Terror.

Gum.ru/gastronome-1
101000, Red Square. 3



Varenichnaya No.1 is a Moscow cafe chain ‘modelled’ on a Soviet communal apartment. You will not have to share your table.,

hard as they can in order to pull a radish out of the family garden. The game registers the number of kilos they can pull and ranks the player accordingly. The classics are all here too: the Soviet submarine shooter “Sea Battle,” the World War II flight simulator “Dogfight,” and the racing game “Magistral.” If you visit the museum's website you can even play their online simulations of the games and see inside the machines to get an idea of how they work.

Unfortunately, none of the games keep high scores — Soviet society, after all, didn't believe in competition. But this doesn't seem to deter the regulars.

“It's a cool place to hang out with your friends,” one tells *The Moscow Times*. “People usually play on their laptops at home, but this is real old school — what previous generations did before they invented the Internet.”

15kop.ru
Kuznetsky Most. 12

Varenichnaya.ru
Arbat Street. 29

Simulating Socialism

Soviet nostalgia is not limited to older generations. Russia's youth has also taken to this bygone era. At the Museum of Soviet Arcade Games, for example, hip Russian teens spend their evenings putting Brezhnev-era coins or “commie quarters” into game machines produced by the Soviet government in the late 1970s. The Museum also offers a trendy burger bar, 8-bit gaming soundtracks, and a gray, hard-edged soda machine from the early 1980s.

One of the most popular games in the arcade is Repka (Radish). This is a test of strength that requires the player to pull on a lever as

THE WORD'S WORTH

When Life is Beyond the Pale

Черта: a pale

By **Michele A. Berdy**
Moscow-based translator and interpreter, author of “The Russian Word's Worth” (Glas), a collection of her columns.



When you live in another country and culture for a long time, you pick up so much of the local lore that you forget the rest of the world — i.e., your friends and family at home — don't know it. Do people really not know that the only proper way to eat caviar is slathered on a piece of buttered bread? How could anyone not know what the White Nights are? Or that Europe becomes Asia just outside Yekaterinburg?

And then, when the world was marking the Holocaust Remembrance Day last week, it turned out that a lot of people didn't know what черта оседлости (Pale of Settlement) was — even some people whose ancestors came from there.

It is, to be fair, an unusual phrase. Черта (line, limit, feature) can be used to describe the edge of something, like черта города (the edge of the city). People can live в черте города (within the city limits) or за чертой города (outside the city limits).

Оседлость is the noun from the verb оседать, which means to settle, and can refer to anything from silt to human beings. Оседлость means settlement or being settled. The adjective оседлый means settled, as in оседлое население (a settled population), which is in contrast to кочевники (nomads).

So черта оседлости is the boundary of a settled area. This is true, but it is more specifically the area of the Russian Empire where Jews were allowed to live.

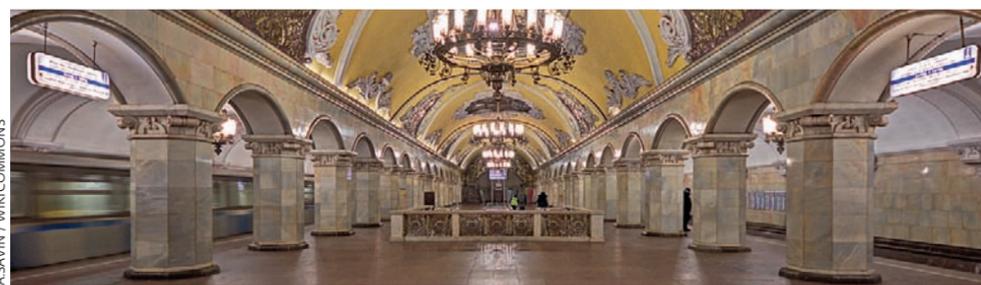
Черта оседлости existed in Russia from 1791 when Catherine the Great signed it into existence until the Revolution of 1917. At first it was called, more clearly, черта постоянного жительства евреев (the area of permanent residence for Jews), but in 1835 began to be called simply черта оседлости. The area was a huge swath of land in the western and south-western part of the European part of the Russian Empire, from Lithuania down to the Black Sea. Jews were only allowed to live there, with exceptions for some categories of people, like купцы первой гильдии (merchants in the First Guild) or people with higher education. The trick was, of course, that it was almost impossible to get into one of those categories. So at the end of the 19th century there were about 5 million Jews living in Russia, of whom less than 200,000 lived outside the settlement area.

And that explains why your Jewish great-great grandfather — at the time called лицо иудейского вероисповедания (a person of the Jewish faith) — probably didn't come from St. Petersburg, Moscow, or Perm, but a little town — местечка — in what is now Belarus, Poland or Ukraine.

Now where did the odd English phrase “pale of the settlement” come from? Pale is an old word for a sharp stake — think “impale” — and a paling fence is a fence made up of these stakes. Over time the meaning of pale migrated from the stake to the area enclosed by stakes, i.e. There were several pales in England and other parts of the world, too.

And they gave us the expression “beyond the pale” — something outrageously bad. The idea was that there was order and propriety when you stayed within the pale. If you went beyond the pale, you were doing something daring. Over time, daring morphed into indecent and outrageous.

So now you know. Let's hope the pales remain a thing of the past. **TMT**



Experience Soviet Nostalgia Firsthand

If you are too young to have been in the real Soviet Union, you can still experience some remnants of the old regime. You might not feel the same tug of nostalgia as some older Russians, but you'll surely appreciate its scale and beauty. Here are some of our favorite Soviet hot spots.

Moscow Metro

Subterranean Soviet palaces
When it opened in 1935, the Moscow metro was a communist paradise, with chandeliers and mosaics celebrating the collective labor that built it and rode on it.
mosmetro.ru

Museum of Soviet Toys

A trip down memory lane
This quirky museum at the top of the Detsky Mir toy store offers a glimpse of popular toys from the 1970s like quirky little Cheburashka.
detmir.ru

5 Teatralny Proezd
Metro Lubyanka

VDNKh

Stalinist grandeur outdoors
This grand park was constructed by Stalin to showcase the Soviet Union's agricultural achievements. Now the park hosts a space museum that provides insight into the drama of the space-race and Soviet hero Yuri Gagarin's achievements. Don't miss the gold fountains.
vdnh.ru
119 Prospekt Mira
Metro VDNKh

Star City

Experience life in space
Located 20 miles from Moscow, this former secret Air Force facility once hosted Soviet cosmonauts in training. Now the site is home to interactive exhibits on space travel.
starcity-tours.ru
23a Shchyolkovskoye Shosse
Metro Shchyolkovskaya

New Tretyakov Gallery

Realism for socialists
See what socialist realism in the arts were. Spend a day at the New Tretyakov, enjoy-

ing those majestic factories and happy peasants pulling in the harvest. The gallery also displays works from the USSR's former republics.
tretyakovgallery.ru
10 Krymsky Val
Metro Oktyabrskaya

Ryumochnaya

Party like Soviets
Ryumochnaya is literally a “shot glass place,” a kind of communist bar for canteen grub and vodka. Try it.
vk.com/bar_buhuche
2/6 Ulitsa Solyanika
Metro Kitai-Gorod



"This is a book full of life and fancy; a book for grandfathers no less than grandchildren" an **English review of Andersen's fairy tales from 1846**

1

number of Zverev's official exhibitions in USSR

125

number of languages with translations of Andersen's tales



"Sit down, kid, and I'll make you immortal," **Zverev's phrase to the women he painted**



The AZ Museum has transformed its space into the fairy tale worlds of Andersen's tales. Here Zverev's drawings for "The Little Mermaid" appear in the port holes of a kingdom under the sea.

H.C. Andersen in Moscow

By **Michele A. Berdy** m.berdy@imedia.ru

Anatoly Zverev's unorthodox take on the Danish master's fairy tales

What do a tall, lanky, quiet and rather ascetic 19th century Danish writer of fairy tales and a short, pudgy, expansive 20th century Russian artist have in common? That is the subject of an exhibition at the AZ (Anatoly Zverev) Museum, where a show of Zverev's illustrations to fairy tales written by Hans Christian Andersen may change your understanding of some childhood classics.

An Odd Couple

At first glance, Andersen and Zverev do not seem to be a natural team of writer and illustrator. Hans Christian Andersen, born in 1805 and died in 1875, wrote a fairy tales — both traditional stories he remembered from his childhood and his own creations. They are not all cheery folk tales that end with happily ever after. Some, like "The Emperor's New Clothes," "The Little Mermaid," or "The Swineherd," with their complex themes and sad endings, do not seem like tales for children at all.

Anatoly Zverev was born more than a century later in 1931 in Moscow. After studying art in grade school and graduating from a vocational school, he began to paint fences at Sokolniki Park to help support his family. He was full of life and animated, the emotional opposite of Andersen. Celebrated abroad for his brilliant graphics and paintings, in the Soviet Union he was an unofficial, non-conformist painter who only had one sanctioned exhibition in Moscow during his lifetime. He died in 1986.

Whatever their differences, the two men were alike in one way: both were extraordinarily prolific. Andersen wrote over 200 fairy tales and dozens of other works. Zverev left thousands of sketches, drawings, portraits and paintings.

Several years ago Natalya Volkova, the chief archivist of the museum, was working on a book about Anatoly Zverev and decided to check the archive of Alexander Rumnev, the choreographer, ballet master, actor and performer who was one of Zverev's friends and patrons. Inside a box she found a file filled with Zverev's illustrations. "There was also a letter Rumnev sent to Zverev, who had been living in a village. He told him to come back to Moscow and that he'd try to get him work as an illustrator," she said in an interview to *The Moscow Times*. "This was 1961, when there were editions of Hans Christian Andersen being prepared. Two months later Zverev did the drawings." They apparently were never even offered to publishing companies, because, as Volkova noted, "They were not at all appropriate stylistically for that time period."



MICHELE A. BERDY

Anatoly Zverev and Hans Christian Andersen meet in an animated film by Mikhail Al-dashin at the AZ Museum in Moscow.

Happily, times have changed, and the five fairy tales by Andersen with Zverev's illustrations were quickly published. But the curators of the museum wanted to present the illustrations in a different way. "We were fascinated by how time changes perception, how differently Zverev saw these fairy tales than other illustrators, both Russian and foreign," Polina Lobachevskaya, art director of the AZ Museum told *The Moscow Times*. "For one thing, other artists worked in color, but his illustrations were in black and white. We wanted to create a special atmosphere in the museum to showcase their charm, with film, animation, music and other means that would provide more information to the viewers," she said.

Zverev's Andersen

And so they did. When you enter the small manor house off Tverskaya Ulitsa that is home to the AZ Museum, you are plunged into a different world — quite literally on the first floor, where lighting creates the effect of being on the bottom of the sea. Zverev's drawings of "The Little Mermaid" are in

ship portholes set around the room. On the second and third floors there are mechanical birds and wings, bird song and animated films, music and sculptures. The illustrations to four fairy tales have been enlarged and properly lit to be more easily seen, and are displayed next to excerpts of texts. Four of Zverev's small and fragile original drawings have been lent to the show by the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art and can be seen in glass cubes on each floor.

Even if you reread the fairy tales before your visit — "The Little Mermaid," "The Nightingale," "The Wild Swans" and "The Emperor's New Clothes" — you might find it a bit difficult to follow the stories through Zverev's illustrations alone. His sympathies and antipathies were those of a man living in the 20th century Soviet Union, a place where bureaucrats and citizens, including children, curried favor with the leaders through flattery, lies, and denunciations. Zverev is generally not kind to Andersen's court chamberlains or public crowds. In "The Emperor's New Clothes," the little boy is usually the hero of the tale: the brave soul unafraid to speak the truth to power. But in Zverev's illustration, the little boy is just a squiggle at the back of the crowd with his hand raised in accusation. Zverev seems to sympathize with the emperor, portraying him as a jolly fellow enjoying his fantasy of magnificent clothing.

To Andersen's Homeland

Zverev's illustrations to Andersen's tales are just some of the hundreds of illustrations done for translations of the tales all over the world, and one suspects that Danes are used to the unexpected ways that artists in other cultures perceive and present their national tales. But all the same, the Ambassador of Denmark in Russia, found the drawings and installation "unique." He told *The Moscow Times* that, "...the extraordinary drawings by Anatoly Zverev, the modern Russian interpretations of selected works of Andersen and the way it all was put together by the AZ Museum made the exhibition truly remarkable and special." After the show closes in Moscow at the beginning of April, it will travel to Denmark, where Andersen's modern compatriots will see his tales anew.

AZ Museum. 20-22 2nd Tverskay-Yamskaya Ulitsa. Metro Mayakovskaya. museum-az.com. See the site for evening events of lectures and music.

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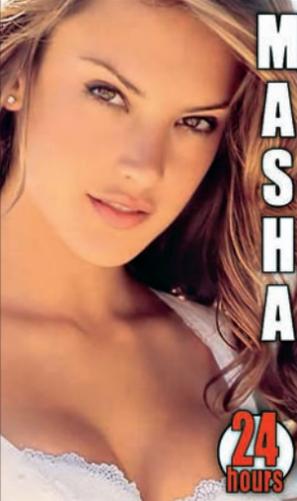
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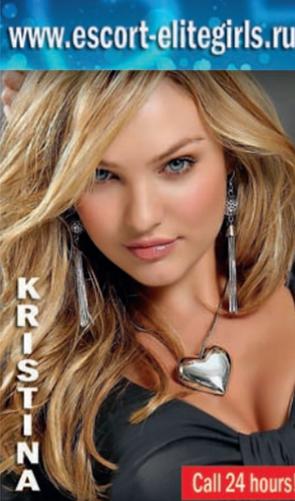


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Dated 11 January 2017

Olga Kuzmenko
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Dated 25 January 2017

Olga Kuzmenko
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<http://www.euro-dates.com>

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THEATER OF NATIONS

A New Take on Russian Classics — Three Must-See Performances

Even if your Russian isn't terrific, here are three shows playing in Moscow that you ought to see. Get out your translations of Alexander Pushkin's fairy tales, Fyodor Dostoevsky's "The Idiot" and Viktor Pelevin's "Chapayev and Void" and do your homework. You'll be able to follow the action on stage in these radical new productions.



THEATER OF NATIONS

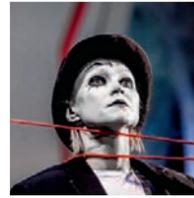
"Pushkin's Fairy Tales"

Not just for children

Renowned theater director and visual artist Robert Wilson interprets Pushkin in his first production in Russia. The performance is based on five of the best-known fairy tales by Alexander Pushkin, Russia's greatest poet: "The Tale of Tsar Saltan," "The Tale of the Fisherman and the Fish," "The Tale of the Priest and of His Workman

Balda," "The Tale of the Golden Cockerel," as well as his more obscure story, "The She-Bear" and excerpts from "Ruslan and Lyudmila." CocoRosie, an American duo, pioneers of "freak folk," wrote the music for "Pushkin's Fairytales" and that's half of its success. The other half is the incredible visual imagery Wilson created after extensive research into Russian culture and traditions. Yevgeny Mironov, the theater's artistic director, plays the storyteller, aka Pushkin, in what is one of his most memorable roles.

Theater of Nations
theatreofnations.ru
3 Petrovsky Pereulok
Metro Chekhovskaya,
Pushkinskaya



THEATER OF NATIONS

"The Idiot"

Dostoevskian circus

One of the last season's hits, this brilliant reimagining of Fyodor Dostoevsky's "Idiot" by Maxim Didenko has only a couple of monologues throughout the whole performance. Much of the performance is nonverbal - more of a circus clowns' performance than traditional theater. Be prepared: this is standard theatrical practice for Didenko, whose productions are never traditional. Didenko usually mixes elements of all the performing arts in his work, from contemporary dance to musical numbers. In this unorthodox version of one of Russia's most well-known classics, Ingeborga Dapkunaite, famous for her numerous TV and film roles, plays Prince Myshkin, while the rest of the roles are played by men. The vivid stage decorations and video mapping by the designer Pavel Semchenko from the 'AXE' theatre are supplemented by Ivan Kushnir's fabulous music.

Theater of Nations
theatreofnations.ru
3 Petrovsky pereulok
Metro Chekhovskaya,
Pushkinskaya



PRAKTIKA THEATER

"Chapayev and Void"

Music and Zen

"Chapayev and Void," also known as "Buddha's Little Finger" or "Clay Machine Gun" in English translations, is a novel by Viktor Pelevin that was first published in 1996. It takes place in two time periods, revolutionary and modern Russia, with a poet who may not be sane. But whether you've read this modern Russian literature classic or not, this production by Maxim Didenko will keep you in your seat, completely spellbound. "Chapayev" shows another aspect of Didenko's talent. In this production he has turned the first and longest act into a musical. There is a whole live band on stage, including guitar, drums, saxophone and lots of singing. Ivan Kushnir, Didenko's long time collaborator, wrote the music. The second act is devoted to one of the scenes of the novel when several characters get high on mushrooms. The third is more of a contemporary dance performance.

Praktika Theater
praktikatheatre.ru
30 Bolshoi Kozihinsky Pereulok
Metro Mayakovskaya

Five Exhibits You Need To See



PUSHKIN MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

The History of the Self-Portrait

Posing as Rembrandt

"The History of the Self-Portrait" is a solo exhibition of works by the contemporary Japanese artist Yasumasa Morimura. About eighty works show Morimura posing as a number of famous painters, from da Vinci to Frida Kahlo. A special room explores "Las Meninas," the famous Velasquez painting with Morimura posing not just as the Velasques, but his subjects as well. While you're there, check out Wassily Kandinsky's "Bagatelles" on the third floor, which closes in Feb. The Morimura show runs until April 8.

Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts / Western Art
newpaintart.ru
14 Ulitsa Volkhonka. Metro Kropotkinskaya



IN ARTIBUS FOUNDATION

Under One Sky

The best from a prominent collector

IN ARTIBUS is showing Western European and Russian art from the collection of Inna Bazhenova, the gallery's founder and owner of The Art Newspaper, a leading publication on Russian and international art. Bazhenova is interested in two types of works: Western European art from the 15th to 20th century and Russian painting of the 20th century. Highlights of the exhibition include particularly fine works by Henri Rousseau, Honoré Daumier, Anatoly Zverev and Vladimir Weisberg.

In Artibus Foundation
inartibus.org
17 Prechistenskaya Naberezhnaya
Metro Kropotkinskaya



REGINA GALLERY

Love These Fiery Moments

Embroidered paintings

This is the first personal exhibition of the Russian artist Tanya Akhmetgalieva at the Regina Gallery. "Love These Fiery Moments" was inspired by her own video-installation "Fragile Island" (2015) and fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen. You can see Akhmetgalieva's trademark textile works, objects and video-installations. For this artist, embroidery is akin to a painting technique, and her works are very vividly colored. Every work in the exhibition is named after a phrase or fragment of a conversation. The video-installations on display were made in Paris in 2016 at Cité Internationale des Arts Foundation, with the support

of French Institute in Saint-Petersburg.
Regina Gallery
1 4th Syromyatnichesky Pereulok
Metro Kurskaya

Katie Mitchell. Five Truths

Five Ophelias in one room

British director Katie Mitchell's exhibit "Five Truths" was originally created for London's Victoria and Albert Museum. It consists of ten video screens that continuously play the scene of Ophelia going mad from Shakespeare's "Hamlet." All the scenes are performed by Michelle Terry, an award-winning British theater actress. Each performance is done in the style of one of five major theater figures of the 20th century: Konstantin Stanislavsky, Antonin Artaud, Bertolt Brecht, Jerzy Grotowski and Peter Brook. Madness was never so compelling - you won't be able to tear yourself away. Until April 15.

Stanislavsky Electrotheater
electrotheatre.comx
23 Tverskaya Ulitsa
Metro Tverskaya

For more information about this and other cultural events, go to our website, www.themoscowtimes.com



Spend Maslenitsa Weekend at Nikola-Lenivets Maslenitsa, also known as Butter or Pancake Week, is the last week before Lent and celebrates the end of winter, symbolized by burning effigies. The popular Nikola-Lenivets park in the Kaluga Region, 200 kilometers from Moscow, is organizing a Maslenitsa program from Feb. 23 to 26. Check out site-specific land art installations before taking part in burning one - "Pyramid" by the number one land artist Nikolai Polissky.

Nikola-Lenivets, Kaluga region. +7 (499) 504 4333 maslenitsa.nikola-lenivets.ru