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LOOKING BACK

Yoga in Court

Russian extremism law may set a very flexible precedent → Page 3

RUSSIAN TALES

Groznywood

Chechnya's leader wants to take the film industry by Storm → Page 6, 11



Trapped in the Kremlin

Proximity to power is both a blessing and a curse
for Russia's imperial treasures → Page 12 - 13

18+



"If Russian hackers hacked something, it was Obama's brain and the report itself." **Maria Zakharova**, Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

Jan. 20

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to be inaugurated.

19,252

Emails of U.S. DNC hacked and published on Wikileaks on July 22, 2016.



"Listen, does it even matter who hacked this data? The important thing is the content that was given to the public" Russian President **Vladimir Putin**.

Hacked Off

By **Matthew Kupfer** newsreporter@imedia.ru

Russia and Trump want the cyber scandal to die. It won't.

On Jan. 9, Rience Priebus, chief of staff to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, announced that Trump had accepted Russian involvement in cyber attacks during the U.S. presidential election.

With a little over a week before his inauguration, the statement seemed to suggest an end to Trump's showdown with U.S. intelligence agencies over allegations of Russian hacking.

For months, the President-elect denied that Russia had played a role in hacking servers belonging to the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton campaign and in leaking the pilfered files to Wikileaks and others.

As recently as last week, the President-elect mocked the intelligence community's assessment of the Russian hacks, tweeting that a briefing he was scheduled to receive on the hacking had been delayed because "perhaps more time [was] needed to build a case."

On the surface, one of the oddest chapters in American electoral history now appears to be drawing to a close. But Russia analysts believe the hacking scandal is far from over.

The cyber attacks will make "kissy-face diplomacy between Trump and Putin harder to initiate and sustain," political analyst Vladimir Frolov told The Moscow Times in an email. Trump's denial of the hacks and his praise of Putin make him look like he is siding with an "avowed U.S. adversary" and even "paying Putin back for services rendered during the election."

It's a dynamic that will undermine Trump, Frolov said, provided that Congress and the media maintain pressure on the President-elect.

That pressure seems likely to continue, said Amb. Stephen Sestanovich, a former State De-



With new allegations of deep Kremlin links, Trump faces growing scrutiny.

partment ambassador-at-large for the former Soviet Union. He predicts "resistance from Congress" should Trump not change his tune.

Frolov believes the Kremlin wants the hacking scandal to die as soon as possible. "Escalation and more public exposure is not in Putin's interest," he said. Instead, the Kremlin seeks to "blame everything on the 'deranged Obama administration' and sore losers among the Democrats" and have a fresh start with Trump.

Trump's obfuscation on the hacking suggests that he too wants to put the issue behind him and begin a "reset" of U.S.-Russia relations.

But he may not get what he wants.

During a Jan. 5 interview with the PBS television channel, outgoing Vice-President Joe Biden implied that, beyond the United States' newest sanctions against Russia, other measures are being taken. Sestanovich believes these could include tightening security, improving deterrence, and expanding options for retaliation.

"I don't believe the Panama Papers originated in actions by the U.S. government, but they're not a bad model, are they?" he told The Moscow Times by email. "Russian kleptocrats should be aware: Putin has launched a war that may eventually draw in a lot of other people."

Meanwhile, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators has unveiled a "comprehensive" sanctions bill against Russia, largely focusing on the country's defense and intel sectors. And Democrats in the U.S. Congress are calling for the creation of an independent commission to investigate the alleged Russian hacking.

Sestanovich believes Obama's December sanctions are just a start to the U.S. response — "designed to signal the gravity of the matter and the direction of future policy," he said. Given bipartisan concern over the hacking, that direction may not change entirely under Trump.

Additionally, on Jan. 10, CNN reported that U.S. intel chiefs had informed both Obama and Trump that Russian operatives may have compromising personal and financial information on the president-elect. Shortly thereafter, BuzzFeed published a series of unconfirmed dossiers — reportedly written by a former British intel operative — claiming the Kremlin had cultivated Trump for years.

Frolov thinks the Kremlin is worried. Russian decision makers likely do not believe they influenced the election's outcome, he said. But the Kremlin fears the hacking issue could derail Trump's plans for a reset with Russia.

"Now, perhaps, they may even regret the decision to leak the stuff," Frolov said. **TMT**



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DIVIDED EUROPE

UK and Russia after Trump and Brexit: What's Next?

By **James Sherr**
Associate Fellow of Chatham House



Since early 2014, Britain's firm policy towards Russia has been a defining feature of the European political landscape. Russia's annexation of Crimea produced the paradigm shift in Whitehall that its 2008 war with Georgia didn't quite deliver. In the years before "little green men" and "hybrid war," the UK described its Russia policy as "tough-minded engagement." But in practice, it leaned toward, trade and partnership, seasoned with ritualised admonitions of Russia's human rights record.

The change in 2014 was dramatic. Amid a "resurgence of state-based threats," Russia occupied centre stage, assessed the Strategic Defence and Security Review of 2015. Since, the UK has been a stalwart proponent of economic sanctions and moving from "reassurance" to "deterrence" in Europe, including delivering military assistance to Ukraine.

But will this policy be immune to the political changes engulfing the West? On one hand, the UK led the charge. Brexit might not change British policy toward Russia, but it could well change Britain's weight in the scales. As a European power, Britain has strengthened Atlanticism and with it, a Euro-Atlantic rather than the Pan-European model of European security favoured by Russia. In NATO,

the UK's voice will possibly matter more than before, but in debates on European security and EU policy towards Russia, the UK will no longer be — in John Major's words — "at the heart of Europe."

It is Donald Trump's victory that raises deeper and darker questions. What kind of "special relationship" will there be with the abrasive Russophile Trump? In a post-Brexit world, that relationship will be more important than ever. Whereas Angela Merkel coolly offered Trump cooperation on the basis of "democracy, freedom and respect for law and the dignity of human beings," Theresa May pointedly emphasised an "enduring and special relationship based on trade, security and defence." The UK will have no choice but to shadow Washington's Russia policy, but that does not mean it will follow suit.

In the unlikely event that May's government did so, it might please President Trump. But it would alienate the CIA, the NSA, the Pentagon, much of the US Congress and the reviled American "establishment." Trump will need friends in Europe and he will hardly exchange the special relationship for one with a Russophile, but neo-Gaullist France. In this political constellation, the UK should find it possible to be a strong ally without losing its forthrightness and integrity.

Moreover, when a consensus on security policy in the UK is reached, it is not lightly altered. Officials answer to political authority, but Britain is not Russia. Governance depends not only on authority, but institutions, feedback, debate and, inevitably, process.

Prime Minister May has neither the time nor the motivation to reverse the UK's stance on Russia. Brexit is consuming more energy and capacity than any other issue. If the Prime Minister's overarching goal is to "secure the best deal for Britain," she can hardly do so by playing second fiddle to Trump in Europe. Rather, she has a compelling political interest in showing Germany, Poland, and the Scandinavian and Baltic states that, inside or outside the EU, Britain remains a stalwart and indispensable ally.

There is no sign that British policy on Russia will change anytime soon. Even after a brief flirtation with "normalisation," Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has been horrified by Russia's tactics in Syria and was reportedly moved by his visit to Ukraine in September. Russia's cyber meddling in American and German politics has neither advanced Russia's image, nor its cause in Britain. Only a change in government policy by Russia will provoke a change in Britain's policy toward Russia. There is no sign of that either. **TMT**



"This case is a terrible tragedy of Russia's legal system." **Sergei Repin**, head of Russia's yoga federation.

>1.3 Mln

yoga followers
in Russia.



The person who denounced Ugai has told Russian media his wife, sister and young son abandoned him to join a "sect" of which he claims the yoga lecturer is a member.

2014

UN announces
International
Yoga Day.

Russia Is No Nirvana

By [Eva Hartog](#) e.hartog@imedia.ru | Illustration by [Yevgeny Tonkonogy](#)

A St. Petersburg court case has Russian yoga followers wondering just how far Russia's new religious laws will stretch

Dmitry Ugai was seated in the lotus position when he was told to end his lecture on the spiritual roots of yoga.

As he rounded off his speech, a group of five men — one in a police uniform — were waiting. But it was too late. He had already told the audience that the Indian practice was "more than a series of interesting exercises." He had said that yoga was rooted in religion.

The men stood out from the colorful crowd of people who had congregated to hear Ugai speak at the spiritual festival in St. Petersburg late October. "They were clearly not listening, just waiting," recounts Ugai's lawyer, Sergei Latyshevsky, who was at the lecture. Ugai's detention following his presentation was marred by Latyshevsky's "countless procedural violations," Latyshevsky says.

The men escorted Ugai from the building and hauling him off to a nearby police station where he was detained for several hours without access to a phone. Ugai told *The Moscow Times*, that he was told to sign a blank confession. When he refused, the interrogator asked whether he was a "moron." According to Ugai's account of the conversation, he stoically replied: "Call me what you want." His stoicism, however, could not halt charges of illegal missionary activity.

On Jan. 18, a St. Petersburg court will review the case (an earlier hearing was postponed when the police officer who had supposedly written the report said he did not recognize his signature on the paperwork).

If he is found guilty, Ugai could receive a fine of up to 50,000 rubles (\$830). Although the total is more than the average Russian's monthly wage, it is a sum that Ugai, who is also a web programmer, can arguably afford. To many, however, the case is a matter of principle, not money.

Critics argue that Ugai's detention — and the very fact that the case will go before a judge — are violations of his freedom of religion and speech. But because the so-called Yarovaya laws were passed last year and they have begun to be (haphazardly) implemented, Ugai's case may be a taste of things to come.

The far-reaching amendments, which include the regulation of religious activity, were framed as counterterrorism measures aimed at jihadists. But so far they have mostly been used to mount pressure on minority groups that do not adhere to one of the four recognized faiths in Russia — Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism.

While all religious minority groups — including yoga's parent religion, Hinduism — are potential targets, says religious scholar Yekaterina Elbakyan, the legislation especially discriminates against "new faiths" by labeling them cults and criminalizing their activity.

"These are groups that don't have a long historical tradition, like Jehovah's Witnesses and Hare Krishna adherents," Elbakyan says. "How else would they make themselves known other than through missionary activity? That is how Christianity spread initially as well!"

The case against Ugai, who has ties to a Krishna group, was initiated by a Russian man who said he had lost his wife and mother to the religion. "I have nothing against yoga," the man told the *Rosbalt* news agency, adding "I stick to the law."

Ugai says that is precisely what he did. He maintains he was speaking at the event in a private capacity, not on behalf of any organization. And while it looks as if his personal beliefs have put him in the crosshairs, the case against him rests solely on the content of his lecture.

Ugai says went to great pains to ensure his lecture stayed within the bounds of the Yarovaya laws, and even consulted his lawyer beforehand. "I warned the organizers of the festival that my talk was going to be only popular science," he says. "It was purely educational."

The controversy surrounding the case is not surprising, says Alexander Verkhovsky, who heads the SOVA Center think-tank.



It is the vague phrasing of the Yarovaya laws, he says, which encourages its expedient application by lower-rank law enforcement officials on the ground.

"[These laws] are so badly formulated," Verkhovsky told *The Moscow Times*, "that any person who publicly engages or talks about a non-registered faith, can find themselves in a situation where they are branded as engaging in missionary activity."

Ugai wasn't first to fall victim to the law. Last month a court in Vladivostok ordered the Salvation Army to destroy 40 copies of the Bible because they had been "incorrectly labeled." But Ugai's case has broadened the circle of potential suspects to hundreds of thousands of ordinary Russians who do yoga or dabble in Eastern spirituality.

"If I can be charged for this then that would also apply to any academic who speaks about Eastern philosophies, anyone who practices yoga or Ayurvedic medicine, or Indian dance. It's completely absurd!" Ugai says.

The case has reminded religious scholar Elbakyan of the not-so-distant past when yoga was illegal. "In the Soviet Union, even doing simple yoga exercises without any spiritual component was a dangerous activity to undertake," she remembers. "It was seen as alien to the Soviet man, and too different from the state's 'production gymnastics.'"

Responses to Ugai's case suggest Russia's yoga fans, who now have a cause to rally around, are unlikely to surrender easily. "Politics and religion are two scary and unintelligible areas for me," Sati Kazanova, a celebrity singer and socialite, wrote on Instagram. "I never thought I would want to get

involved in that. But I won't tolerate an incursion on yoga."

In the last decade, yoga's popularity in Russia has boomed. "It's become one of the most popular fitness activities and a huge market," says Sergei Baranov, an instructor at one of the St. Petersburg gym chains.

Even the Kremlin appears to have been gripped by the craze. The wife of Russia's first president, Boris Yeltsin, sang its praises in a yoga journal several years ago. Prime Minister Medvedev proclaimed himself an ardent fan in 2007. But the Kremlin's decisive blessing appears to have been given by Vladimir Putin himself during a 2015 meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Yoga cannot fail to attract," Putin said at the time.

Nevertheless, yoga is still not an official discipline in Russia, which had led to "misunderstandings among those who are less informed about what yoga is and its different components," says instructor Baranov.

Two yoga studios in the central Russian city of Nizhnevartovsk received requests last June to cancel classes "in order to prevent the spread of new religious cults and movements." Although these requests issued by regional officials were later retracted, the Yarovaya "missionary" clause appears to lend this kind of crackdown a legal basis.

Although he is following Ugai's case closely, the head of the Russian Yoga Federation, Sergei Repin, says he is not concerned about the potential impact of the law. In his view, the case is little more than "a provocation" by the Russian authorities. "Yoga has existed for 2,000 years and has survived no matter what laws," he told the *Moscow Times*. **TMT**



"The biggest obstacle to talks is Assad who does not want a solution within the UN agreed framework," Vladimir Frolov, foreign affairs expert.

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No. 5787

400

missions Russian aircraft flew in Syria the last two months.

Dec. 30

Russia signs ceasefire agreement in Syria which will lower troop presence.



The Admiral Kuznetsov, Russia's only aircraft carrier, spent 2 months off the coast of Syria. Its aircraft reportedly participated in combat missions there.

The Voyage Home

By **Matthew Bodner** m.bodner@imedia.ru

Russia's withdrawal from Syria is a win for the Kremlin – even if its much hyped ships failed to impress

Few leaders can boast of success in war-torn Syria, and even fewer can boast of success twice. With an order to scale-down Russian forces in Syria — part of a ceasefire brokered by Turkey on Dec. 30 — Russian President Vladimir Putin appears to have done just that. It was, in many ways, a repeat of Putin's "mission accomplished" declaration in March: Russia isn't withdrawing, it is merely changing posture.

Not long after Putin's March declaration, Russian fighter jets stationed at a Syrian regime-controlled air base in Latakia indeed returned home. But Moscow retained a sizeable air wing in Syria, and in some cases the Kremlin merely replaced airplanes with helicopters. It remains unclear how many planes Russia has in Syria, but its combat abilities there were largely unchanged after March.

The latest withdrawal of forces follows a similar pattern: Moscow has recalled its headline-grabbing naval battlegroup — led by the aging Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier — to its home port in Northern Russia. Despite Russian claims to the contrary, the aircraft carrier group appears not to have contributed much to Moscow's mission in Syria.

"The Kuznetsov is not fit projecting power. It's not fit for carrying out naval action on foreign shores. It's not fit for local war," military analyst Alexander Golts says. The ship's involvement "can only be aimed at a fairly uninformed Russian citizen" watching the ship on TV.

As a result, the battlegroup's departure changes little.

The Dec. 30 ceasefire is more promising than previous ones — although it still hasn't stopped the war. According to reports, Syrian president Bashar Assad's forces, backed by Hezbollah, Iran and Russia, still kept fighting the anti-government opposition in several places. And Turkey — together with anti-Assad Syrian forces (and also backed by Russia) — kept advancing on Al-Bab, the Islamic State terrorist group's stronghold.

Meanwhile Russia, Turkey, and Iran are preparing for Syria peace talks scheduled for Jan. 23 in Astana, Kazakhstan. These three countries now hold the keys to the Syrian conflict. Within this triangle, Russia and Turkey have formed a powerful alliance, according to a Jan. 10 report in the Kommersant newspaper. Working together with Ankara, Moscow pursues two goals: limiting Western influence in a potential Syrian settlement and restricting Iran's



Admiral Kuznetsov's journey to Syrian shores has failed to make a strategic impact on Russian military operations.

abilities in the region (Iran wants to keep Assad in power with no fixed term limit).

With Turkish-backed negotiations in the works, Putin needed a gesture of good faith that would not severely compromise his military options in Syria should talks collapse. Withdrawing the Kuznetsov battlegroup was the obvious answer.

More importantly, however, the Kuznetsov's withdrawal sends an important message to Assad and his staunch Iranian supporters — who, unlike Russia and Turkey, seem to prefer a military solution to the 6-year conflict over a political one.

"It's a signal to Assad and Iran that they should not count on Russia being wagged by them," foreign analyst-Frolov says.

The problem is that Iran and Assad, emboldened by the recapture of Aleppo from opposition forces, now want to march on to Idlib, another major opposition stronghold. Russia and Turkey are opposed to this idea, Frolov says. Meanwhile, Iran opposes the inclusion of the U.S. and its allies in the talks, while Russia wants them.

Although Kuznetsov's withdrawal from Syria is part of the ongoing jockeying for position in the country, the battlegroup's removal likely has similar motivations to its de-

ployment: domestic political concerns. What was meant to be a flashy demonstration for the Russian navy has, to a significant degree, been a bitter disappointment.

Navy Politics

The Russian Navy — and the defense establishment overall — had the most at stake in Kuznetsov's deployment. The voyage was intended to demonstrate the carrier's potential combat utility and thereby inform a broader debate about the future of the Russian navy — particularly whether to build new aircraft carriers.

Publicly, officials have heaped praise on the ship and its crew. According to the Defense Ministry, in the ship's two months docked off the Syrian coast, it conducted 420 sorties. However, it is not entirely clear that these were launched from the ship itself — some have speculated Kuznetsov's planes flew to the airbase in Latakia for bombs and fuel.

Regardless, the question of how Kuznetsov's Syria deployment has informed those policy debates remains open. On Dec. 14, Vladimir Shamanov, chairman of the State Duma's defense committee, told news agencies that "any experience that we've gained will certainly come in hand for building a new aircraft carrier." But not everyone is convinced.

Russia's jealously guarded defense budget is already feeling the pain of Russia's economic recession. As a result, the likelihood of a major aircraft carrier project in the near future is low. Ships are already secondary in Russian naval doctrine, which prizes nuclear submarines above all other vehicles. These subs will continue to be the priority down the line.

"I think the real mission was the Navy's attempt to project status and negotiate a larger piece of the defense procurement and operations budget," Frolov says. "As such, Kuznetsov's mission was a failure — it showed the carrier was a costly and meaningless luxury toy."

But these discussions have little impact on events in Syria. Kuznetsov and its escorts have left Syria, with Russian media reports suggesting the group is already passing Crete. And the air base in Latakia has roughly the same firepower it had in recent months. In fact, on Jan. 10, twelve Su-25 fighter planes arrived at Russia's Hmeimim base as part of the Syrian drawdown.

Putin has retained a decisive hand in Syria, conceding nothing of real military value. But the constant question remains: Will peace talks hold? **TMT**

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Реклама



"Inequality and injustice became the grounds Russia's regime has built itself on." **Alexei Navalny**, opposition leader.

1%

of Russian population holds 75% of the country's wealth.



Russia ranked first in the inequality rating among 38 countries that hold a majority of the world's wealth.

86%

of Russians say there is tension between the rich and the poor in the country.

Russia, the Inequality Champion

Nowhere else in the developed world is income so skewed in favor of the rich



Op-Ed by **Boris Grozovsky**
Economic analyst

Russia is a standard bearer for wealth inequality. Recent Credit Suisse research shows that just one percent of Russia's population holds 75 percent of its wealth. It's a worrying statistic that puts Russia in first place for inequality among the world's 38 wealthiest countries.

If there is light at the end of this inequality tunnel, it's difficult to make out. With the Kremlin increasingly isolated on the international stage and the ruble in decline, Russia's rich-poor scales look set to slide further. And this should be cause for concern, because it has dangerous implications for Russia's political future.

Extreme inequality makes it difficult for a country to sustain democratic principles. Instead, it has the potential to lead to an increasingly authoritarian political system – or a new round of extreme socialism.

Credit Suisse found Russia to be on par with Hong Kong, Mexico, Norway, Turkey, and Singapore in terms of aggregate wealth. But these countries have smaller populations. The average Turk or Mexican is actually twice as wealthy as the average Russian. The average Singaporean and the average Norwegian are 27 and 30 times wealthier than Russians respectively.

Turkey's citizens are about as wealthy as their country's gross domestic product suggests if it were distributed evenly across the population. The same is true for Mexico. But Norwegians are 2.3 times wealthier than their annual per capita GDP and Singaporeans are 4.1 times wealthier. The wealth of the average Russian, on the other hand, is 2.4 times lower than his or her per capita annual GDP.



Late 40's Soviet poster picturing the inequality in the capitalist driven USA. The Soviet system was built on the concept of total equality. Now, 25 years after its collapse, Russia's inequality rate is very high and keeps on growing.

This ratio will be familiar to poorer economies, but in developed countries – like we might expect of Russia – accumulated wealth for each adult typically exceeds per capita GDP by 2.5 times.

When it comes to converting economic growth into increased prosperity for its citizens, the Boston Consulting Group has found Russia wanting. Non-financial assets (property, for example) comprise almost all of the average Russian's wealth. Their financial assets are roughly equal to debts. But compare that to Europe where most individuals hold more financial assets than non-financial.

The turn of the millennium was a good time for Russians. The total wealth of the average Russian increased around 8-fold between 2000 and 2007 – from \$3,000 to \$24,000. But that trend stalled when Moscow nationalized and militarized the economy. Oil prices fell. The ruble plummeted. Average wealth fell by 60 percent to 2004-2005 levels.

In the past two years alone, the average Russian has grown 14.4 percent poorer (only Ukraine and Argentina witnessed steeper declines). Russia's average level of wealth is almost five times higher than the world average, but approximately seven times lower than the wealth enjoyed by the richest 10 percent of the world's population.

According to a Forbes list of the wealthiest Russians, around 100 have \$1 billion or more, 900 have at least \$100 million, 79,000 have wealth in excess of \$1 million, and 742,000 have more than \$100,000.

But Forbes does not estimate the wealth of government officials (who in Russia have grown rich through illicit means) even though they are often wealthier than businesspeople. This only underscores Russia's extremely high level of asset inequality.

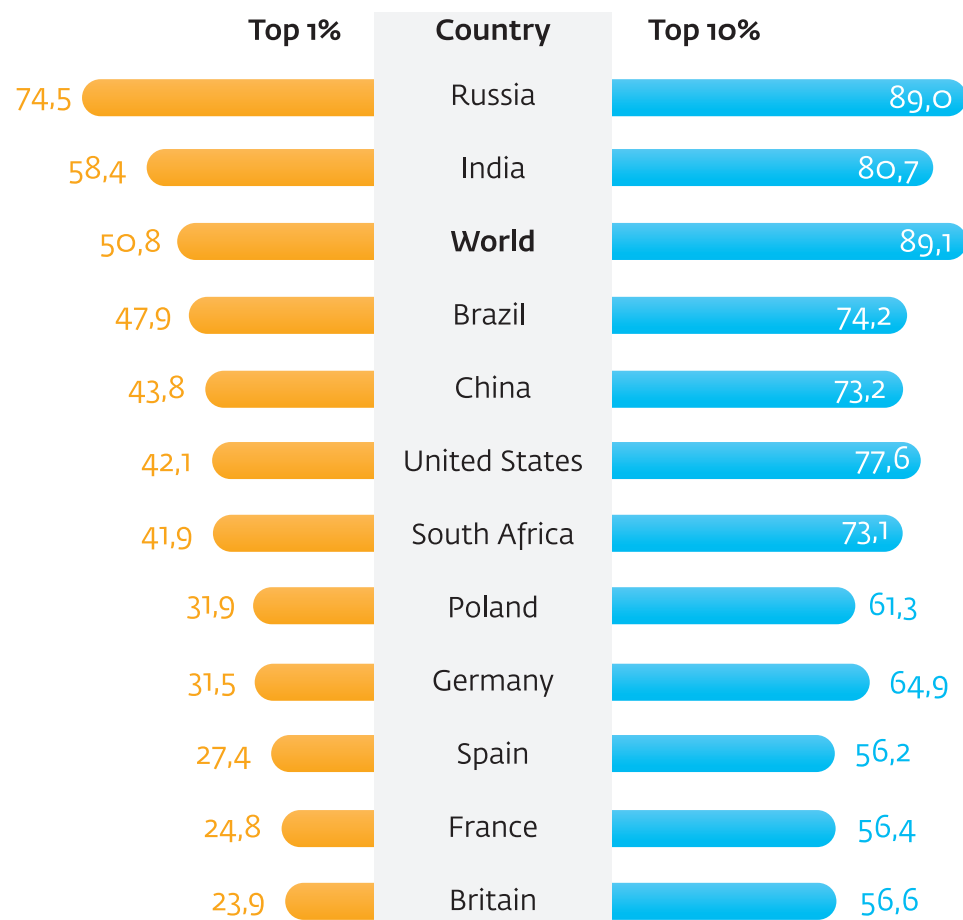
Between 2009 and 2016, the gap between the world's richest and poorest grew. Today, the planet's top one percent owns almost 51 percent of all wealth and the richest one percent have a greater share of the planet's wealth than the remaining 99 percent (growth in the stock market accounts for some of this skyrocketing inequality – only the rich own stocks). But in Russia, that level of inequality growth is even higher.

A country with this level of inequality risks social instability. In place of sound economic policy, politicians end up having to "pay off" the population with populism. A large percent of Russia's population will take the first opportunity to demand the redistribution of wealth – and new rules of the game.

This high level of inequality bodes poorly for democracy. If Russians could choose, they might attempt to rebuild socialism by stripping the rich of their assets and divvying it up. In fact, recent opinion polls suggest that is exactly what they would do.

This huge, unmet demand for social justice could surface at the end of President Vladimir Putin's rule and lead to a major redistribution of wealth. **TMT**

How much national wealth does the richest 1 % and 10 % own



Source: Credit Suisse Research Institute

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"I will always be his loyal ally. To give your life for such a person is the easiest task" - **Ramzan Kadyrov** about Vladimir Putin.



1.4Mln

population of Russia's Republic of Chechnya.

2007

Kadyrov consolidated total power in Chechnya and became its elected president.



Liz Hurley, Gerard Depardieu and Jean-Claude Van Damme are among the Hollywood stars who visited Kadyrov in Chechnya.



KATERINA LOBANOVA

Lights, Camera, Action!

By **Howard Amos** newsreporter@imedia.ru.

Under the close watch of the republic's strongman leader, Chechen movie pioneers are producing the world's most unexpected cinema

GROZNY, Russia — In 2015, Ramzan Kadyrov, the feared head of Russia's Republic of Chechnya, decided to make a movie.

In Chechnya, that might seem like a far-fetched idea. The republic has only four movie theaters for a population of 1.4 million. There is no local filmmaking tradition whatsoever.

So Kadyrov turned to Beslan Terekbayev []. Soon, Terekbayev's ChechenFilm studio had produced "Whoever Doesn't Understand Will Get It," an action movie starring the Chechen strongman himself.

The film has never been released publicly, but Kadyrov did publish a few clips to his famous Instagram account. One shows him surrounded by military vehicles firing a machine gun into the air. Another depicts him meeting an actress dressed as Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

On the surface, "Whoever Doesn't Understand" may simply seem like the Chechen leader's vanity project — but Terekbayev and ChechenFilm are no joke. With Kadyrov's backing, Terekbayev intends to turn the Muslim-majority North Caucasus republic into a filmmaking powerhouse — and he sees his work as a direct challenge to the liberated values promoted by Hollywood.

Against the odds

Widely accused of human rights abuses and murdering his political opponents over nearly a decade ruling Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov is also known for his love of film. In the past, he has organized visits to Grozny for movie stars including Elizabeth Hurley and Jean-Claude Van Damme.



CHECHENFILM

Beslan Terekbayev (on the left) says that with Kadyrov's help they "will seize the world."

With Kadyrov's support, ChechenFilm is building a cinematic infrastructure where none has ever existed. Besides Kadyrov's action film, the studio is currently producing five major feature films, has begun a Chechen-language television series and has opened two new cinemas and has set-up a cinema school in Grozny.

At recent auditions for an Russian-Indian co-production called "Best Friends" 13-year-old Rayava Chebukhanova had picked a famous poem by Russian Alexander Pushkin to recite to camera. At the beginning she was struggling with shyness, she was in tears by the end.

Even though the Chebukhanov family — like many other local families — had rarely visited the cinema, Rayava's mother and brother auditioned for a role in the same production on the same day. "We have a lot of talented children..." said Khava Chebukhanova, Rayava's mother, "[but] it is well known that they have nowhere to channel their talents."

In these conditions, cultivating a cinema-going culture has been an uphill struggle. Terekbayev, who was director of the first cinema to be opened in Chechnya in 2008, said financing for their projects is mostly raised from private Chechen investors. While Hollywood is content to spend tens of millions of dollars on a feature film, Terekbayev is focused on low-budget films that can be made for under 70 million rubles (\$1.1 million).

The company's new cinema school, Step, is headed by Tatyana Boika, a 23-year old art academy graduate. With few specialists on hand, Step imports instructors to teach six-month introductory courses on acting, directing, producing and operating. A lack of equipment and film specialists also means the editing of ChechenFilm's productions is outsourced to Moscow or St. Petersburg, Terekbayev said.

Continued on Page 11 →

Out & About



January 12 – 18, 2017

7

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



RUSKI / FACEBOOK



At Ruski, 85 floors above the city, the food and spectacular view vie for diners' attention. Old favorites are conceived in new ways for a delectable and filling meal.

Ruski: New Russian Cuisine Above the Clouds

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

Dining with a view on the 85th floor of a Moskva City skyscraper

Ruski is a new restaurant on the 85th floor of OKO, the highest skyscraper in the Moskva City neighborhood. Part of the 354 Exclusive Height project created by two restaurant empires — Chaikhona #1 and GINZA — and several independent restaurateurs, Ruski combines carefully researched traditional Russian dishes with contemporary Russian cuisine. Designed by Megre Interiors, Ruski boasts an 8-meter high traditional Russian oven and tables made of agate and wood.

Taking up the perimeter of the 85th floor, Ruski commands truly incredible views — but they shouldn't distract you from enjoying the food.

Start with forshmak, an Ashkenazi Jewish herring appetizer served on tiny pieces of rye bread toast (340 rubles), or potato pancakes with marinated korushka, a Baltic Sea fish immensely popular in St. Petersburg (360 rubles).

Another great starter is kulebyaka, hot, oblong-shaped Russian pie with red and white fish, or beef pirozhki, small pies prepared in the traditional oven. Continue with traditional pelmeni dumplings with venison (430 rubles), millet porridge with pumpkin and crab meat (430 rubles) or lightly smoked salmon (940 rubles).

Don't forget to sample some homemade

infused vodka. The vodkas are divided into two categories: cordials and so-called "marinated vodkas" (270 rubles for 50 ml). The former are less strong and sweeter — try rosehip or black currant — while the latter are 80-proof with flavors like porcini mushrooms, buckwheat or galangal (a type of ginger) with strawberry.

There are also original cocktails (470 rubles). Try one of the "imperial drinks," each named after a Russian emperor. Elizabeth I is made of calvados, apple, lavender and blackberry, and there's a story behind it. The empress was allergic to apples, hence the second name of the cocktail:

"forbidden fruit." Borodinsky refers to the eponymous popular black bread — it's a mix of polugar (an 18th century version of vodka), Campari, beetroot and homemade bread cordial.

Above Ruski is the highest open patio-transformer in Europe, which currently serves as the highest skating rink. Be sure to check out the rink and the viewing platform, weather permitting.

+7 (495) 777 71 11

project354.ru

21/2 Perviy Krasnogvardeysky Proezd (OKO), Metro Mezhdunarodnaya

NEWS & OPENINGS



JAWSSPOT / FACEBOOK

Jawsspot

Craft beer from the Urals

Jawsspot is not just another craft beer place — it's a bar that belongs to Jaws, one of the most popular brewers from Russia's Sverdlovsk region. Original brews with witty names like Nuclear Laundry IPA (240 rubles) and about a dozen others are all on tap. There's also great bar food — try focaccia with anchovies and capers (200 rubles) or a vegetarian pizza (350 rubles) — and a balcony with a view of the FSB headquarters.

+7 (985) 339 2757

facebook.com/Jawsspot-Msk-1106360412795337
25 Nikolskaya Ulitsa. Metro Lubyanka



CHEESE CONNECTION / FACEBOOK

Cheese Connection

Russian-made burrata

The newest addition to Belaya Square is Cheese Connection, focusing on Russian-made cheeses, which became one of the hottest trends after Russia imposed food sanctions. Try a new take on cheese soup with a bite-size hamburger (480 rubles) or the Swiss dish raclette with baked potatoes and prosciutto. Finish off your meal with a glass of wine (from 280 rubles) and a cheese desert, such as burrata with figs (380 rubles).

+7 (495) 780 7585

cheeseconnection.ru/
9 Lesnaya Ulitsa. Metro Belorusskaya



DIDI / FACEBOOK

Didi

Innovative Georgian cuisine

From the owners of Patari cafe on Patriarch's Ponds comes this more traditional Georgian eatery located near Tverskoi Bulvar. Unlike Patari, Didi offers khinkali, Georgian dumplings beloved by Muscovites (70 rubles a piece), as well as more innovative fare — like leek soup with Georgian matsoni yogurt (390 rubles) or kharcho, a hearty beef dish with tkemali plum sauce (390 rubles).

+7 (499) 990 0928

facebook.com/didirestaurant
14 Tverskoi Bulvar, Bldg. 4. Metro Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya



LATINOS / FACEBOOK

Latinos

Ceviche with a view

One of Moscow's leading restaurateurs, Alexander Rappaport, has relaunched his Latinsky Kvar-tal (Latin Quarter) restaurant as Latinos. Officially called "cevicheria," Latinos offers other types of raw fish dishes, including tiradito (from 730 rubles), plus more than 20 types of ceviche (from 330 rubles). Cap your meal with a pisco sour cocktail (460 rubles), sit back, and enjoy the magnificent view!

+7 (495) 229 8317

latinosrest.ru/
2 Kutuzovskiy Prospekt, Bldg. 6. Metro Kievskaya

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!**

5. Donskoi Monastery

The Donskoi Monastery's history begins in 1591 as the holy image of the Mother of God of the Don, the monastery's main relic, was credited with deterring the Crimean Tatar invasion. A center of spiritual life, the medieval monastery was also a fortress defending the capital city – hence the thick and sturdy walls. Pause in front of the gate to stare at the majestic bell tower topped with the church of Saints Zachary and Elizabeth. Just behind the gate, you will see the monumental Great Cathedral, built on the order of Princess Catherine, the elder sister of Emperor Peter the Great. Its impressive eight-tiered iconostasis and vivid frescos depicting stories from the Bible are worth seeing. After you leave the church, turn right to see the original Old Cathedral, a red church with a blue cupola. Completed in 1593, it features a fine example of the steeply-pitched roof, a hallmark of Russia's church architecture throughout the 16th century.

1 Donskaya Ploshchad, Bldg 12



5

6. Donskoye Cemetery

Like many monasteries, the churchyard of the Donskoi Monastery was a prestigious burial place for high-profile statesmen, scientists, and philosophers and noble families. The writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, historian Vasily Kluchevsky and General Anton Denikin, leader of the White Army in the Civil War, are among many notables laid to rest here. By the beginning of the 20th century, there was no more room for burials, so the Donskoye Cemetery was established nearby. This is the burial site of the victims of political repression who were executed in Moscow's prisons in the 1930s through 1950s. Their names are engraved on the tombstone monuments marking mass graves. The graves are estimated to contain over 5,000 bodies, making the site one of the most important Moscow landmarks of the most tragic time in Russia's history.



6

2nd Donskoi Proezd

Donskaya Ploshchad

7

7. Communal House of the Textile Institute

After leaving the monastery and cemetery, turn right onto Ulitsa Ordzhonikidze and right again on 2nd Donskoi Proezd. Take a glance to the right to see the Communal House of the Textile Institute, another amazing monument from the constructivist era in Russia. The house was a student dormitory built in 1929-1930. The architect, Ivan Nikolayev, thought that his "housing machine" would produce a new generation as students spent all their time together in communal living and learning spaces. From a bird's eye view, the vast blocks forming the building resemble a large plane. Initially built for the Textile Institute, the House later was a dormitory for over 2,000 students of the Institute of Steel and Alloys. The ramshackle building was abandoned in the 1990s; in 2008-2013 it underwent a massive reconstruction.

9 2nd Donskoi Proezd



On and Around Shabolovka

A Old Market Neighborhood in Constant Transformation

By **Daria Demidova** mt.artseditor@imedia.ru | Illustration by **Yevgeny Tonkonog**

Explore the city's oldest market, a medieval monastery, and Soviet design experiments amid enormous – and strange – apartment houses



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4. Shukhov Tower

After a ten-minute walk along Ulitsa Shabolovka, you'll see the tracery of the Shukhov tower, a constructivist masterpiece and long-time emblem of Soviet broadcasting. Architect Vladimir Shukhov, who pioneered grid-shell construction, originally planned for the tower to be 350 meters high, but Russia was running low on steel as it recovered from four years of Civil War. The tower, which was put up in 1922, was 160 meters tall and operated until a new tower was built in Ostankino in 1967. Around the tower are constructivist apartment buildings that were also built in the 1920s. After admiring these structures, go back to the corner where you got off the tram and stroll along Ulitsa Ordzhonikidze with the red brick wall of the Donskoi Monastery to your right.

37 Ulitsa Shabolovka, Bldg 6



3. Church of the Mother of God of Tikhvin

To spare your feet, take the tram down Serpukhovsky Val. To your right you'll see a church with colorful floral-print tiles: this is the Church of the Mother of God of Tikhvin. The church was built in 1911 by the Orthodox Old Believers and in Soviet times shared the fate of many other churches, serving as a warehouse and later as a restaurant. In our days, the church has become the subject of dispute between the Old Believers community and the Orthodox Church, which has also made a claim. Get off the tram at the Serpukhovsky Val stop and walk to Ulitsa Shabolovka.

16 Serpukhovsky Val

3

2

Serpukhovsky Val

Danilovsky Market

Head toward Serpukhovsky Val where you'll see the round Danilovsky market, the oldest market in Moscow. Some archeologists suggest that trade has flourished here since the 13th century, but the site carries the name of the Danilov monastery, which was founded in 1560. After being remodeled in 2011, the shabby farmers market morphed into a well-organized shopping center. Check out the dried fruit, nuts and olives stands from Central Asia. And don't forget it's a market, you can bargain — or at least try. If you don't need to stock up with groceries, hit the food court: dozens of trendy eateries offer all sorts of the world's best dishes. Taste Armenian stuffed grape leaves, Dagestani flatbreads, Vietnamese pho soup (you will most likely have to stand in line for this one) and other specialties from around the globe.

Mytnaya Ulitsa



1



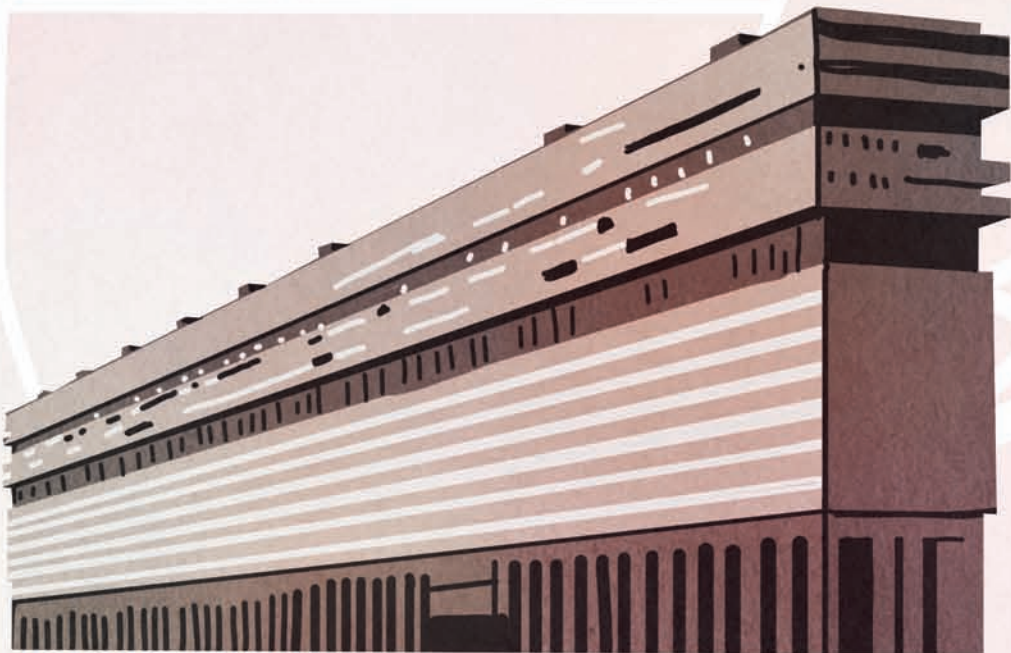
Metro
Tulskaya

Bolshaya Tulskaya Ulitsa

1. Recumbent Skyscraper, aka the House Boat

This walk starts at the Tulskaya metro station. As you exit onto Bolshaya Tulskaya Ulitsa and cross the street, your glance will rest on an extremely long, gray and strange building. This 400-meter long and 16-story one-of-a-kind apartment complex is a fine example of late-Soviet era megalomania. It is rumored that the building was designed by the team that used to specialize in nuclear reactors, hence the nickname the "House of the Nuclear Scientists." Another legend has it that the building can withstand any shock, including a nuclear strike. It is true that the structure is seismically sound, built with angles of 87 and 93 degrees instead of 90 degrees. When it was finished in 1986, the long, white structure standing by itself resembled a cruise liner sailing in the sea — hence its other nickname: the House Boat.

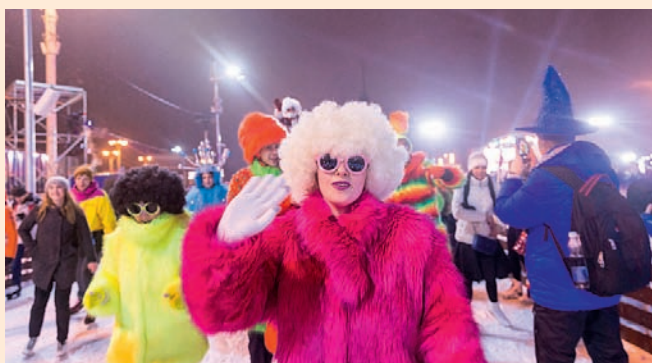
2 Bolshaya Tulskaya Ulitsa





Grace Cuddihy, business development manager

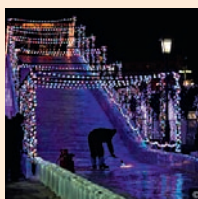
I really like **Kvartira 44**. They have three branches in the city - check out the Bolshaya Nikitskaya location, it's as cozy and warm as a good friend's flat. Head here on a cold night, order a bottle of red and relax.



VDNH

Seven Ideas to Help You Get Back into Shape

Russia's weeklong New Year's holiday is finally over. Whether you spent it in Moscow winding your way from one house party to another in the time-honored Russian tradition, or you have just come back from a seaside vacation in the sub-tropics, you need to get back into your regular working routine. Thankfully, Moscow has plenty of activities to help wake you from that post-vacation lethargy and get in shape for the new year. Here is where you'll find us as we do our annual post-holiday detox.



MOSKVA NEWS AGENCY

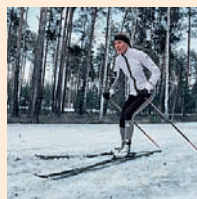
Tubing on Ploshchad Revolyutsii

The largest hill in the center of Moscow

Tubing has become immensely popular in Russia in recent years. This winter, the highest hill for tubing has been installed in the very heart of Moscow, on Ploshchad Revolyutsii, just a short walk from Red Square. It is seven meters high and a hundred meters long. It has two tracks, so two people can slide simultaneously. The hill features a working clock made of ice, and there is a small market fair nearby where you'll be able to buy souvenirs, snacks

and hot beverages. There are tubing spots around Moscow too, most notably at Muzeon and Kuzminki parks.

Metro Ploshchad Revolyutsii,
Teatralnaya



ADIDAS

Adidas Ski Base at the Olympic Village

Cross-country skiing is back

Adidas wants to bring back the once popular pastime of cross-country skiing, overshadowed by downhill skiing in recent years. For the second year in a row, Adidas

Ski Base is open in a suburban Moscow park — this time in the Olympic Village park on the outskirts of Moscow. There are three ski tracks of different lengths and difficulties: one, three and five kilometers long. If you are new to cross-country skiing, you can hire an instructor to teach you the basics of the two main styles: classic and skate skiing. On weekends, there are themed parties organized at the ski base.

adidas.ru/skibase

Park Olimpiyskoi Derevni

Entrance at corner of Ulitsa Lobachevskogo and Michurinsky Prospekt



NAHUSKYRU

Sled Rides in Kuzminki-Lublino Park

Go dog sledding without leaving the city

You don't need to go to faraway Lapland to enjoy some dog sledding with Siberian Huskies. Kuzminki-Lublino offers several types of rides with the cute animals for both kids and adults. You can choose a simple twenty-minute ride or a longer option. There's a tour of the husky nursery and a lecture on husky sledding suitable for kids or a more adult-oriented, three-hour-long trip to a lake in the depths of the park — with champagne and a barbecue afterwards.

+7 (915) 034 0834

nahusky.ru

7 Ulitsa Zarechye, Bldg. 2. Metro Lublino



365DETOX

Detox Programs

Boost your immune system

Detox programs have become quite trendy among lifestyle-conscious Muscovites. If your vacation has been especially taxing in terms of food and drink intake (and it probably has), detox might be a good idea even if you're not into health fads. The company 365 Detox has one of the most popular programs. You can order sets of smoothies, cold-pressed juices, almond milk, immune-boosting shots and herbal tea online at <http://365detox.ru>, or buy them at one of the many stores that sell their products. There are also many alternatives, like Smart Detox by Smart Food (<http://smart-food.su/detox/>) or Just for You (<http://justforyou.ru/programs/detox-menu/>).



SPORTIVNAYA SEKTSIYA

Sportivnaya Sektsiya

Learn a new sport

If you are bored with regular fitness centers, check out Sportivnaya Sektsiya

(Sports Club) and learn a new sport.

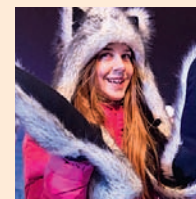
Started as an invitation-only club, Sektsiya gradually turned into a full-fledged business. There are more than fifty sports on offer at Sektsiya, including fencing and rock climbing. For each sport, you can get a package of four or eight sessions with an instructor. Or get a package of two sports, which may be from completely different fields, like boxing and ballet dancing. Apart from becoming more fit you will get to hang out with some cool people, who've been at Sektsiya from the very start. Sometimes the sessions take place at interesting spots, such as the Tretyakov Gallery or Strelka Institute.

+7 (964) 583 5699

sportsection.moscow

21 Ulitsa Elektrozavodskaya.

Metro Elektrozavodskaya

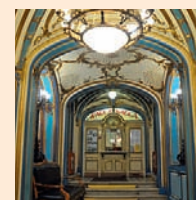


VDNH

Ice skating

Themed skating rinks

As you might remember from one of the first scenes of Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina," ice skating has always been of Muscovites' favorite winter pastimes. Today Muscovites are spoiled for choice when it comes to skating rinks. Sokolniki Park launched Rok Katok, a rock-music themed skating rink, where you can skate under strobe lights. Different days are devoted to different rock musicians (park.sokolniki.com). Gorky Park's rink is all about street art this year, with graffiti and public art objects, including a 60-meter long light installation in a tunnel (www.bigkatok.ru). VDNH Park provides ice dancing classes on Fridays (katok.vdnh.ru). Another option is to go to the rink on Red Square and skate by the city's greatest sights: the Kremlin, GUM and Saint Basil's Cathedral (gum.ru/rink/).



JAIMRSILVA

Sanduny

Experience the Russian baths

"We have a tradition. Every year on Dec. 31, my friends and I go to the banya," is probably the most famous line from the movie "The Irony of Fate," broadcast on Russian television every New Year's Eve without fail. Banya refers to a traditional Russian public bath, which usually includes both a "dry steam bath" similar to a sauna and a "wet steam bath," where patrons beat each other with birch branches with the aim of improving circulation. If you haven't had a chance to go to banya in the new year, it's high time you did so. Founded in the early 19th century, Sandunovskiy Bani — or simply Sanduny — is still the city's most venerable steam spot.

+7 (495) 782 1808

14 Neglinnaya Ulitsa

Metro Kuznetsky Most

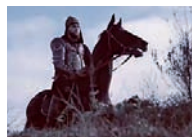
The Moscow Times

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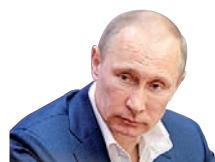
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“Whoever Doesn't Understand Will Get It” - the name of the film Ramzan Kadyrov stars in, which is also a slogan threatening Russia's liberal opposition.

2

number of movie theatres in the Republic of Chechnya.



“Thank you to the people of Chechnya and thank you to the president of the republic. He is effective” - Putin about Kadyrov.

2.2 million

the number of people who follow Kadyrov's Instagram account.



← A view of Grozny, the capital of Chechen Republic.

→ Filming takes place at ChechenFilm.



← Continued from Page 6

One of ChechenFilm's biggest stars is 23-year-old Dzhamalaila Selikhanov. Selikhanov who is currently playing the lead role in the upcoming action film “Clash,” is also a newcomer to film. He was spotted while traveling back home from the university, and gave up a job at a bank to take part in his first shoot.

Selikhanov, who is also considering a career as a martial arts fighter, said in an interview that an acting course at Step had helped him hone his skills. “Before that I used to go red in front of the camera,” he said.

One Man Show

ChechenFilm is one of only a handful of functioning regional movie studios in Russia, and everything in the nascent Chechen film industry appears to involve Terekbayev.

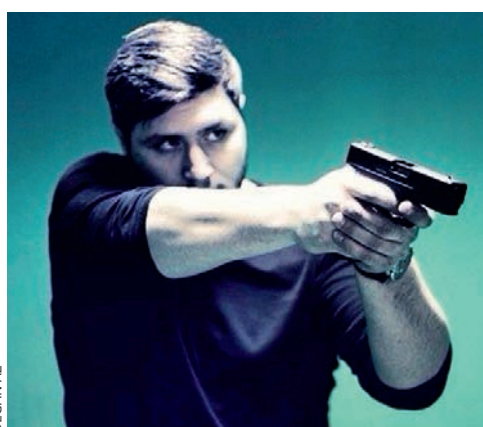
The 36-year old was put in charge of ChechenFilm in 2013 and, with Kadyrov's personal assistance, transformed it into a private film studio. Beyond managing the studio, Terekbayev serves as a director, producer, script writer and, occasionally, actor. He also leads Chechnya's State Cinematographic Department, which channels financing and administrative support to ChechenFilm, and is slated to become the head of a re-vitalized North Caucasus Film Studio this year.

During a recent interview in his central Grozny office — alongside vast portraits of Kadyrov and his father — Terekbayev told The Moscow Times that it was his childhood dream to work in film. Instead, he became a pediatrician — but he quit his full-time job as a doctor and hospital director in 2012.

He named Mel Gibson's Braveheart as one of his favorite films, and recalled watching the movie on VHS during the First Chechen War, a bloody fight for independence from Russia that tore apart the region in the 1990s. “The film left a very deep impression on me,” he said.

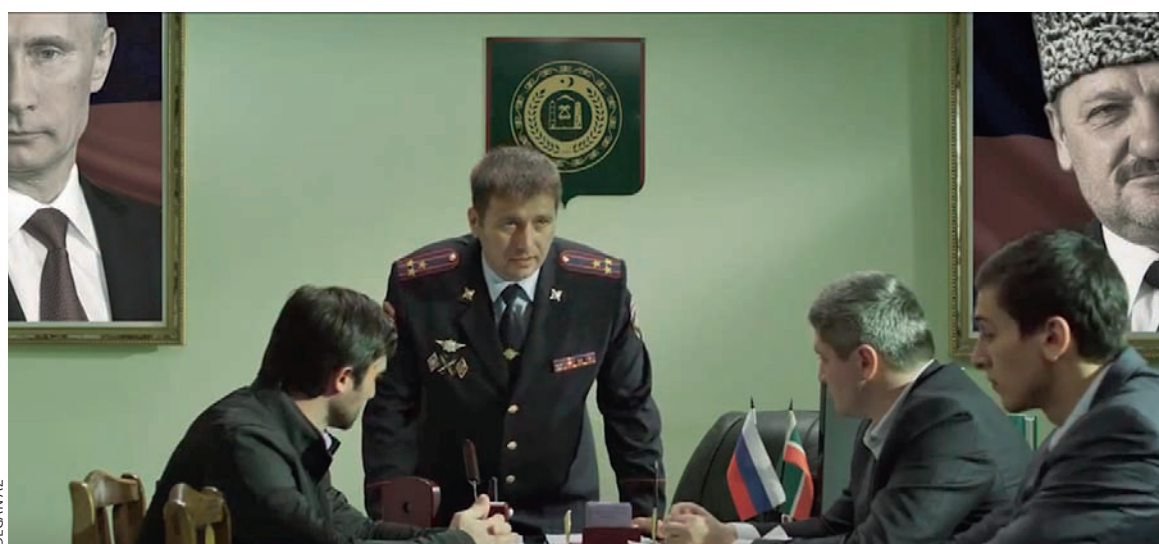
The Kadyrov Brand

Childhood dreams aside, Terekbayev's ties to Kadyrov have clearly played a role in his rise. According to the filmmaker, his father was a close friend of Kadyrov's father. After a Dec. 23 visit to ChechenFilm's new offices in Grozny, Kadyrov praised the company on his Instagram account. Terekbayev said that Kadyrov has ensured they can film in any facility — from airport to stadium — in the region for free.



A screenshot from The Call of the Heart movie created at ChechenFilm studio. The series shows a young man from Grozny who is estranged from a girl he is courting because of social status.

A screenshot from The Call of the Heart film series. The plot line promotes the moral values of Kadyrov's Chechnya — from religious devotion to the upstanding nature of law enforcement officers.



“He takes part in these projects to stimulate young people to do good,” Terekbayev said.

The Chechen leader's interest is not purely altruistic. As leader of the republic, Kadyrov has embraced social media, photographs and film to boost Chechnya's profile within Russia and enhance his own grip on power.

In 2011, Hollywood stars Hillary Swank and Jean-Claude Van Damme attended Kadyrov's 35th birthday celebration in Grozny. There, they publicly praised the Chechen leader. After criticism by human rights groups, Swank later fired her manager and said she regretted her decision to attend.

Two years later, Kadyrov welcomed glamorous British actress Elizabeth Hurley and French actor Gerard Depardieu to Grozny to shoot part of a film called “Viktor.”

Some of the ambitions of ChechenFilm appear to mirror those of Kadyrov, who has transformed himself from a former warlord into a national politician. While Kadyrov's comments often cause outrage among liberals in Moscow, he has successfully portrayed himself as a devoutly religious, physically strong leader, able to project his power all over Russia.

ChechenFilm would also like to project itself beyond the North Caucasus.

“Our plan is to seize the world through cinema,” said Terekbayev. “We are building our turnover and growing our muscles. In five years the whole world will know ChechenFilm. It will be releasing more films than any other Russian film studio.”

No Opposition

Critics say Kadyrov's authoritarianism means that, regardless of how the Chechen film industry grows, there is no way to make art in the republic.

The authorities are afraid of the truth, says Inal Sheripov, who founded ChechenFilm in 2009.

“If you articulate an independent position not agreed in advance with the authorities they perceive it as dangerous for them, a threat,” he said. “Why? Because others could follow that example.”

Sheripov said he was forced to abandon his work at ChechenFilm in 2012 after he refused to shoot a film about Kadyrov's father. Shortly thereafter, Sheripov moved abroad and has never returned to Chechnya.

His fear is not unfounded. Kadyrov has been linked to the killing of human rights activists and critics living abroad in Dubai and Vienna, as well as to the murder of Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, who was gunned down outside the Kremlin in 2015.

In these conditions, a movie company in Chechnya could become commercially successful, but would never be able to make critically acclaimed cinema, Sheripov said. He dismissed the works of ChechenFilm as “student-level.”

Karen Shakhnazarov, the head of leading Russian movie studio Mosfilm and a prominent director, said that he had never heard of ChechenFilm. “Sometimes films appear from the regions, but, as a rule, it is private money and only one or two films,” he said.

Call of the Heart

Terekbayev disagrees with these assessments. ChechenFilm has no need to for Western freedoms and should not seek to imitate the more successful Hollywood model, he said.

Instead, it should focus on moral content acceptable under Muslim values. He predicts that his films will find a receptive audience in Islamic countries.

“We can't make films that young people watch and turn bad,” he said. “We will shoot a different sort of film.”

None of ChechenFilm's productions show men and women touching, in line with public customs in many conservative Muslim societies.

“Call of the Heart,” the ChechenFilm television series, shows a young man from Grozny who is estranged from a girl he is courting because of his social position. The plot line emphasizes the moral values promoted in Kadyrov's Chechnya — from religious devotion to the upstanding nature of law enforcement officers.

Sex scenes, swearing and the depiction of alcohol and cigarettes in movies are tell-tale signs of a failed director, Terekbayev said.

“I don't want freedom. We can't allow ourselves this. No-one in the world has freedom,” he said. “If people show nonsense, that's not freedom. We are guided by responsibility.” **TMT**



"Some companies help us, some money we get from the budget, but mostly the museum earns funds for itself" **Yelena Gagarina.**

1806

Kremlin's Armory is declared a museum.

7

sights constitute the Kremlin Museum complex, including five churches and cathedrals.



The Moscow Kremlin has been included in the UNESCO world heritage list in 1990. This status was endangered in 2015, when authorities decided to instal gigantic monument to Prince Vladimir in front of it.



For 15 years Yelena Gagarina has done her best to preserve and expand the collection of Tsarist-era treasures.

The Treasure Guardian

By Anna Mongayt artsreporter@imedia.ru

The woman entrusted with preserving Tsarist Russia's masterpieces enjoys a famous name and the support of the President. But that doesn't make her job easy

People might think that a museum situated at Vladimir Putin's front doorstep could not have a care in the world. But here lies the paradox: living next to the symbol and seat of Russian power creates its own problems.

Comparable in significance to the Tower of London, Versailles, Château de Chambord or Kensington Palace, the Kremlin museums were founded in 1806 by Emperor Alexander I as a place to house the treasures of Tsarist Russia.

Today, they share their living space with Russian history, a medieval castle and an acting Russian President. This is not a desirable situation for a museum, admits the museums' director, Yelena Gagarina.

The museums are necessarily cramped, and struggle to cope with visitor numbers. The ubiquitous Presidential Guard makes wearying demands for official passes at every turn. Each step requires approval from the commandant's office. And the museums can only remain open until 6 p.m. at the latest (other museums "on the outside" sometimes work at night.)

Moscow's other premier visitor attractions have it comparatively easy. The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the Tretyakov Gallery have grown to become whole mini-districts devoted to art. People constantly speak and write about them. The Kremlin Museums, however, are necessarily cloaked in relative silence, and live a very different life.

There are other difficulties. For example, there is no way of maintaining temperatures inside the ancient chambers in order to display fine paintings, scrolls, or wooden objects. That said, conditions are perfect for exhibiting the Kremlin's many other priceless pieces — its collections of diamonds, gold and silver items and textiles. Russian emperors, and the



The chain — an award from Queen Victoria to Nicholas II — went through the whole adventure.

foreign ambassadors who brought so many of the items as gifts, spared no expense on these artisan masterpieces.

"We are always greatly limited in what we can exhibit," says Gagarina. "We can't show collections of oriental works or icons, since they are enormous. There's no space to display or properly restore the stunning banners in our collection. But just imagine their beauty — made from silk and decorated with exceptionally sophisticated embroidery."

Gagarina has on multiple occasions tried to move the mu-

seum beyond the walls of the medieval fortress. In the most recent attempt, authorities promised to build a new facility right next to the Kremlin on Borovitsky Hill. However, leaders found the idea of erecting a controversial monument to Prince Vladimir too alluring, and so his statue now stands on the site of Gagarina's proposed museum.

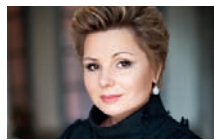
Gagarina did, however, receive a consolation prize. By presidential decree, the Kremlin Museums will now receive part of the building on Red Square right in front of St. Basil's Cathedral.

This new space will house facilities for storage, restoration, and temporary exhibitions. Eventually, part of the Patriarch's Palace and Armoury exhibitions will be relocated there.

The Armoury building inside the Kremlin walls will, however, retain a large proportion of its current exhibits. The royal carriages, for example, will stay where they are, because it is simply too problematic to dismantle and reassemble them elsewhere. The Armoury will add exhibitions of state regalia and coronation ceremony items to augment the current collection of medals, which date back to the time of Peter the Great.

This is not the first time that President Vladimir Putin has intervened to play a central role in Yelena Gagarina's life. As is well known, the president sees himself as the guardian of Russia's greatness. His choice of Gagarina — the daughter of Soviet hero Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space — to take care of some of Russia's most historic relics is no accident.

Fifteen years ago, on the 40th anniversary of that historic spaceflight, the president paid a home visit to offer her the job. At the time, Gagarina was working as a specialist in Eng-



“The Kremlin museums will be open to the public even after we move part of our assets to Red Square”
Yelena Gagarina.

6 p.m.

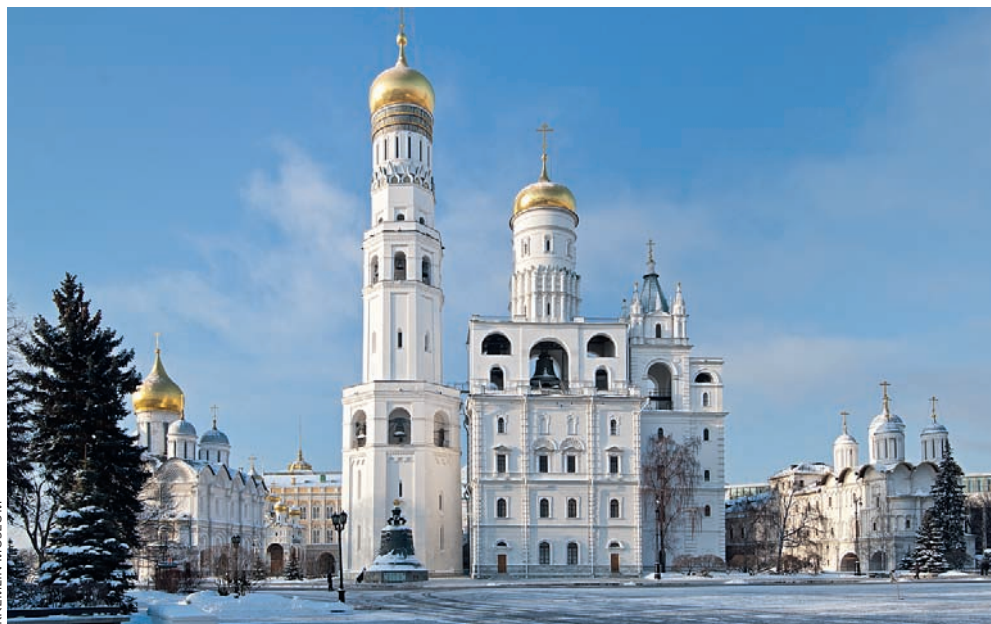
the museums close due to the Kremlin’s regulations.



In Aug. 2016, Vladimir Putin signed a number of decrees making the Kremlin more accessible to the public. According to one decree, an additional route through the Kremlin is to be created this year.

250-700Rub

The price of an entry ticket to the Moscow Kremlin Museum complex.



The Ivan the Great Bell Tower was once the tallest building in Moscow and stands proudly in the Kremlin complex during winter. One of Russia’s prominent landmarks, it is a popular attraction of the Kremlin museum.

THE WORD’S WORTH

I’m Shocked! Just Shocked!

Ona!: Uh-oh!; Ta da!

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



YEVGENY PARYONOV

lish book graphics for the Pushkin Museum.

From time to time, Putin drops in to view the collections under Gagarina’s watch.

“The last time the president stopped by, we showed him a large collection of state orders and medals that a private individual had donated,” Gagarina says. “The President took great interest. It was the same in pre-revolutionary times. Tsars closely followed the expansion of the collection and did not allow just any old thing to be included.”

Only rarely do the Kremlin museums have an opportunity to augment their collections. It is, after all, difficult to rival the extraordinary resources that were made available to the Russian emperors. The Kremlin museums, for example, house 10 Fabergé Easter eggs — famous masterworks that once formed part of the Russian Emperor’s treasury. In 1922, part of this treasury was sold at export auctions, but Fabergé eggs still adorn the exposition of the Armory.

Adding another Fabergé masterpiece or two to the collections is no simple matter. No matter how much the art market may have slipped into crisis, works created by the world-famous jewelry brand still attract eye-watering prices.

Gagarina, however, has developed a few tricks for reaching out and acquiring valuable new exhibits without dipping into state coffers.

“When we stage commercial exhibitions of contemporary works, we ask jewellery houses to leave us a historical item, one with both a name and an interesting story as our compensation,” Gagarina says. “So when we organized a Cartier exhibition, they gave us a diamond brooch from the 1930s. We did an exhibition for Buccellati, and so now we have a Buccellati original. We staged an exhibition for Carrera y Carrera, and they gave us us one of their original pieces too.”

The museums have also benefitted from the generosity of various collectors and philanthropists. Just recently, major collector Andrei Leonidovich Khazin left a chain that had been awarded to the last Russian Emperor, Nicholas II, by Queen Victoria. By tradition, such gifts are returned to the Royal Chapter House in Britain after the death of a monarch. But the revolution struck, and the chain was passed from one Soviet institution to another, before being sold in a Stalin-era sales, from where it ended up in Khazin’s collection.

It was not a straightforward process to transfer the piece to the museum collection, however.

“According to the rules, this piece should have been returned to the U.K. and the property of the Crown,” says Gagarina. After long and complex negotiations, however, a way to allow the chain to remain on display in Russia was found. The chain would be “returned” to Queen Elizabeth, who would then “return” it back to the museum to use indefinitely.

“[Queen Elizabeth] wrote a wonderful letter saying that she wanted as many people in Russia as possible to see this chain and to recall the tragic story that occurred to a member of her family 100 years ago,” says Gagarina.

Following Perestroika in the late 1980s, the descendants of

An exhibit from Catherine the Great’s private collection of carriages presented to her from European leaders around the world. The royal carriages cannot be moved out because it is problematic to dismantle them.



the Romanov family have visited the Kremlin Museums on several occasions. They admired the crown jewels of their ancestors, stood gazing for a long time at Monomakh’s Cap, the oldest of the crowns currently exhibited, and stared in wonder at the family jewels. They have also issued claims of ownership.

The Russian State is unlikely to ever recognize the claims. For Gagarina, the royal descendants are just tourists, “no different” from the 2.2 million other visitors the museum receives every year. (This is about 400,000 more than the Kremlin can easily handle.)

In recent years, a huge wave of Chinese tourists has descended on the Kremlin, far outnumbering the previous flows of American visitors.

The Chinese visits are usually organized by Communist labor unions. Most of these tourists are elderly, and still remember the period of Chinese-Soviet friendship. “They always ask where Lenin and Stalin lived, and are disappointed when I tell them that the Lenin exhibit has been moved to his residence at Gorki Village near Moscow,” Gagarina says.

The sensibilities of these new tourists is also markedly different from those of previous visitors.

“[The Chinese] are completely uninterested in Russian churches and religious art, which they find boring and incomprehensible, but they like everything connected with weapons and state regalia,” Gagarina says. “They love to take photos next to the Tsar Cannon.

Like other museums housing royal treasures, the Kremlin museums serve as the guardian of imperial ceremony. First and foremost, this means coronations. Gagarina, however, says that she isn’t satisfied with the Kremlin Museums’ coronation exhibition.

“We had to put it in very small rooms, but it requires a grand scale,” she says. “It is impossible to present a coronation in 200 meters of space.”

And coronation is only part of a monarch’s life cycle. Royal weddings, births, and the baptism of heirs are no less important moments.

“I am particularly interested in state funerals, which are increasingly becoming a focus of research around the world,” says Gagarina. “I’m certain that, one day, people will be lining here to see the funerals too.” **TMT**

Little Russian words are trouble. All those two-, three- and sometimes four-letter words like **вот**, **на**, **ух**, **ах**, **ну**, **ара**, **уры**, etc. have dozens of different meanings depending on the context, speaker, tone of voice and their combination with other little words.

Today we’re going to master how to blurt out surprise in Russian. First up: **Опа!** — almost always printed with an exclamation mark. **Опа!** is what you say when something goes wrong suddenly and unexpectedly: **Вдруг лампочка в люстре начала мигать и через минуту погасла. — Опа!** — сказал Антон в темноте (Suddenly the lightbulb in the lamp began to blink, and a minute later it went out. “Uh-oh,” Anton said in the darkness.)

If you are a teenager or an adult joking around, you can use the form **опаньки** (or sometimes **опачки**): **Опаньки! Тут у меня вышла лажа. (Crapola! I screwed something up.)**

But little words are tricky, and **она** is not always used to exclaim over an unexpected problem. It can be used for any surprise, including a pleasant one: **Внук рыбака закидывает в воду удочку и вдруг — опа!** Тут же клюнула рыба! (The fisherman’s grandson throws his line into the water and suddenly — **Ta da!** A fish took the bait.)

It can also be used as something like the sound effect for almost any sudden movement. A toddler takes a couple of steps and plops down on her bottom. Her parents say: **Опа!** (Whoops a daisy!)

Another three-letter word that can be used to show surprise is **эге**. This should not be confused with **ЕГЭ** — pronounced **ye-ge** — which is the abbreviation of the **единый государственный экзамен** (uniform state exam). **Эге** is a slightly lower key version of **опа** and can be used to exclaim over bad and good surprises. **Даже вздрогнул от неожиданности. — Эге! А ты чего тут делаешь?** (I was so surprised I jumped. “Whoa! What are you doing here?”) Тренер сказал: “Эге, да ты чемпионом будешь!” (His trainer said, “Oho! You’ll be a champ some day!”)

If you like an exclamation with a bit more meat on it, I can offer you: **Вот тебе на!** You say these words — translated literally as the incomprehensible “here you are take it” — when you are shocked or surprised and very annoyed. This is what you say when you do a bit too much celebrating on Friday night and wake up Saturday morning hungover. Really hungover. How hungover? **Вот тебе на, проснулся неизвестно где** (What the hell? I woke up and had no idea where I was.) Or when you convince yourself that your neighbor was a nice guy who was just nosy, but then you discover he was professionally nosy: **Вот тебе на! Значит, он точно эфэсбешник...** (Damn! It turns out he was from the FSB...)

My personal favorite exclamation of dismay is **поди ты**, which I like because it’s almost the perfect equivalent of “get out of here.” Your friend calls you up and tells you a mutual acquaintance got married over the weekend. You say: **Поди ж ты!** (Get out of here!) And she’s marrying your ex-husband? **Поди ж!** (Shut the front door!)

Of course you can use all of them together when you’re truly shocked. **Россия имеет компромат на Трампа...** (Russia has compromising material on Trump....) **Опаньки! Вот тебе на! Эге, ну поди ж ты...** **TMT**

"Stage productions in Russia were first organized by Germans, so wooden theaters are shaped like Protestant churches." - **Alexandra Stepina**, curator.



1

the number of extant Russian palace theaters

86

buildings designed by Fyodor Shekhtel survive to this day.



The Museum of Architecture moved in 1991 when its space at the Donskoi Monastery was returned to the church



All the World's a Stage

By **Natalya Bokareva** newsreporter@imedia.ru

See the world of Russian theater at the Shchusev Museum of Architecture

Russian theater is the focus of a new exhibition on theater and stage design at Moscow's Shchusev State Museum of Architecture. The show, which has been curated together with the Bakhrushin State Central Theater Museum and the AVC Charity Foundation, highlights the interaction between the space of the stage and the interiors and exteriors of the theaters that surround it. The show, called "The World's a Stage: Architecture and Set Decoration in Russia," is the most comprehensive study of theater design in Russia and is richly documented in the accompanying catalog.

Russian Theaters, Public and Private

The exhibition charts the development of Russian theater design starting from baroque and classical periods of the 17th-19th centuries and moving forward through periods of eclecticism, art nouveau, modernism, avant-garde and post-modernism. The best Russian classical theaters include Moscow's and St. Petersburg's imperial theaters by Giacomo Quarenghi (the Hermitage Theater); Carlo Rossi (the Aleksandriinsky Theater); and Joseph Bove and Alberto Cavo (the Bolshoi Theater before and after the fire of 1853 respectively).

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, private theaters began to appear in Russia. They were built in various styles, including the Faux-Russian style like the Mayakovsky Theater, originally the Theater of Georg Paradis. Later theaters were built in the elegant art nouveau style, which is exemplified by the Chekhov Moscow Art Theater designed by Fyodor Shekhtel, and the Lenkom Theater.

The avant-garde theater in the early Soviet period appears as a mix of constructivism and experiments in neoclassicism. The era of modernism in the later Soviet period produced many cookie-cutter structures, but a few standouts, like Vladimir Kubasov's Gorky Moscow Art Theater. The post-modernist period is showcased by the Novgorod Drama Theater, designed by Vladimir Somov. The Soviet section is particularly interesting for its sketches of theaters imagined but not built.

"The display is structured around major theater projects and highlights the development of architectural forms in connection with set design. It is presented chronologically, but the idea was also to make it a problem-oriented study," Alexandra Stepina, the exhibition curator, told The Moscow Times. So the room featuring imperial theaters of the 18th-19th century also displays models of scenery by Valery Leventhal, a prominent stage designer of the second half of the 20th century. Next to the drawings and plans of the Empire-style Aleksandriinsky Theater of St. Petersburg



Drawing by Ilarion Ivanov-Schitz of the entrance to the home theater he designed in 1899

burg are works by Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin for a production staged in this classical space.

Soviet Era Contradictions

Stepina said that the most complex period was the Soviet era, starting in the 1930s, when "theater design and set design were out of sync." But the avant-garde was a major revolution in the world of theater, be it in the Soviet Union or abroad. Here the exhibition is particularly rich, with El Lissitzky's stage design for Vsevolod Meyerhold's production of "I Want a Child" by S.M. Tretyakov, written in 1928 and never produced.

One of the most interesting parts of the exhibit is the section on stage design, where there are sketches by such prominent architects as Carlo Rossi, Giacomo Quarenghi, Joseph Bove and Fyodor Shekhtel. The late 19th and early 20th centuries are represented by sets designed by the famous artists Natalia Goncharova, Konstantin Korovin, Boris Kustodiev, Alexandre Benois, and Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin, among many others. Stealing the show are the set designs by Boris Messerer for the "Carmen Suite" ballet and a production of the "Sweet Bird of Youth" at the Gorky Moscow Art Theater. Today's set designs pale next to scenery

designs from the Ostankino Estate Museum, one of the world's greatest home theaters, which include pieces by 18th-century foreign artists such as Carlo Bibiena and Franz Hilverding, as well as later Russian works inspired by them.

Something Borrowed, But Everything New

There is just one theater outside Russia which is displayed as a key source for Russian theater and set design: the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza by Andrea Palladio, the greatest example of Roman theater architecture. However, in the catalog Stepina draws multiple comparisons and connections between the international and Russian theater landscapes, noting what was borrowed and transferred to Russian soil. But Russian theater has its own history. The theatrical arts as well as the spaces for them emerged in Russia much later than in many other European countries. This meant that the best European practices were at the disposal of designers by the mid-17th and 18th centuries when Russia's first theaters were formed and began to develop. "When Giuseppe Valeriani worked at the court of the Russian Empress Elizabeth, does it mean she was borrowing concepts from abroad? Or was she simply commissioning the most prominent master of theater development?" Stepina writes. Russia may have come late to the theatrical scene, but that gave the country an advantage. Russia quickly became a leader in the development of stage design.

For Theater Lovers

The Museum of Architecture has more than a million exhibits in its collection, and naturally only a small part can be displayed in any exhibition. The subject of theater architecture and set design was so enormous that the curators envisioned the catalog as an essential part of the show. Anna Petrova, head of the publications department of the Shchusev Museum, said, "It is much more than just a catalog of the exhibition. The show runs for three months, but the book would last for at least 100 years. We included many articles written by authors from the museum staff as well as by other researchers."

The book is a fundamentally new approach to the analysis of theater design. For the first time, the architecture and construction of theaters and places of entertainment are discussed together with what goes on inside on stage. It is filled with graphics, sketches, drawings and photographs along with in-depth analysis.

The exhibition will run until March 19, 2017. **TMT**

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Mr. Marthinus Jacobus Joubert of 72 Meintjies Street, Schoemansville, Hartbeespoort, 0216, South Africa has been appointed voluntary liquidator of the Company Dated this the 14th day of December, 2016

Mr. Marthinus Jacobus Joubert
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Russian Historical Revisionism Goes to the Movies

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

Earning a record-breaking billion rubles in nine days, the historical Russian film “Viking” is confidently marching to the number one spot at the box office. It may even displace the highest-grossing Russian film ever — Fyodor Bondarchuk’s WWII action film, “Stalingrad.” The Nordic-themed hit was produced by Konstantin Ernst, director general of Russia’s Channel One, and directed by Andrei Kravchuk, known for his biopics on civil war-era White Russian leader Alexander Kolchak, and the Soviet cult singer-songwriter, Vladimir Vysotsky.

“Viking” tells the story of Prince Vladimir, better known today as Vladimir the Great, who is credited with bringing Christianity to Kievan Rus in the late 10th century. The movie opens during something of a state-sponsored Prince Vladimir lovefest. The medieval leader has recently become one the most discussed Russian historical figures after the authorities put up a controversial monument to him in the center of Moscow. The original plan called for installing a 25-meter statue of the early leader on Vorobyovy Gory (Sparrow Hills), but was canceled under pressure from local residents. The current eight-meter monument now stands by the Kremlin walls on Borovitskaya Ploshchad, part of a UNESCO Heritage Site. The UN organization has yet to release a statement on the statue’s impact. In the meantime, Prince Vladimir stands solemnly at a central Moscow crossroads as Russia’s newest ancient hero. Played by Danila Kozlovsky, known to western viewers for his roles in “Vampire Academy” and last year’s Russian blockbuster “Hardcore Henry,” Vladimir is depicted as a violent leader, who will stop at nothing to become the Grand Prince of Kiev. In one of the scenes where we first see Vladimir, he rapes his intended bride Rogneda (played by the rising star Alexandra

Bortich) in front of her parents before brutally murdering them. He then orchestrates the killing of his brother Yaropolk and takes his place as the supreme leader of the Kievan Rus. But then he meets the demure Irina, Yaropolk’s widow and a former Christian nun from Byzantium (played by Svetlana Khodchenkova, known outside of Russia for her roles in the remake of “Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy” and “Wolverine”). Under her influence, Vladimir gradually becomes a different person, and in one of the final scenes he repents his misdeeds and is baptized into the Christian faith.

The film was released in two versions: a family friendly one with an age restriction of 12+ and an uncut version with a 18+ restriction. The main differences in 12+ version are the absence of nudity and less gore. Among the first viewers of the movie were Russia’s President Vladimir Putin and the Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky. “Definitely interesting. I’d enjoy watching it one more time,” the president was quoted as saying.

Media Furor

The film was received with extremely mixed reviews in the mainstream Russian media and has caused an unusual amount of discussion on social media. Despite the presidents’s public approval, many viewers were unsatisfied with the way the Kievan Rus and its inhabitants were portrayed in the film. A group of activists started a petition on the Change.org web-site asking the government to ban the movie. They complained that the Russians’ ancestors were shown as unwashed barbarians in perpetually dirty clothing, and Kiev as little more than a small town full of hovels rather than real buildings. The petition also refers to scenes of sex and violence as unsuitable for young viewers.

There is, of course, virtually no evidence of how people lived in 10th century Kievan Rus or even what Kiev looked like. What little information historians have is based on the Primary Chronicle written by the monk Nestor almost a hundred years after the events described in the film. Little is known about Vladimir’s life apart from what’s described in the Primary Chronicle and a lot of it seems rather apocryphal, like the way he supposedly chose the Orthodox Christian faith after sending his emissaries to study all the major religions of the time.

The producers and screenwriters of “Viking” certainly took a few liberties with the Primary Chronicle. The major discrepancy is that a Scandinavian warrior named Sveneld (played by the formidable Maxim Sukhanov) is portrayed as Vladimir’s mentor throughout the movie, while the Primary Chronicle names the prince’s maternal uncle Dobrynya as his tutor. The historical Sveneld served Vladimir’s grandfather Igor and father Svyatoslav and was long dead by the time of the conflict between Yaropolk and Vladimir. Critics noted a few other minor discrepancies in the screen portrayal of the era, such as characters using armor and weapons that didn’t match archeological finds from the period.

Ancient Rus for Today’s Russia

But the main problem with the movie is that it simplifies complex and largely unknown historical events into a straightforward “sinner to saint” story, making a clear, black-and-white distinction between the dirty and violent pagans and civilized Christians. Note that all the sex scenes are with heathen Rogneda, while intimacy with Irina is only hinted at, never shown. Despite the petition’s claims that the film is humiliating to Russia, it actually corresponds to the “party line” of the government and the Russian Orthodox Church. **TMT**

January 12 – 18

BALLET Cinderella

Traditional fairy tale ballet

What better way to end the week than in a beautiful theater enjoying a fairy tale ballet beloved since childhood? Chances are you won’t need to brush up on the libretto to follow this classic version of Cinderella in a production by Oleg Vinogradov under the musical direction of Felix Korobov. Danced by Natalia Kleimenova as Cinderella, Denis Dmitriev as the handsome Prince, with Maria Bek as an inspired, light and airy Fairy, this is a performance that pleases both purists and more adventurous ballet lovers. Dress up, take the kids and have a thoroughly delightful evening.

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko
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CONCERT Sunday Jazz Brunch

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The Jazz Club Essé has the perfect solution for everyone feeling the financial pinch after the long, indulgent holidays: no cover jazz performances with seriously discounted food and drink. On Sunday, take in the Peter Vostokov Big Jazz Orchestra over brunch. Vostokov, known as Peter the Great among jazz fans, plays the kind of jazz that calls to mind the big bands of Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Benny Goodman. He even has the same classic musician count: five on sax, three on trumpet, three on trombone and five in the rhythm section. He’s got the baton and his wife, Darya Antonova, does the vocals. Chill.

Jazz Club Essé

jazzesse.ru

27 Ulitsa Pyatnitskaya, Bldg. 3a

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Sun. Jan. 15, 3 p.m.

CONCERT Swan Lake

140th anniversary performance

On Wed. Jan. 18, the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall will be the venue for the 140th anniversary of the first performance of “Swan Lake.” Composed by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, the romantic tale of enchanted princesses, a handsome prince and a test of fidelity has been favorite of ballet and music-lovers. This performance is of the music alone played by the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra and conducted by the accomplished and emotional Vladimir Fedoseyev. Given the anniversary, it promises to be a stellar event.

Tchaikovsky Concert Hall

meloman.ru/concert/p-chajkovskij-lebedinoo-ozero

31/4 Tverskaya Ulitsa.

Metro Mayakovskaya

Wed. Jan. 18, 7 p.m.

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

GET
YOUR
TICKETS
NOW!

Roma Aeterna: Masterpieces of the Vatican Pinacotheca is this season’s must-see exhibition in Moscow. The rare works — about 10 percent of the priceless Vatican collection — are showcased at the Tretyakov Gallery in specially designed rooms that make it seem like you are stepping into the heart of Rome. The trick is getting tickets. A final batch of tickets goes on sale online and at the gallery ticket office on Thurs. Jan 12. Drop the paper and start ordering.

10 Lavrushinsky Pereulok, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or ticket.tretyakovgallery.ru/en/billboard/view/1