

# EDINBURGH FESTIVALS 2014

## List of events from/about Russia and neighbouring countries

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### 5-20 April: Edinburgh International Science Festival

#### **5-7 April: From Russia with Science**

The All-Russia Science Festival joins us for the first time with an interactive offering from a band of intrepid Russian students. Take everyday materials, look at them a bit differently and see what fun games and cute –

but smart! –

toys emerge. Get jiggy with non-Newtonian

fluids, move computer objects with your voice and learn what snakes and woodpeckers are

doing here... Fire a vortex cannon, bottle a tornado and even create your very own black hole.

You might even get an All-Russia Science Festival award in the process!

Drop-in

workshop 9.30am-4.30pm at the City Art Centre. Suitable for all ages

Presented by the All-Russia Science Festival

#### **Monday 7 April: Urban Garden (of Eden)**

Since we first daubed the walls of caves, humans have decorated the world around them with images of animals and plants that express a plethora of ideas. From wild animals signifying everything from time, space or death to sending messages of glory or power, to contemporary cities full of plants, flowers or fruit as expressions of joy, abundance, mystery or even humour. Author, researcher and lecturer, Dr Olga Zinovieva of Lomonosov Moscow State University, shares her love of and expertise in urban development and symbolism and reveals how contemporary cities have their own ways of sculpting the biodiversity around us.

5.30pm (90 mins) · £8/£6, student offer £4. Summerhall, Cairns Lecture Theatre

In association with the All-Russia Science Festival

## **18-29 June: Edinburgh International Film Festival**

### **22, 25 June: 40 Days of Silence (Chilla)**

Saodat Ismailova / Uzbekistan, Netherlands, France, Germany / 2014 / 88 mins

Rukhshona Sattarova, Barohat Shukurova, Saodat Rahimova, Farida Olimova

A coming-of-age story told as a mystical journey into the female psyche of four generations. In rural Tajikistan, young Bibicha takes a vow of silence for forty days and retreats to her grandmother's house, which she shares with cousin and her divorced aunt. In the total absence of men, the four women struggle with the ghosts of a long tradition that haunts them. This unique film offers a mesmerising, metaphysical and dreamlike look into the realities of womanhood, enriched with ethnographic accuracy and a strong social context. [12A]

### **22, 26 June: The Owners (Ukkylikamshat)**

Adilkhan Yerzhanov / Kazakhstan / 2014 / 93 mins

Yerbolat Yerzhan, Aidyn Sakhaman, Aliya Zainalova, Bauyrzhan Kaptagai, Nurbek Mukushev, Murat Makhan

A humble country house is the object of violent struggle in a lawless land. After their mother's death, three siblings -an ex-convict, an aspiring actor, and their younger sister -come from the city to a benighted region of rural Kazakhstan to claim the house they have inherited. They meet with violent opposition from a former tenant of the house and his gang. The cheerfully corrupt local police and the indifferent government authorities are of no help. Deadpan tragicomic absurdism in Rembrandt light from Adilkhan Yerzhanov (Constructors, EIFF 2013), an insightful chronicler of post-Soviet reality. [15]

### **22, 27 June: Kool Kin-dza-dza (Ku! Kin-dza-dza)**

Georgiy Daneliya, Tatiana Ilyina / Russia / 2013 / 90 mins

Nikolai Gubenko, Ivan Tsekhmistrenko, Andrey Leonov, Aleksey Kolgan, Georgiy Daneliya

Superb traditional animation merges The Wizard of Oz with Terry Gilliam's Brazil.

Two unlikely bedfellows, a classical cellist and an aspiring DJ, find themselves transported from Moscow to the alien world of Pluke, where they navigate a dystopian alien culture in a quest to return home. Georgian director Georgiy Daneliya revisits his 1986 live-action, cult sci-fi feature Kin-dza-dza, reimagining it in glorious drawn animation maintaining the charm and surrealism of the comedic original. Once a satire on the 1980s Soviet Union, it proves an interesting reinterpretation for the 21st century. [PG]

### **22 June: Cathedrals of Culture [3D]**

Karim Aïnouz, Michael Glawogger, Michael Madsen, Robert Redford, Wim Wenders, Margreth Olin / Germany / 2014 / 165 mins

If buildings could talk, what would they say about us?

This 3D project from six acclaimed filmmakers allows six iconic and very different buildings to speak for themselves. Bringing their own visual styles and artistic approaches to the project, the directors examine architecture as the material manifestation of human thought and action. The six buildings are the Berlin Philharmonic, the National Library of Russia, Halden Prison in Norway (called the world's most humane prison), the Salk Institute in coastal California, the futuristic Oslo Opera House and the Centre Pompidou, each a guardian of our collective memory. [PG]

### **23, 28 June: Blind Dates (Shemtkhveviti paemnebi)**

Levan Koguashvili / Georgia / 2013 / 99 mins

Andro Sakvarelidze, Ia Sukhitashvili, Archil Kikodze, Vakhtang Chachanidze, Kakhi Kavsadze, Marina Kartsivadze

An enchanting melancholic comedy with a big heart. Sandro, a poker-faced history teacher in his forties, is still a bachelor despite the constant matchmaking efforts of his parents and his best friend, Ivan. Everything changes when he falls for Manana, a married woman whose husband is about to be released from jail. Unfolding unpredictably during a blind date in which nothing is what it seems to be, this bittersweet comedy paints a gentle portrait of a good-hearted man constantly caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. [12A]

**Short films:**

**21, 23 June: City and Wilderness.** An interrogation of the artistic and political context of the cities and landscapes of our everyday lives.

Programme includes:

Winter (Zima). Cristina Picchi / Russia / 2013 / 13 min

**27 June: Commodification – Appropriation.** Ten short films combining political questioning with ironic humour.

Programme includes:

Songdo Prophecy. Emilija Skarnulyte/Norway, Lithuania / 2014 / 11 min

The Shadow of Your Smile. Alexei Dmitriev / Russia / 2014 / 3 min

**29 June: International Animation 2: The Universe in a Frame.** An anthology of animation from around the earth.

Programme includes:

Non-Euclidean Geometry. Skirmanta Jakait?, Solveiga Masteikait? / Lithuania / 2013 / 11 min

There is also a Russian short film, **Anna Yankovskaya's "Goodman"** in the Edinburgh Short Film Festival programme at Summerhall on June 13

### **8-31 August: Edinburgh International Festival**

**Friday 8 August:** Opening Concert. Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Programme includes Scriabin's "Prometheus - The Poem of Fire" with piano soloist Russian-born **Kirill Gerstein**.

#### **Saturday 9 - Monday 11 August: The War. [UK-Russia Year of Culture event](#)**

Chekhov International Theatre Festival / SounDrama Studio

Directed by Vladimir Pankov, Libretto Irina Lyachagina

Performed in Russian with English supertitles

A co-production between the Chekhov International Theatre Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival

1913. A group of young people celebrate Christmas in Paris. They share interests, a love for the arts and a deep aversion to common morals. An international circle of poets and artists, they wish to establish new trends in painting and literature, believing that Beauty will save the world. One of the hottest topics of conversation is war. Some think any war is the greatest catastrophe, while others think war is a necessary evil, destroying old ideas and ideals, clearing the way for new ones. When war becomes a painful and terrifying reality less than a year later, they are forced to drastically re-examine their principles and beliefs. Through his innovative 'sound drama' technique, where music, movement and rhythm heighten the dramatic action, Russian director Vladimir Pankov's new production explores the deep psychological and physical impact of war and of how through art we can help provide a vision for the future.

*'Pankov possesses a unique ability to hear literature and the world around him as a universe of sounds' Russkaya Gazeta*

#### **Sunday 17 August: Shostakovich's Leningrad Symphony**

7.30pm Usher Hall

I, CULTURE Orchestra conducted by Kirill Karabits

Panufnik: Sinfonia elegiaca

Shostakovich: Symphony No 7 'Leningrad'

Founded in 2011 by Poland's Adam Mickiewicz Institute, the I, CULTURE Orchestra brings together exceptional young musicians from the former Soviet and Eastern Bloc states of Poland, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Under the charismatic young Ukrainian conductor Kirill Karabits, the orchestra performs two immensely powerful symphonies that cry out against the brutality of war.

Shostakovich wrote his impassioned 'Leningrad' Symphony during the gruelling 900-day Nazi siege of the city, and its thrillingly dramatic music for a spectacularly huge orchestra has come to symbolise the triumph of the human spirit in times of conflict. The lyrical Sinfonia elegiaca by Polish-born composer Andrzej Panufnik is a poignant expression of consolation for all victims of war.

*'There's no doubting the orchestra's amazing verve and enthusiasm' The Arts Desk*

*Karabits: 'an energising presence' The Daily Telegraph*

#### **Sunday 24 August: Come and See**

5pm, the Hub

"War on Film" programme

Dir. Elem Klimov 1985 / 142 mins / 15

Come and See is a psychological thriller set during the Nazi occupation of the Belorussian SSR. A young boy finds an air rifle and joins the Soviet Army and is thrust into the atrocities of war.

#### **Thursday 28 - Saturday 30 August: Les Troyens [UK-Russia Year of Culture event](#)**

Libretto by Hector Berlioz after Virgil

Mariinsky Opera conducted by Valery Gergiev. Director Yannis Kokkos. 5pm, Festival Theatre

Sung in French with English supertitles

Love and war; obedience and loyalty; fate and freedom. Berlioz's visionary *Les Troyens* is opera on an epic scale, and deals with some of mankind's profoundest questions in a work of exceptional power and sensual lyricism. From the Trojans' dutiful acceptance of the famous wooden horse into their besieged city through to Enée's flight to Carthage and beyond, the opera presents an awe-inspiring vision of the ancient world, in music both monumental and intimate, glittering and solemn. *Les Troyens* shows Berlioz at the height of his dramatic powers, in a work whose scale and ambition approach those of Wagner's Ring cycle. Valery Gergiev conducts the exceptional performers of his Mariinsky Opera, last heard in the acclaimed production of Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten* at Festival 2011, in a spectacular, colourful production by the celebrated Greek-born director Yannis Kokkos.

*'the Mariinsky Orchestra gleamed with typical warmth and radiance'* *TimeOut, New York*  
*'Gergiev's performance was charged with intensity'* *The New York Times*

**Saturday 30 August:** Daniil Trifonov. Piano at the Queen's Hall

*Stravinsky: Serenade in A*

*Ravel: 'Noctuelles', 'Oiseaux tristes', 'Une barque sur l'océan' and 'Alborada del gracioso' from Miroirs*

*Liszt: 12 Transcendental Studies*

Famed for his pyrotechnic playing, and for his effortless poetic pianism, multi-award-winning young Russian virtuoso Daniil Trifonov brings The Queen's Hall 2014 concerts to a thrilling conclusion, having gripped Festival audiences for the past two years with his expressive intensity and bold insights. He returns with a recital combining breathtaking virtuosity with sublime poetry. Birdsong, marine evocations and Spanish fireworks all feature in Ravel's exquisite piano suite *Miroirs*, while Liszt's *Transcendental Studies* push a performer's technical abilities to their limits in richly Romantic music, full of tempestuous brilliance and emotional intensity. Trifonov opens his recital with the neo-Classical elegance of Stravinsky's festive *Serenade in A*.

*'A remarkable pianist with a fearless and magnetic stage presence'* *The Scotsman, Festival 2013*  
*'Technique, musicianship: Daniil Trifonov has it all'* *The Seattle Times*

## 1-25 August: Edinburgh Festival Fringe

### **31 July - 24 August: Animal Farm.** Drama / Physical theatre

Orwell's satirical masterpiece staged by Georgia's premier theatre company. Olivier Award winner Guy Masterson directs a cast of thirty in an epic new production of stunning physicality. From the home state of Josef Stalin, the world famous Tumanishvili Film Actors Theatre poignantly recreates the barnyard satire that exposes his totalitarian abuses. 'The richness and beauty of the Georgian theatre tradition shines through' (Scotsman on Tumanishvili Film Actors Theatre). In Georgian with subtitles.

Assembly George Square Theatre. [Theatre Tours International / Tumanishvili](#)

### **7-10, 12-25 August: Igor Meerson: Hou I lernt inglish**

Edinburgh Festival's first Russian stand-up ever. Igor ruins the stereotypes about Russia and discovers stereotypes about Britain and the West. Igor tells about his childhood in the Soviet Union, life in modern Russia and internationally. One of GQ's 'Five new faces of Russian humour' - don't miss the chance to see the Yuri Gagarin of Russian Comedy! 'Meerson is a wonderful comedian. He is the wise and funny Grandmother you always wanted. And he can shrug using only his face. Go see him or he will find you and complain. Bring soup' (Dylan Moran).

Pleasance Courtyard

### **19-25 August: merry christmas, Ms Meadows.** Theatre

Internationally acclaimed and fearlessly inventive Belarus Free Theatre (2013 Impatto Totale Award and 2011 Fringe First Award winners) return to Edinburgh with a brand new production which challenges the roles of identity, gender and sexuality in the world today. Using first degree research from Africa, Asia, Europe and America, in areas where to be different is often comparable to a criminal act, Merry Christmas, Ms Meadows draws on real life stories to create an original and arresting piece of theatre.

Belarus Free Theatre at Pleasance Dome

### **10-24 August: No Way Back (Net Dorogi Nazad).** TRU Theatre. **CANCELLED**

### **31 July - 25 August: Otar Imerlishvili.** Art exhibition.

Georgian artist Otar Imerlishvili's work is beautifully evocative with traditional influences perfectly underpinning his unique, personal style. The fine detail of his painting is particularly engaging, and combined with his gentle humour ensures a very wide appeal.

Assembly Roxy.

### **18-25 August: The Human Voice.** Theatre

She was left face to face with the brutal truth - she is no longer loved and is abandoned. What can you do if you love somebody with every particle of your body? Without him, the air she breathes suffocates her... A phone call ... breathe... On the other end of the phone is the voice of her lover. Still she can live, breathe. Another call - one more breath ... and then, on the phone just short beeps...

Moscow Armenian Theatre at Spotlites@Merchants Hall.

### **31 July - 24 August: The Thistle.** Musical. **CANCELLED**

### **18-24 August: Valery Ponomarev Quartet.** Jazz

In from New York (via Moscow!) the world famous bop trumpet star escaped from 70s Cold-War USSR, got to NYC, then toured the World with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers for four years. Catch this high-energy, top-drawer five-piece!

**23 August: Ksenia Semenova.** Harpsichord concert

Ksenia Semenova, winner of the prestigious 2013 Volkonsky International Harpsichord Competition in Moscow, makes her St Cecilia's debut in a bravura recital of major keyboard works by great contemporaries born in 1685. After contrasting JS Bach's luminous Partita BWV 828 in D major with his dramatic Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, she will present a Handel suite in a richly embellished version by Gottlieb Muffat, representative of the kind of ornamentation baroque musicians were expected to supply. A set of virtuoso sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti will complete her sparkling programme. The Friends of St Cecilia's gratefully acknowledge the support of the Keyboard Charitable Trust in making possible the visit of this exceptional young artist.

*3pm St Cecilia's Hall, Edinburgh. St Cecilia's Hall is situated at the junction of Niddry Street and Cowgate in Edinburgh's Old Town. It is a beautiful small 18th century concert hall, with historic musical instruments on display in the same building.*

*Fringe productions with a Russian theme include:*

**15% of the Seagull** (based on Chekhov). Comedy / Drama. Mayer and Martin at Spotlights@Merchants Hall.

**A Quartet of Chekhov Farces.** Theatre. Magdalen College School at theSpace on the Mile.

**A Space Dogyssey.** Musical. Double Edge Drama at the Gilded Balloon

**Government Inspector** (Gogol adaptation). Theatre. Incognito Theatre with the Pleasance at Pleasance Courtyard.

**Government Inspector** (Gogol adaptation). Theatre. Sedos at Pleasance ZOO.

**I Killed Rasputin.** Theatre. Avalon Promotions at Assembly George Square Theatre.

**The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union.** Drama. The Lincoln Company at C Venues/c-cubed

**The Curing Room.** Drama/Horror. Stripped Down Productions at Pleasance Dome

**The Duel** (Chekhov). Drama. Mundana Companhia at Venue150@EICC

**The Waste Land Sisters** (Chekhov and TS Eliot). Theatre. The Basement Company at Summerhall.

**To Chekhov with Love.** Theatre. Syracuse University at Quaker Meeting House.

## 9-25 August: Edinburgh International Book Festival

### **Friday 15 August: Celebrating Lermontov. New Translations of an Old Master**

Descended from Scottish ancestry and hugely influenced by Walter Scott, Mikhail Lermontov is viewed as one of Russia's greatest poets. This bicentenary year sees publication of newly translated poems. Join translators Peter France, Rose France and Alexander Hutchison to explore the intricacies of transforming a literary great's work into English and Scots. Chaired by Robyn Marsack, director of the Scottish Poetry Library.

### **Saturday 16 August: Amnesty International Imprisoned Writers Series. Russia**

The break-up of the Soviet Union was supposed to mean greater freedom for Russians, but President Putin's regime has placed freedom of expression at risk for the country's writers, journalists and bloggers. Scottish PEN looks at voices from the region with readings from some of our Festival authors.

### **Sunday 17 August: Masha Gessen & Richard Sakwa. The Power of Putin**

The crisis in Ukraine has seen Russia flexing its muscles on the global stage. Masha Gessen, author of *Words Will Break Cement*, and Richard Sakwa, author of *Putin and the Oligarch*, have unprecedented insight into the country, and its domineering leader Vladimir Putin. They explore the relationships between politics, power, money and military. Is resistance futile? How can Russia and the West respond to these challenges to democracy?

### **Friday 22 August: Hamid Ismailov & Cynan Jones. The Opposite of Nature Writing?**

When a boy in Soviet Kazakhstan dives into a lake to impress a girl, he doesn't realise the water is radioactive. Now, the boy will never grow into a man. Hamid Ismailov's haunting novella *The Dead Lake* is part-fairy tale, part horrific history. Equally powerful is Cynan Jones' *The Dig*. Set in rural Wales, it's a moving, elemental story of badger-baiting and of humans' complex relationship with the land.

### **Sunday 24 August: Oliver Bullough & Sigrid Rausing. Realities of Soviet Russia**

In publishing magnate Sigrid Rausing's memoir, *Everything is Wonderful*, she documents her time living in an Estonian collectivised farm in the 90s. Oliver Bullough's *The Last Man in Russia* follows in the footsteps of a 60s dissident Orthodox priest, whose diaries offer an insight into the collapse of communism. Both offer fascinating perspectives on the complex and troubled history of the Soviet era.

### **Monday 25 August: Simon Schama. Jews in the Modern World**

The leading British historian joins us in Edinburgh to launch the second volume of his acclaimed and controversial *The Story of the Jews*. Subtitled *When Words Fail*, it's a book that bravely brings the Jewish story up to date. From the prison cells of Stalin's Russia to today's reality of the situation in Israel and Palestine, Schama searches for hope in the modern Jewish story. Chaired by Ruth Wishart.

## **BAILLIE GIFFORD CHILDRENS PROGRAMME**

### **Wednesday 20 August: Writing to Win: The Pushkin Prizes with Gill Arbuthnott**

10-11am, Baillie Gifford Main Theatre. Suitable for P6-S2

It's absolutely fine just to write for yourself, but what if you want to reach a wider audience? How can you get some valuable feedback about how you're doing? You could try entering a competition such as the Pushkin Prizes, a special writing contest just for school pupils. In this event, author Gill Arbuthnott offers advice, tips and tricks you can try in your own writing to help you make your words worthy of winning a prize.



### **10-12 August: Edinburgh International Culture Summit**

Culture Ministers and leading arts and culture experts from across the world are set to gather in Edinburgh from 10 – 12 August 2014 for the 2nd Edinburgh International Culture Summit titled '*Culture – A Currency of Trust*'.

### 31 July-31 August: Edinburgh Art Festival

#### 1 August – 26 September: Caroline McNairn: Dreaming of heroic days

Summerhall

This exhibition celebrates Caroline McNairn's (1955-2010) year spent painting in Russia and Ukraine. This was the culmination of a historic cultural exchange between Scotland and the former USSR organised by Andrew Brown, director of Edinburgh's 396 Gallery and Baroness Smith, then chairman of the Scottish branch of the Britain-Russia Society. McNairn's painting was profoundly influenced by this cultural intercourse, describing her stay in Moscow as a love affair with the city, and the resulting paintings as the visual equivalent of love poems.

One of the paintings exhibited, *Looking Outside* (now owned by the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art), was exhibited in the ground-breaking exhibition of Scottish painting in Moscow in 1989. Many of the other paintings displayed reflect McNairn's time with the Kievsky Station Group in Russia – paintings which are in McNairn's words "something beautiful for Russia". They portray memories of the eclectic Moscow skyline - onion domes and Stalinist skyscrapers fractured by time, distance, and the confusion of post-communist disorder.

Presented by Beyond Borders UK and supported by Friends of Caroline McNairn

Mon-Sun 11am-9pm; outside August: Mon-Sun, 11am-6pm

#### 1-31 August: Villa Design Group. The House of Adelaida Ivanovna

Ocean Terminal

Villa Design Group present **The House of Adelaida Ivanovna**, an exhibition of sculptural and scenographic objects providing the set for nightly performances of a new version of **Gogol's drama The Gamblers**. The exhibition and performances will form the third part of a year-long project entitled *The Inauguration of the Russian Season*. Parts one and two will take place in London in spring 2014, with the final part returning to the capital in October.

*The Inauguration of the Russian Season* is dedicated to Villa Design Group's ongoing research into the lost texts of Russian writer Nikolai Gogol and the larger cultural and aesthetic regimes of Tsarist Russia. This line of inquiry continues the group's interest in queer histories, the relationship between objects and subjectivity, the aesthetics of cultural value and the mining of conservative political regimes for new radical potential. Throughout the project, Villa Design Group narrate the process of an architectural competition of proposals for a new library designed to house Gogol's lost texts. In this, the third part of the project, Villa Design Group will re-imagine Gogol's drama and its themes of criminality, homosociality, facades, games, and neurosis as a conference of interior designers discuss the new library. The interior designers present themselves as a cabal of criminals committed to overturning the functional and rhetorical requirements of architecture, whilst trying to find a traitor in their midst; all set within Yves Saint Laurent's faux Russian dacha, where they play cards.

### **Edinburgh Book Fringe**

#### **Sat 17 August, 1pm: Richard Sakwa discusses Putin and the Oligarch: The Khodorkovsky-Yukos Affair**

Richard Sakwa examines Khodorkovsky's arrest, 14 years imprisonment & recent release in a book which offers the full story for the first time.

The arrest of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the head of the Yukos oil company, in October 2003, was a key turning point in modern Russian history. From being one of the world's richest and most powerful men, Khodorkovsky became Putin's prisoner. After two controversial trials, attracting widespread international condemnation (revealing accounts of which feature in the book) Khodorkovsky was sentenced to fourteen years in jail. In this book, Richard Sakwa examines the rise and fall of Yukos and considers the relationship between Putin's state and big business during Russia's traumatic shift from the Soviet planned economy to capitalism, as well as Russia's emergence as an energy superpower. The attack on Khodorkovsky had - and continues to have - far-reaching political and economic consequences but it also raises fundamental questions about the quality of freedom in Putin's Russia as well as in the world at large. In addition the author delves into the writings of Mr. Khodorkovsky in prison which show him to be a thoughtful critic of Russian reality.

Richard Sakwa is Professor of Russian and European Politics and Head of the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent. He is also an Associate Fellow of the Russian and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House and the author of *The Crisis of Russian Democracy*; *Putin: Russia's Choice*; *Communism in Russia*; *Russian Politics and Society*; *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union* and *Gorbachev and his Reforms*.

*Word Power Books, 43-45 West Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DB*

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