

Edinburgh Festivals 2017



21 June-2 July 2017 Edinburgh International Film Festival

Full programme and booking: www.edfilmfest.org.uk.



24, 25 June: **Hostages (Mdzevlebi)**

Dir. Rezo Gigineishvili. 2017. Cert 18. Georgia, Russia, Poland

24 June, 6pm Odeon 2; 25 June, 3.30pm Cineworld

In 1983, a group of young people from socially elite families in Soviet-occupied Georgia planned to escape their closeted world by hijacking a Boeing jet headed to a nearby Russian seaside resort. This powerful and provocative re-telling of their story is an astonishingly thrilling ride from start to finish. Impressively crafted, with authentic period details, and a gripping narrative expertly delivered by a talented ensemble cast, this is a wonderful piece of social commentary told in the style of a truly accomplished thriller.



28, 30 June: **Attraction (Pritayjenie)**

Dir. Fedor Bondarchuk. 2016. Cert 15. Russia

6pm Cineworld both days

A big-budget Russian sci-fi action-drama, *Attraction* (directed with verve by Fedor Bondarchuk) was a massive hit in its home territory. Its combination of action, humour, stunning special effects as well as the story of Yulya, the teen daughter of a Moscow military chief, who bonds with a remarkably hunky alien after his spacecraft is shot down in the city, struck a chord with audiences. It's a blend of *Starman* and *Independence Day*, with a good old moral tale at its core.



29 June, 1 July: **Guardians (Zaschitniki)**

Dir. Sarik Andreasyan. 2017. Cert 15. Russia

29 June, 8.45pm Cineworld

1 July, 11.25pm Filmhouse 1

Looking for a wild and woolly alternative to Marvel superhero action? Look no further than this special effects-driven film about a team of Soviet superheroes, made up of representatives of different nationalities of the old USSR. The team is brought back from hiding to take on a mad scientist who finds a way to control technology and create an army of drones and clones to take over Russia. Look out for one hero who can transform himself into a werebear. A fascinating look at Russian sci-fi entertainment.

**EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL**

4-28 August 2017 Edinburgh International Festival

Full programme: www.eif.co.uk.



9 August: [Mikhail Pletnev, piano recital](#)

11am, The Queen's Hall



17 August: [Benjamin Appl Baritone and Pavel Kolesnikov Piano](#)

Lieder and songs by Schubert, Schumann, Grieg and Matthias Pintscher

11am The Queen's Hall



23 August: [Mariinsky Orchestra and Royal Scottish National Orchestra](#)

Conducted by Valery Gergiev

Prokofiev - Symphony No 1 in D 'Classical'

Britten - Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge

Shostakovich - Symphony No 4

7.30pm Usher Hall



25 August: [Venera Gimadieva and Pavel Nebolsin](#)

Songs and piano music by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Rimsky-Korsakov, Glière, Vlasov and Vasilenko.

11am The Queen's Hall



4-28 August 2017 Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Full programme: www.edfringe.com

DANCE / PHYSICAL THEATRE / CIRCUS

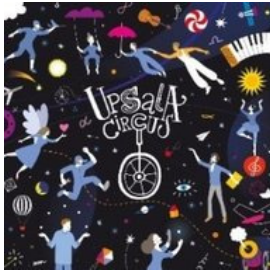


2-13, 15-20, 22-28 August: [Last Clown on Earth](#)

This new show marks the 20th anniversary of Fringe favourite *Derevo's* Fringe debut. This time *Derevo* have been joined by Pawel Semtchenko of internationally renowned AKHE Theatre who has produced the visuals for the piece.

Derevo

5.40pm Pleasance Courtyard (Venue 33)



2-13, 15-20, 22-28 August: [The Ping-Pong Ball Effect](#)

Upsala Circus

2.30pm Pleasance Courtyard (Venue 33)

Read more about Upsala, the brilliant "circus for rebels" from St Petersburg, on their [website](#). We also featured them in the SRF magazine, [Spring 2014 issue](#), and are delighted to see them in Edinburgh at last!



14-19, 21-26 August: [On This Side of Time](#)

Alyona Ageeva Physical Theatre PosleSlov
times vary, SpaceTriplex (Venue 38)

COMEDY



3-13, 15-27 August: [Abi Roberts - Anglichanka](#)

18.40, Underbelly, Cowgate (Venue 61)



3-13, 15-27 August: [Digital Fart from the Neo-Archaic Futureland](#)

Oleg Denisov the Fringe's first alternative comedian

11am, Just The Tonic at the Caves (Venue 88)

Free

CHILDREN'S SHOWS



5, 6 August: [Light Puppet Show](#)

Nikolai Zykov Theatre

11.05am, C venues – C (Venue 34)



17-23 August: [Farolero. Magic Street Adventure](#)

A walking city tour with the elements of sightseeing, theatre performance and quest performed in in English, Spanish & Russian. Suitable for all ages

9pm, Car park at the Scottish National Gallery on the Mound.

MUSIC



14 August: [The Russian Revolution](#)

Michael Mofidian (bass-baritone), Michael Foyle (violin) and Maksim Stsura (piano)

A programme of British and Russian songs of love and loss marking the centenary of the Russian Revolution, with music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Sergei Prokofiev. Conceived and devised by Ian McFarlane, produced and funded by McFarlane Productions.

4.30pm St Andrew's and St George's West, George St (Venue 111)

16 August: [19th-21st Century Song Recital](#)

Michael Mofidian Bass-Baritone and Keval Shah Piano

A programme of Finnish, German, English, Scottish and Russian 19th to 21st-century songs conceived and devised by Ian McFarlane, produced and funded by McFarlane Productions. Part of the baroque to 21st-century recital series.

2.30pm St Andrew's and St George's West, George St (Venue 111)



most dates 4-26 August: [Misha's Gang](#)
4-12 August, 5.30pm [SpaceTriplex \(Venue 38\)](#)
14-26 August, 2.45pm [theSpace @ Surgeons Hall \(Venue 53\)](#)



24-28 August: [Valery Ponomarev. The Messenger](#)
10pm The Jazz Bar (Venue 57)

THEATRE



14-15 August: [Re: A Midsummer Night's Dream](#)
Shakespearia Land (Russia)
11.30am C venues – C primo (Venue 41)

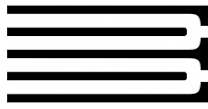


14-26 August: [Maklena](#)
World premiere of the English translation of a play by Ukrainian author Mykola Kulish.
Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club
3.05pm theSpace @ Venue45 (Venue 45)

CABARET



5-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-27 August: [Russian Roulette](#)
Shantisha and Ivan
6.35pm Liquid Room Annexe (Venue 276)



Edinburgh
International
Book Festival

12-28 August 2017

Edinburgh International Book Festival

Full programme: www.edbookfest.co.uk



12 August: Tariq Ali - [Revolutionary Road](#)

In *The Dilemmas of Lenin*, Tariq Ali re-evaluates the challenges faced by the leader of the Russian Revolution and asks: What is the moral justification for seizing power? Is terrorism ever a useful tactic? How do you build a legacy that lasts? Chaired by Stuart Kelly.

10.30-11.30am, Studio Theatre



16 August: Pam Wardell - [Soviet Dissident's Secret Love](#)

In *A Very Private Affair*, Pam Wardell tells a story she only recently uncovered about what her aunt Speranza meant to Russian dissident writer Boris Pilniak, who was executed in 1938.

12.15-1.15pm, Baillie Gifford Corner Theatre



16 August: Simon Ings and Victor Sebestyen - [Genius and Folly](#)

The political and the personal of two Russian leaders. Victor Sebestyen focuses on the women who were in thrall to Lenin: his wife Nadezhda Krupskaya and his mistress Inessa Armand, while Simon Ings traces how Stalin co-opted the best scientists in the Soviet Union and put them to work in the service of his personal obsessions. Chaired by Viv Groskop.

2-3pm, Studio Theatre



16 August: Angus Roxburgh - [From Russia with Amazing Stories](#)

The acclaimed foreign correspondent Angus Roxburgh has seen many aspects of Moscow in both its communist and post-Soviet Union states. But one thing connects the two eras: the vast country has thrown up some crazy stories. Thankfully Roxburgh has been there to capture them. In *Moscow Calling*, he tells all. Chaired by Allan Little.

5-6pm, Baillie Gifford Main Theatre



17 August: Jonathan Miles: [Matroshka City Stories](#)

Cultural historian Jonathan Miles explores 300 years of Saint Petersburg featuring murder, massacre and madness as well as art, love and business. Chaired by Viv Groskop.

11am-12pm, Garden Theatre



20 August: Anna Pasternak: [Inspiration for Doctor Zhivago](#)

Anna Pasternak explores the true love story that inspired *Doctor Zhivago*. Boris Pasternak's muse, literary journalist Olga Ivanskaya, was twice sent to Siberian labour camps because of her love for him. Find out more about one of the last century's great literary romances. Chaired by Viv Groskop.
3.45-4.45pm, Studio Theatre



20 August: Peter Conradi: [Is Russia Lost for Good?](#)

Peter Conradi, the Sunday Times foreign editor and co-author of *The King's Speech*, argues that our basic misunderstanding of what Russia had turned into during the 1990s has led to the cult of Putin and the freezing over of relations. Chaired by Phil Harding.
7.15-8.15pm, Studio Theatre



Tues 22 August: [Mayakovsky in the Spotlight](#)

Discussion and performance of Mayakovsky's work by Rosy Carrick and others.
7-8pm, Baillie Gifford Corner Theatre



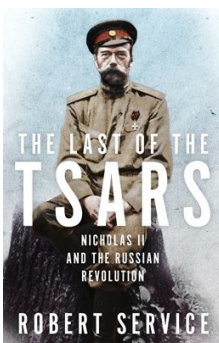
27 August: Steve Smith: [European Revolution](#)

Drawing upon newly opened archives and research from Russian historians into the long-term effects of the Bolshevik uprising, Steve Smith analyses how this social, economic and political transformation dramatically altered the lives of everyone from peasants to military personnel and the religious to non-Russians.
11am-12pm, Garden Theatre



19-21 October 2017 Festival of Politics

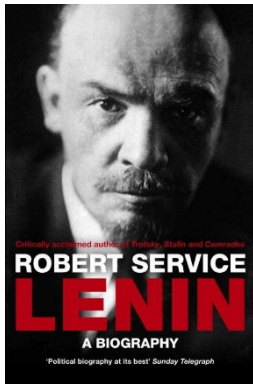
<http://festivalofpolitics.scot>



Sat 21 October: [The Romanovs. Rise and Decline of a Dynasty](#)

In 1917, the Bolsheviks came to power and Tsar Nicholas II lost his reign, freedom and ultimately along with his immediate family, his life. The brutal execution of the Romanovs concluded a 300-year-old imperial dynasty of absolute power. Join our panel including Professor Robert Service, historian and author of *The Last of the Tsars* (2017); and authors Virginia Rounding and Dr Wendy Slater, as they debate the achievements and failings of the infamous dynasty.
Scottish Parliament.

Participants: Professor Robert Service, Virginia Rounding, Dr Wendy Slater



Sat 21 October: [Lenin's 21st Century Revolution](#)

Do the revolutionary concepts of the Russian communist, revolutionary, politician and political theorist, Vladimir Lenin, have any significance for a 21st century global capitalist world? Does Lenin's theory on politics being concentrated economics still resonate today and can imperial wars ever be supported or the seizing of power justified?

Join our panel including Professor Robert Service, University of Oxford, historian and author; and Dr Katy Turton, Queen's University Belfast, as they discuss Lenin's legacy in the 21st century.

Scottish Parliament

Participants: Professor Robert Service, Dr Katy Turton