

Edinburgh Festivals 2015



17-28 June Edinburgh International Film Festival

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

Waterloo 18 June



Sergei Bondarchuk / Italy, Soviet Union / 1970

Rod Steiger, Christopher Plummer, Orson Welles, Jack Hawkins, Virginia McKenna / Fiction / English, Russian

A screening of the classic film to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

EIFF, in partnership with The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, present a special screening of Sergei Bondarchuk's 1970 film *Waterloo*, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

Come and mark this historic anniversary with special guests from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, the regiment that fought at the Battle and is now based in Edinburgh Castle.

The Gulls (Чайки) 18, 20 June



Ella Manzheeva / Russia / 2015

*Russian, Kalmyk
Edinburgh Filmhouse
UK premiere*

Stuck in a loveless marriage to a local fisherman, only fear of the unknown keeps Elza from walking away. Then fate takes a hand... A modern parable, exploring one woman's inner struggle with duty, love, loneliness and tradition, set against the beautiful, desolate backdrop of Kalmykia, a remote south-westerly Russian republic. A very rare cinema outing from this part of the world, and a striking, atmospheric debut of considerable promise, imbued with a deep sense of foreboding.



7-31 August Edinburgh International Festival

Full programme: www.eif.co.uk.

Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring 30 August



Usher Hall

London Symphony Orchestra

Valery Gergiev Conductor

Yefim Bronfman Piano

Bartók *The Miraculous Mandarin*

Bartók *Piano Concerto No 3*

Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring*

www.eif.co.uk/2015/riteofspring

The Festival's Honorary President, Valery Gergiev, and the outstanding London Symphony Orchestra bring the Festival's Usher Hall concerts to a thrilling conclusion with music by two of the 20th century's most dazzling, vibrant composers. US-based pianist Yefim Bronfman is one of the most commanding, influential pianists performing today, and he is the soloist in Bartók's magical *Third Piano Concerto*, combining serene spiritual reflection and unforgettable earthy melodies. The same composer's blazing ballet score *The Miraculous Mandarin* opens the concert with vivid, provocative storytelling and some of the composer's grandest music. Gergiev closes the performance with the unstoppable rhythms and searing orchestral colours of Stravinsky's history-changing *The Rite of Spring*.



7-31 August Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Full programme and booking: www.edfringe.com

Animotion Show 14-29 August



Genre: performance art, music

Suitability: U

Venue: George Heriot's School Quad (Venue 316)

Group: Maria Rud, Evelyn Glennie and others

Website: www.auroranova.org/animotion

'A mesmerising visual and aural feast' (Scotsman). The live chemistry between renowned virtuoso percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie and acclaimed Russian visual artist Maria Rud delivers a sound and image fusion that is truly unforgettable. Maria's evolving paintings are beamed live, by projection artist Ross Ashton, onto the walls of the quadrangle of George Heriot's School – a 17th-century architectural gem revealed for the first time to Festival audiences. Rebecca Tavener, David Heath and DJ Dolphin Boy will join Evelyn and Maria for selected shows. Full programme information available at www.auroranova.org.

Special offers for Animotion from the [Aurora Nova box office](#):

** SRF members only: tickets £12 for full members of SRF. Ask for "SRF member discount" when booking.

** Group discount: £12 per ticket for a group of 10.

Booking contact: Belinda Murphy belinda@auroranova.org

Baba Yaga 3-16 August, 2.30pm



Genre: children's shows

Suitability: U (age 2-10)

Venue: Duddingston Kirk Manse Gardens (Venue 121)

Group: Theatre Alba

Website www.theatrealba.com

Adapted from a Russian folk tale, this outdoor promenade production, with singalong music and

audience participation for children of all ages, tells the eternal story of how good can overcome evil. Magical. Music composed by John Sampson. This is an outdoor performance which covers some hilly footpaths. Wear appropriate footwear and dress for the vagaries of the Scottish weather. Teas available.

This will be accompanied by an exhibition of children's pictures from the recent SRF "Find out about Russia" competition. Details in [Exhibitions](#).

Bloody East Europeans 25-29 August, 6.30pm



Genre: theatre

Suitability: PG

Venue: Quaker Meeting House (Venue 40)

Group: Molodyi Teatr (London-based Ukrainians)

Website: <https://molodyiteatr.wordpress.com>

Everybody knows that all the UK's problems are caused by Eastern European immigrants with funny names and an annoying habit of working too hard. But who exactly are these people? What do they want from us? Featuring mean gangsters, glamorous ladies, romantic bricklayers and professional toilet scrubbers, Bloody East Europeans combines comedy, tragedy, Red Army songs, Ukrainian folk ballads and 70s disco hits to tell you everything you ever wanted to know about these strange and unpronounceable people. Performed by the Molodyi Teatr, a London-based Ukrainian company. Comes with a free lesson in Eastern European.

Colors 6-10, 12-16, 18-22 August, 4.05pm



Genre: children's shows

Suitability: U (age 4 and older)

Venue: Spotlites, 22 Hanover St (Venue 278)

Group: Theatre Courage, Russia

Website: www.colorsshow.com

In the studio of a painter, miraculously the colors revive, and he, together with kids, is going to create a picture using live colors. Everything goes smoothly until the colors start arguing which one is the best among them. What color will the kids choose? And what is the painter decision? You'll find out at the end of the show! Vivid, colorful, musical, dance-acrobatic, interactive, family show Colors will give you and your kids unforgettable impression, that won't leave you indifferent to genuine values: friendship, tolerance, equality of rights, understanding and, undoubtedly, love to the world.

Contemporary? 17-22 August, 9.55am



Genre: Dance, Physical Theatre and Circus

Suitability: U

Venue: SpaceTriplex (Venue 38)

Group: Arts Printing House, Lithuania

Website: <http://menuspaustuve.lt/en/>

A good parody has to have to have four elements: it must make the audience laugh, surprise them with the plot, be better and show higher

quality than the original, and the parody cannot become a mockery or public exposé. Contemporary? matches all of these criteria. This is probably the first time in Lithuania that three artists have cooperated to create a performance that looks at the Lithuanian contemporary dance scene with a self-ironic glance, quoting cliché movements, phrases and even costume details.

For Big Boys Only 7,9,11-15,18-22,25-28,30 August, times vary



Genre: Cabaret, Variety
Suitability: 16+
Venue: Just Festival at St John's (Venue 127)
Group: Nastya Rybachuk, Russia
Online: [Youtube](#), [@nasty_rybka](#)

Nastya writes pop-art poems using the language that people speak today at home, on the street, in offices, pubs, bedrooms and on social networks. Nastya's poetry is of a great interest to a generation living in an era of the gradual blurring of borders between written and oral communication. Provocatively honest, her poems inspire deep reflection. Much of Nastya's material contains sexual innuendos and references that ridicule the common fears, complexes and stereotypes of today's society.

Puzzle 17-22 August, 9.15am



Genre: Children's show
Suitability: PG (0-3)
Venue: SpaceTriplex (Venue 38)
Group: Dance Theatre Dansema, Lithuania
Website: www.dansema.lt/en/

Puzzle is a performance created with deep wisdom, taking infants step by step towards the joy of cognition. How does the world look to a small child? Is it round and yellow, or a blue square? Maybe green, soft and hollow? Children's knowledge of the world around them begins with a variety of geometric shapes (cube, sphere, cone) and colours (green, red, yellow, blue, orange). Lithuanian choreographer Birute Baneviciute puts these coloured shapes together as a puzzle of children's developmental stages. Dancers crawl, creep and bounce, accompanied by specially created music suitable for children aged 0 to 3.

Shake'n'Shimmy 7-31 August, 10.15pm



Genre: belly dance and juggling
Suitability: 16+
Venue: Tron Kirk (venue 398)
Group: Shantisha
Website: <http://shantisha.wix.com/four-seasons> and [Facebook](#)
Tickets: Good news! The show is on the La Favourita Freestival programme. Which means it is a FREE show!
20 and 27 Aug, 11pm, duration 1 hour.

Biog: A belly dancer since the age of 13 and a dance teacher since 15, Shantisha runs her own dance

and theatre company in Russia. She loves to experiment with different styles of dance and has even mastered juggling in order to add yet another twist to her unique dance technique!
Show blurb: An unforgettable evening of belly dancing, both traditional and experimental.
Enthralling, provocative, magical!

[Video link.](#)

Valery Ponomarev Quintet 24-30 August, 10pm



Genre: Jazz

Suitability: 18+

Venue: The Jazz Barr (Venue 57)

Website: www.valeryponomarev.com

The Russian trumpet star escaped from 70s Cold War USSR, got to New York, then toured the World with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers for four years, recording eleven albums. In from New York with a top-notch, high energy five-piece.

You might also like to check out other Fringe events with (some) Russian subject matter or other connection:

[Chekhov with Cherries](#): 'hilarious new musical'

Double Bill by Theatre Alba - ["Smoking is Bad for You" by Chekhov](#) with "Something Unspoken" by Tennessee Williams

[Kursk](#): inspired by the Russian submarine disaster of August 2000

[The Litvinenko Project](#): 2Magpies piece together the day Alexander Litvinenko was poisoned in an aromatic blend of possibility, actuality, fact, and fiction.

[The Overcoat](#): Korean production of Gogol's story, "humourous and moving" and designed for children

[La Meute \(The Wolf Pack\)](#): 'the rarely-seen spectacular circus skill of Russian Swing'

[Marriage](#): Gogol adaptation

[Romanovs](#): Rumours abound of Romanov sightings after their execution in 1918.

[The Good Doctor](#) by Neil Simon, adaptation of Chekhov stories. Theatre Alba

[The Nina Variations](#): tribute to Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*



15-31 August Edinburgh International Book Festival

Full programme and booking: www.edbookfest.co.uk. Booking opens 23 June.

A variety of events this year, mainly on 20 August. Details in chronological order below:

Rosamund Bartlett & Maureen Freely : The Essence of Tolstoy; The Soul of Pamuk 19 Aug 7-8pm



Nowhere are the decisions of the translator more forensically picked over than in a translation of one of the classics. Fortunately, Rosamund Bartlett's new version of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* is the most accomplished of several recent translations. Meanwhile Maureen Freely is best known for her translation of five novels by leading Turkish author, Orhan Pamuk. Both are exceptional translators and today they discuss their craft. Chaired by James Runcie.

Rosamund Bartlett on Anna Karenina 20 Aug 1- 2.30pm

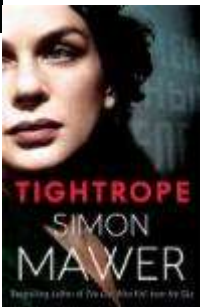


Reading Workshop

In the workshop today translator and biographer Rosamund Bartlett looks at *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy. The novel portrays a beautiful and intelligent woman whose passionate love for a handsome officer sweeps aside all other ties – marriage, friendship and moral values.

Soviet-era self, Cold War Tightrope, have novels about

Simon Mawer & Iain Pears - Cold War, Hot Fiction 20 Aug 10.15am-11.15am



With the Russian state in some ways looking rather like its old the time seems ripe for a return to the stories of yore. So the new thrillers which Iain Pears, with *Arcadia*, and Simon Mawer, with *Tightrope*, written might well be catching a wave. These are dark, compelling identity and deception. Come and meet the authors.

Rory MacLean -



The Quest for New Soviet Man 20 August 10.30-11.30am

When the USSR dissolved in 1991, a narrow sliver of land next to the Ukraine declared independence. Transnistria now has its own Leninist government, but is still not recognised by any other country in the world. Photojournalist Nick Danziger and author Rory MacLean spent time with Bentley-driving, AK47-wielding oligarchs in Gucci tracksuits to create an absorbing illustrated study of a region whose fate will affect the whole of Europe. Chaired by Jamie Jauncey.



Robyn Marsack on Eugene Onegin 20 Aug 11- 12:30pm

Reading Workshop

Today Director of the Scottish Poetry Library Robyn Marsack looks at *Eugene Onegin* by Alexander Pushkin. This classic Russian novel is written in verse and was originally published in serial form. It depicts the life of the eponymous hero and is a glimpse into the social and intellectual world of Russian society.

Peter Pomerantsev - Adventures in Modern Russia 20 Aug 12.30-1.30pm



Thanks to his job within Russia's media industry Peter Pomerantsev has witnessed first hand the energy, danger and corruption of a country that has known communism, oligarchy and a mafia state over the past two decades. For his book *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible*, Pomerantsev travelled into the heart of modern Russia, meeting Hells Angels who believe they're messiahs and filmmakers who used to be gangsters. Chaired by Viv Groskop.

Age 12+ youngsters. developing extract from Diana will lead

Writing Pushkin 20 Aug, 5-6pm



Writers' Retreat £4.50

[The Pushkin Prizes](#) in Scotland is a unique writing competition for Join poet Diana Hendry for some fantastic tips and insights into your own writing to make it competition standard. Using an the writing of Alexander Pushkin, the Robert Burns of Russia, you through an exciting and lively workshop.

The Crisis in Ukraine. Heralding a New Cold Front? 20 Aug 7.30-9pm



The University of Edinburgh Event, sponsored by the University of Edinburgh. In association with The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre

Does the crisis in Ukraine mark the beginning of a new cold war between Russia and the West? Is Russia looking to redefine its role on the global stage and how should the West and NATO respond, given they promised to protect Ukraine's borders? In many parts of the world nation states are having to defend themselves against insurgent groups from inside and outside their borders. Peter Pomerantsev, journalist and expert on the real Russia, and Luke March from the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre discuss the changing relationship between Europe and Russia. Chaired by Allan Little.

Tom Callaghan & Tommy Wieringa - Making a Killing in Eastern Europe 20 Aug 3.30-4.30pm



Eastern Europe is the setting for two vivid crime fictions about the region. Tom Callaghan's thriller debut, *A Killing Winter*, concerns a brutal murder in Kyrgyzstan which leads an investigator down a sinister tunnel of political corruption. Dutch writer Tommy Wieringa's *These are the Names* features a group of refugees creating unease in a border town, who are both questioned and protected by the local police commissioner.

Ben Stewart - Two Months in a Russian Jail 20 Aug 5.45-6.45pm



When a peaceful Greenpeace protest against oil drilling in the Arctic ended with 30 activists being incarcerated in a jail in Murmansk, it sparked an intense campaign, led by Ben Stewart, to bring the protestors home. *Don't Trust, Don't Fear, Don't Beg*, is a startling record of their experiences in jail. Today Stewart is joined by Frank Hewetson, logistics co-ordinator of the expedition and one of those

imprisoned.

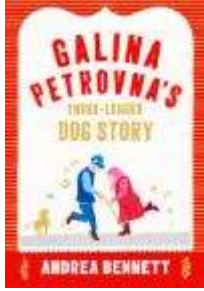
Amnesty International Imprisoned Writers Series: In Memory of Armenia 22 Aug 5.30- 6.15pm

FREE: Tickets available from the Box Office on the day of the event

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, discussion of which can lead to imprisonment in Turkey. Amnesty International continues to campaign for freedom of expression, hold governments to account and give voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. Today's

event is chaired by Scottish PEN, with readings by Brenton McKenna, Alison Case, Stewart O'Nan and Moira Young.

Andrea Bennett & Emma Hooper - First Fictions, Fantastic Futures 25 Aug 5-6pm



Intelligent stories ooze from the keyboards of Andrea Bennett and Emma Hooper in their respective first novels, Galina Petrovna's Three-Legged Dog Story and Etta and Otto and Russell and James. Bennett's book is the story of a canine, Boroda, whose capture triggers a trans-Russia escapade, while Hooper's tale has an octogenarian taking a walk of 2000 miles in order to see the ocean for the very first time.

Andrzej Klimowski & Danusia Schejbal on The Master and Margarita 28 Aug 11-12.30pm

Reading Workshop

Graphic novelists Andrzej Klimowski and Danusia Schejbal explore The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov in today's workshop. In Soviet Moscow, God is dead but the devil - to say nothing of his retinue of demons - is very much alive. Many critics consider the novel to be the foremost satire on Soviet Russia.

Just Festival Edinburgh

At Europe's Doorstep

16 August, 16.00



St John's Church Princes Street (Venue 127)

After a year of conflict in Ukraine, almost two million people, 60 percent of them elderly, have been forced to flee their homes. Amy Fairbairn will talk about Mercy Corps' humanitarian response, launched in April.

[Book Now](#)

30 July-30 August Edinburgh Art Festival

Full programme: www.edinburghartfestival.com. No Russia-related exhibitions listed.

14-28 August Edinburgh Book Fringe

The Book Fringe takes place at Word Power Books, 43-45 West Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DB. There are no Russia-related events yet but it's worth checking their website nearer the time for last minute announcements: www.word-power.co.uk.