

**1st Russian Theatre Festival in the UK –
Premieres of four new Russian-language plays translated into English.**

Dreams by NATALYA KOLYADA (1 Feb 2010) 7:30 pm

Director: Simon Stokes

Zoe Aldrich (Olga)

Theatre includes: *Her Naked Skin* (National Theatre), *Taking Care of Baby* (Hampstead Theatre/Birmingham Rep), *Top Girls* and *Woman in Mind* (Watford Palace), *Macbeth*, *The Changeling*, *The Winter's Tale* and *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory, Bristol /Barbican), *Peter Pan* (Birmingham Rep), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Cheek by Jowl), *The Rover* and *An Ideal Husband* (Salisbury Playhouse), *The Broken Heart* (Lyric Hammersmith). TV includes: *Hollyoaks*, *Silent Witness*, and *The Knock*. Radio: *Travels in West Africa* (Book of the Week).

Abigail Davies (Anna)

Professional theatre includes: *Standing Wave* (as Delia Derbyshire) at The Tron Theatre, Glasgow. *Theatron* directed by Pamela Carter for the LIFT Festival, *Laura* in San Diego also at The Tron, written and directed by David Greig, for which she won the Best Actress Inaugural Award 2003. Television appearances include: *Paradox* as Amelia James (series regular) BBC; *H.G.Wells-A Life In Pictures*; *Lenny Blue* for Granada TV and *The Bill*. Film: *Take Out* dir Miles Chalcraft.

Rebecca Peyton (Tatyana)

Theatre credits include **Hothouse** (Arcola Theatre), **Troubleshooters** (Soho Theatre), **Julius Caesar** (Barbican), **Soldiers** (Finborough Theatre), **Electra** (The Gate) and **Asylum Dialogues** (Tricycle Theatre & tour). TV and film credits include **Casualty**, **Stan**, **All Friends Here**, **The Rat Trap** and **Bloody Mary**. Rebecca co-wrote and performed her one-woman **Sometimes I Laugh Like My Sister** which premiered in Switzerland in December. The show, about the devastating, strange and entertaining events which followed the murder of her sister, the journalist Kate Peyton, comes to the UK later this year.

Ruth Posner (Elena)

Ruth Posner was a dancer with the London Contemporary Dance Company and has taught movement in London, New York and Japan. Theatre Credits include *The Dybbuk*, RSC; *Hiawatha*, Bristol Old Vic; *Blood Wedding*, Young Vic; *Heracles*, The Gate Theatre; *Yerma*, BAC; *The Dancing Room*, Riverside; *Our Lady of the Drowned*, Southwark Playhouse; *Mariana Pineda*, Arcola; *The Yiddish Queen Lear*, Arcola, *Theresa*, European Tour, *Merchant of Venice*, Arcola; *Seven Jewish Children*, Royal Court. TV Credits include *Bramwell*, *Love Hurts*, *Casualty*, *Sin Bin*, *The Bill*, *Apparitions*, *Belonging*. Feature Films include *Leon The Pig Farmer*, *Do You Love*, *The Football Factory*. Radio: Many radio plays for BBC.

Simon Tcherniak (Man)

Theatre: *Memory: One* (Kings Head); *Slow Sword* (Old Red Lion); *Don Quixote* (Nuffield); *Great Expectations* (by Neil Bartlett, AAC); *Macbeth* (official 400th anniversary); *Digging for Fire* (Traverse); *Liaisons Dangereuses* (Playhouse, London); *The Higher the Monkey Climbs* (Bristol Old Vic). TV: *The Bill* (2 Eps, Radio Times' Pick of the Day), *Whitechapel*, *A Touch of Frost* (all ITV); *Doctors* (BBC); *The Heist*, *E=MC2*, *Briefcase* (all C4); *Bare* (Flynn); *Bare – The Series* (RSA Films). Simon is currently recording 'Family Britain' and 'Austerity Britain' as an audio book for Bloomsbury, and is a regular poetry and prose reader on Radio 4 (Loftus Audio)

Sian Thomas (Maria)

Theatre includes: *Spring Awakening* (Lyric, Hammersmith); *Ghosts* (Bristol Old Vic); *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* (both RSC); *Sleep With Me* (National Theatre); *The Illusion* (Old Vic); *Pamela* (Shared Experience). TV includes: *Lewis* (ITV); *Vanity Fair* (BBC); *Ruby in the Smoke* (BBC); *Taggart* (STV). Film includes: *Harry Potter & The Half-Blood Prince*, *Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix* (both Warner Brothers); *Perfume* (Constantin Films); *Rose Red* (BFI). Sian won Martini TMA Best Actress Award.

Margaret Tully (Melissa)

Theatre: *Romeo & Juliet* - Colour House, *Cinderella* - Broadway Theatre, *Dead Man Walking* - Tour, *Taming of the Shrew* - Embassy Theatre, *Techniques of Breathing in an Airlocked Space* - Old Red Lion, *Citizenship* – National Theatre, *World of Faerie* - Regent's Park, *Jubilee* (MGM Las Vegas) – *Dancer*, *California Suite* – Vegas Little Theatre, *Beyond Therapy* – Reno Little Theatre. Film/TV: *Edena* (Tempting Fates) Eye, Film & TV, *Miranda* (The Experiment) *Raindancer*, *Penelope* (Guitar Man) *Punchdrunk*, *Mother* (POD 003) *Punchdrunk*.

Post-show speaker: Aisha Jung



Zoe Aldrich



Abigail Davies



Rebecca Peyton



Ruth Posner



Simon Tcherniak



Sian Thomas



Margaret Tully

Tityus The Irreproachable by MAKSIM KUROCHKIN (2 Feb 2010) 7:30 pm

Director: Noah Birksted-Breen

Michael Bertenshaw (Optimist, Analyst-Killer, Suburbus)

A Fine Art and English graduate, Michael lectured in a College of FE for several years before writing success led him to turn his attention to acting. He trained at RADA, attained his first job at the RSC in the late seventies and after several seasons there has worked extensively in all media as a jobbing actor. Most recent exposure had him playing a paedophile in MURDERLAND (ITV), an antiques expert and Nick Hower in The IMPRESSIONS SHOW (BBC) and Abanazar in Stratford East's ALADDIN. He is currently in rehearsal at Stratford East for a stage adaptation of Martina Cole's TWO WOMEN.

Darren East (Doctor-Killer, 2nd Bureaucrat, Lucius and other sons of Tityus)

Theatre: With Unpacked theatre company (www.unpacked.org), Darren has performed in The Fourth Violin from the Left, No Obvious Trauma and Funeral Games, and directed Jumping Mouse. Other theatre includes Russian National Mail (Sputnik Theatre) and puppet-making and puppetry direction for Richard III (Tangram/Southwark Playhouse). He regularly runs workshops and teaches puppetry and visual theatre, including at the Central School of Speech and Drama and Kingston University.

Zoe Hunter (Pearl, 1st Bureaucrat, Papos, Mix and other sons of Tityus)

Zoë studied drama at Central School of Speech and Drama. Her stage expertise spans classical to physical theatre and puppetry. Founder member of the critically acclaimed theatre company Unpacked – *The Fourth Violin From the Left*, *Greenfire*, *No Obvious Trauma* and their children's show *Jumping Mouse*. She has previously worked with Sputnik Theatre with *Russian National Mail* (2006-2008). Other work includes *A Tin Drum* (2004) for the Place, *The Bethlehem Diaries* (2004) for the London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT) playing the role of Jeannie in the highly acclaimed *The Journey of Jeannie Deans* based upon Sir Walter Scott's *The Heart of Midlothian*.

William Hope (Captain, Tityus)

William trained at RADA. Theatre (London): Cheek by Jowl, Gate, Albery, Queens, Donmar, Phoenix and Latchmere Theatres. (Regional): Royal Exchange, West Yorkshire, Sheffield Crucible, Leicester Haymarket, Nottingham Playhouse. TV: The Last Days Of Lehman Brothers (BBC). Film: Aliens (James Cameron); The Walker (Paul Schrader); Sherlock Holmes (Guy Ritchie). Radio: member of the BBC Radio Drama Company

Kevin McMonagle (Administrator-Killer, Architecton, Solid Citizen)

Recent theatre includes Scrooge in Christmas Carol for NTOS in collaboration with Faulty Optic, 'The Girls of Slender Means' for Stellar Quines and The Assembly Rooms-Edinburgh, Pastor Manders in 'Ghosts' at The Glasgow Citizens and Downing in 'Family Reunion' at The Donmar. Previously for Sputnik: Ivan in 'Russian National Mail' at The Red Lion, BAC, Theatre Doc - Moscow and The Ekaterinburg Festival.

John Milroy (White Person with a Black Face, Intern-Killer, Actor, Blob)

John trained at Guildhall, and he has since worked in television, theatre and film, most recently working with Aya Theatre on George Orwell's, "Burmese Days", with Finola Gerraghty on the feature film, "Come on Eileen", and narrating a documentary for The Discovery Channel. John also recently directed Ghazi Rabihavi's, "Look Europe" for Amnesty International, and finished writing his first play, "Once Upon a Time in the West of Africa."

Jennifer Skapeti (Irregular Wife, Pork, Boy)

Jennifer trained at ArtsEd, London, graduating from the 3 year Acting course in 2007. Her credits include: The Twits (Brentwood Theatre Company) Romeo and Juliet (Word of Mouth), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Word of Mouth), Grimmly Ever After (The Fourth Act), Much Ado about Nothing (Globe Players), Richard III (Globe Players), The Illegals (Ice and Fire), Sleeping Beauty (Globe Players). She is currently rehearsing A Midsummer Night's Dream for Practical Productions' tour in March."

Tityus The Irreproachable by MAKSIM KUROCHKIN was originally commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Post-show speaker: Professor Richard Sakwa



Michael Bertenshaw



Darren East



Zoe Hunter



William Hope



Kevin McMonagle



John Milroy



Jennifer Skapeti

Mums by

VLADIMIR ZUEV (3 Feb 2010) 7:30 pm

Director: Noah Birksted-Breen

Sean Hart (Kolya) Sean Hart was born in and grew up in London. He graduated from Goldsmiths University with a degree in Drama and Theatre Arts. Theatre credits include 'So Little of You Left' at the People Show, 'LUV' at the Tristan Bates, 'Godfather Death' at the New Wimbledon Studios'. Film credits include 'The Midge' by Rory Lowe, 'The Night after the Morning Before' by Lydia Marina and James Willis and 'Friends Forever' by Marcal Fores.

Kika Markham (Old Girl) Recent Theatre: Song at Twilight, Noel Coward, Olivier Nomination for best Supporting Actress and Clarence Derwent award best supporting role, The Permanent Way by David Hare, National Theatre, Homebody Kabul by Tony Kushner, Young Vic, Gaudeamus at the Arcola, Bufonidae, monologue by Bryony Lavery at the Bush Theatre and recent television: Spooks and Midsomer Murders. Cinema: Anne and Muriel Francois Truffaut, Wonderland Michael Winterbottom After Tomorrow Emma Sullivan First prize at Edinburgh film festival short films.

Lachlan McCall (Dan) Lachlan's theatre experience includes the award-winning *Lord of the Flies* (York Theatre Royal/Pilot Theatre – international tour), *The Caravan* (BAC/Look Left Look Right), *The Merchant of Venice* (Greenwich Playhouse) and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (LPC – European tour). Film includes *Paintbrush*, *Paintbrush II: The Epitaph* (winner of Best Low Budget Film at the London Short Film Festival 2009), *Aimless* and *Sarajevo: Shelved Memories*. Television includes *Jack the Ripper*, *Crimewatch*, *Inside Out* and *Botticelli*. He is currently working on a pan-European theatre initiative called *Platform 11+* with Pilot Theatre. Lachlan trained at the Arts Educational School of Acting.

Karen Meagher (Young Girl) After training I worked at Contact Theatre Company Manchester with Caroline Smith and Bob Thomson. The move to London saw me involved with Mrs Worthington's Daughters at King's Head and Drill Hall and more recently Equus at the Gielgud. Extensive T.V work in Dramas, soaps, documentary dramas and film, including a project about Chernobyl in Russia.

Wendy Nottingham (Roza) TV includes: *Spooks* (Kudos); *Silent Witness* (BBC); *Lewis* (ITV); *Kingdom* (Kingdom TV Products); *Miss Marple* (Granada); *Housewife 49* (Granada); *Extras* (BBC); *The Rise & Fall of Rome* (BBC); *The Golden Hour* (Feemantle); *Casualty* (BBC); *The Peter Principle* (Hat Trick Productions); *A Wing & a Prayer* (Thames Television); *The Sculptress* (Red Rooster).

Naoufal Ousellam (Andrei) Theatre includes: *Respect* (Birmingham Rep); *Rendition Monologues* and *Separated* (both Ice and Fire); *Bobby James* (Theatre Royal Stratford); *Jamie the Saxt* (Finborough Theatre); *Puss in Boots* (Hurricane Productions); *Alien Nation* (Mad for Theatre); *In Traction*, *Quiz Night*, *Find Me* (all ESCA).

Emily Sidonie (Lyolya) Emily studied at Cambridge University and Guildford School of Acting. Credits include *The Comedy of Errors* (Riverside Studios), *Snakes and Ladders* (Sheringham Little Theatre), *Caught By The Tail* (Yvonne Arnaud), *The Merchant of Venice* (Arcola), *A Bold Stroke for a Husband / The London Merchant* (Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds), *Cooking With Elvis / Gym and Tonic* (Crewe Lyceum), *The Barber of Seville* (Lion and Unicorn), *Reader* (Amnesty Theatre) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream / Much Ado About Nothing / Antony and Cleopatra* (Greenwich Park and Aylesbury). Musical credits include *Jet Set Go!* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *The Yeomen of the Guard* (Theatre By The Lake, Keswick), *Entartete Musik* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Dido and Aeneas* (The Lowry), *Enchanted* (King's Head), *Itinerants* (Hackney Empire), *Snow White* (Southport Theatre), and *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Princess Theatre Torquay and Grand Opera House York).

Rupert Simonian (Sergey) Rupert trained at the Harrodian. Theatre includes: *Life Savers* (Theatre 503); Film includes: *Peter Pan* (Universal/Revolution); *Piccadilly Jim* (Mission Pictures); *The Constant Gardener* (Summit). TV includes: *Not Going Out* (Avalon/BBC); *Holby City* (BBC); *The Boys Are Back In Time* (Tiger Aspect)

Margaret Tully (Vera) Romeo & Juliet - Colour House, Cinderella - Broadway Theatre, Dead Man Walking - Tour, Taming of the Shrew - Embassy Theatre, Techniques of Breathing in an Airlocked Space - Old Red Lion, Citizenship – National Theatre, World of Faerie - Regent's Park, Jubilee (MGM Las Vegas) – Dancer, California Suite – Vegas Little Theatre, Beyond Therapy – Reno Little Theatre. Film/TV Edena (Tempting Fates) Eye, Film & TV, Miranda (The Experiment) Raindancer, Penelope (Guitar Man) Punchdrunk, Mother (POD 003) Punchdrunk.

Post-show speaker: Nataliya Prilutskaya



Sean Hart

Kika Markham

Lachlan McCall

Karen Meagher

Wendy Nottingham

Naoufal Ousellam

Emily Sidonie

Rupert Simonian

Margaret Tully

Natasha's Dreams by YAROSLAVA PULINOVICH (4 Feb 2010) 7:30 pm

Director: Noah Birksted-Breen



Rebecca Gross (Natasha)

Rebecca trained at Central. Theatre credits include: 'Allo! Allo!', 'The Arab the Jew and the Chicken', 'Charity Wars', 'Still Love', 'Cressida Among the Greeks' and previously for Sputnik Theatre; 'Techniques of Breathing in an Air-locked Space'. Screen credits include TV pilots - two for 'The Academy' starring Sir Ian McKellen; commercials for Bonaqua, Altoids and Orangina and various short films. She is a co-founder of the Conflict Relief theatre collaboration.

Post show speaker: Professor Maria Shevtsova

Noah Birksted-Breen

Artistic director of Sputnik Theatre Company, Noah won the ITV Theatre Directors' Award, working for a year and a half as resident director at Hampstead Theatre where he trained alongside directors including Rupert Goold, Polly Teale, Lucy Bailey and Anthony Clark. He has directed eight theatre productions, most recently *In Blood* by Frances Viner at the Arcola Theatre. Time Out wrote in an annual round-up review of British Theatre: "Tip for the top: Noah Birksted-Breen, director and translator of Sputnik Theatre". Noah speaks fluent Russian: he did a Modern Languages degree at Oxford University, including one year studying at the St. Petersburg State University, and he completed an MA in Playwriting at Central School of Speech and Drama.

Simon Stokes

Simon is the Artistic Director at the Theatre Royal Plymouth. He was Artistic Director at the Bush Theatre from the mid 1970's to the late 1980's. Thereafter, alongside a freelance career, he was Artistic Associate and Director of Development for the Turnstyle Group in London's West End. A new play specialist, he developed and directed many of our now established playwrights, along with a generation of now leading actors. He trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and has directed in Germany, Switzerland, Israel and the USA, as well as the UK. His most highly profiled work has included the West End successes *When I Was a Girl I Used to Scream and Shout* by Sharman Macdonald (with Julie Walters, Geraldine James and Dawn French) at the Whitehall Theatre and *A Slip of the Tongue* by Dusty Hughes (with John Malkovich and Ingeborga Dapkunaite) at the Shaftesbury Theatre. Simon is on Sputnik's Board of Directors.

The Festival is organised by Sputnik Theatre Company in association with Soho Theatre.

Producer – Noah Birksted-Breen Associate Producer – Margarita Osepyan

All plays translated into English by Noah Birksted-Breen.

Join the Sputnik mailing list through the website www.sputniktheatre.co.uk

Credits and Thanks

Photographic projection – photography by Irina Davies (Moscow, Russia).

Huge thank you for your wonderful work in putting together the Festival: Philippa Burt (assistant director), Jenny Lee (design consultant) Chris Hancock (venue coordinator), Roma Khripko (publicity coordinator) and all our volunteers

We would like to thank two Friends of Sputnik Theatre Company, James Heyworth-Dunne and an anonymous donor, for their generous support of the Festival.

Funded by



The Brook Trust

Media Sponsor

РУССКАЯ МЫСЛЬ

Supported by

