



HOBOCTИ NOVOSTI

Гриннелльцы всех стран, соединяйтесь!

МАРТ 2010 ~ March 2010



THE RUSSIAN DEPARTMENT HOPES YOU ARE ALL HAVING A GOOD SEMESTER, AND ENJOYING THE LONG-AWAITED BEGINNING OF SPRING! THERE ARE A NUMBER OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES WE'D LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO, AND WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN THE COMING WEEKS IN THIS EXCITING EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMMING.

CULTURAL FILM SERIES FOCUSES ON EASTERN EUROPEAN FILMS IN EXCITING TRIPLE FEATURE!

**MARCH 12TH, FRIDAY 7 pm
HARRIS CENTER**

7-8 pm RABBIT A LA BERLIN

(Bartek Konopka and Anna Wydra, GERMANY/POLAND, 2009; 51 min) Oscar-nominated documentary short film

http://www.culture.pl/en/culture/artykuly/wy_in_krolik_po_berlinsku_nominacja_oscar_2010

Rabbit a la Berlin (Krolik po Berlinsku), produced by Poland's public television TVP has been nominated for an Oscar in the Best Short Documentary category. Directed by Bartek Konopka, *Rabbit a la Berlin* tells the story of thousands of wild rabbits which inhabited the so-called 'death zone' of the Berlin Wall – a strip of land between two walls full of fresh grass and ideal for the animals. For years the rabbits lived there, the guards of the Wall keeping them safe.



8-9 pm LOTMAN'S WORLD

(Agne Nelk, ESTONIA, 2008; 59 min.)
<http://icarusfilms.com/new2009/lot.html>

Blending archival footage and imaginative animation (and periodic mash-ups of both),

LOTMAN'S WORLD introduces us to the life and work of Yuri Lotman (1922-1993), a pioneer semiotician and cultural critic whose many writings in semiotics and structuralism dealt with a wide range of artistic, theoretical and historical issues. Lotman's Tartu colleagues-including Boris Uspensky, Alexander Piatigorsky, Vladimir Toporov and Vyacheslav Ivanov-plus semioticians such as Umberto Eco and Peter Torop, discuss the cultural study of signs, signifiers and meanings, languages as both textual and visual structures, and reminisce about Lotman's talents as a lecturer and his brilliance as a thinker and writer.

SPECIAL NOTE TO GRINNELL COLLEGE STUDENTS AND ALUMNI: Appearing in this documentary film are two distinguished scholars who have been in residence at the College.

Vyacheslav Ivanov was at the college in Fall 2002 as the Humanist in Residence with the Center for Humanities, and Alexander Piatigorsky was the John R. Heath Professor in Fall 2003.

9-10:50 pm MORPHIA

Aleksey Balabanov, RUSSIA, 2008; 110 min)
<http://www.slantmagazine.com/house/2010/02/film-comment-selects-2010-morphia-mikhail-balabanov-2008/>

In the autumn of 1917, Doctor Poliakov (Leonid Bichevin) takes over a medical practice deep in the Russian countryside. Well schooled in theoretical knowledge, he is soon required to demonstrate his practical abilities by dealing with a breech birth, an amputation and a tracheotomy. Poliakov becomes progressively addicted to morphine, and his assistant and lover Anna Nikolaevna (Ingeborga Dapkunaite) is soon drawn into his addiction. Their remote existence is only broken by a request for morphine from Poliakov's rival, Gorenburg, which ends in an accidental visit to the local (liberal) aristocrat's household during a snowstorm. Based on

autobiographical stories by Mikhail Bulgakov and directed by Alexei Balabanov, the script was written by the late Sergei Bodrov (star of Balabanov's two Brother/БРАТ films). While the historical recreation and its setting can be described as lyrical, Poliakov's medical encounters and addiction are predictably graphic, resulting in an 'over-21' rating in Russia.

A special Спасибо! to **Terri Geller**, EKI Assistant Professor of Film Theory and History and English, for her efforts in bringing these exciting films to campus.

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Speaking of film, we would like to bid farewell to **Galina Aksenova**, who was here (along with her partner, **Veniamin Smekhov**) for six weeks under the auspices of the Center for International Studies as an International Visiting Scholar, team-teaching RUS 261, History of Russian Film with **Anatoly Vishevsky**, for the first six weeks of the course. Galya is returning to Moscow, where she will resume her duties as Associate Professor of Cinema at the [Moscow Art Theater School](#).

СЧАСТЛИВОГО ПУТИ, ДО СКОРОЙ ВСТРЕЧИ, ГАЛЯ И ВЕНЯ!

Two Summer MAPs (Mentored Advanced Projects) available this summer in the Russian Dept.

Are you interested in conducting an advanced research group project over the summer on the topic "Emigration of Cultural Thought: The Russian Experience, 1800-2000"? This project is for advanced students of Russian culture, language, and literature and will examine points of intercultural contact and change and the results of this contact and change on Russian culture, subsequent Russian literature, and political thought. There are two spaces available on the four-student project. **Stipend and summer housing available.** Please see **Kelly Herold** for more information and application details.

Summer Funding Reminder

Many students choose to supplement their study of Russian during the summer. There are a number of programs available, both in the U.S. and in Russia, and many of them offer funding assistance. The Russian Department also is able to offer support for summer Russian study through the **Anne K. Hansen '86 award**, established in 1989 in memory of Anne K. Hansen '86 by her friends and family. The Award is used to partially fund at least 1 student who wishes to take a Russian Summer intensive language program. The program must be approved by the Russian department and be completed prior to graduation from Grinnell College. Last year's recipients of the award were **Pippa Hoover '10**, and **Marissa Lenoir '11**. [<http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/russian/hansenaward>]

Post-Grinnell Funding: John Mohan Study Award

The purpose of the Russian Study Award is to provide students who have seriously pursued the study of Russian with an opportunity to develop their language skills in the Russian speaking world. The Award is intended to enable Grinnell College students to pursue a study program or a project of their own design after graduation.



For more information, please see the departmental page for the [John Mohan Study Award](#).

RUSSIAN FOLK MUSIC: Zolotoj Plyos

**Saturday, April 17 ~ 7:30 PM
Sebring-Lewis Hall ~ Bucksbaum**

We are pleased to announce a special concert of Russian folk music performed by the renowned Russian folk music group Zolotoi Plyos (Alexander Solovov, Elena Sadina, and Sergei Gratchev). The group's repertoire includes songs from many different regions of Russia,



and the trio performs in authentic folk costumes and plays numerous traditional Russian instruments, including the treshchetka, balalaika, garmoshka and lozhki. On stage they are mesmerizing, funny, dazzling, personable and are known to discuss Russian folk art traditions during each performance. Founded in 1994, the group has performed in Russia, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Germany, Portugal and the US. All three members are graduates of the famous Saratov Conservatory in Russia, and are prizewinners in several folk music contests. The trio is currently on tour in the US, and has recently performed at Brandeis University and the College of William and Mary. Their homepage (in Belgian, French, and Dutch) can be found at: <http://www.vew.be/zolotoj/index03.htm>.

Co-sponsored by the Departments of Music and Russian, and the Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies (RCEES) Concentration

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
СЛАВЯНСКОЕ КАФЕ (Slavic
Coffeeshouse) will be held **Saturday,
May 8th in JRC 101****



The Russian Department and Russian House host our annual Slavic Coffeeshouse, which will be held May 8th this year. Students will gather during the day that Saturday at faculty houses, Russian House, and kitchens in the JRC, and prepare a wide variety of Slavic dishes, both savory and sweet, which will then be sold in a benefit in JRC 101. Russian Song Circle will also perform some of their songs. Watch for more information after spring break!

CZECH IT OUT!

A number of students are pursuing Czech this semester in the Alternative Language Study Option (ALSO) program. They are lead by two students whose native language is Czech, **Martin Dluhos '12** and **Radka Slamova '13**. We wish them every success as they pursue this West Slavic language.

Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies (RCEES) Concentration

Interdisciplinary concentrations are organized programs a student may choose to complete in addition to a major. Like other concentrations, the RCEES concentration includes work in several departments and culminates in an interdisciplinary research project in the senior year. The staff of the Russian Department and colleagues in other departments cooperate closely in the RCEES Concentration, promoting the interdisciplinary study of the

languages, culture, and history of Russia and the former Soviet Union and the lands which are usually designated as Central and Eastern European. In addition to members of the Russian Department, faculty in other departments have specializations in Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies, including **Robert Grey**, Political Science, **Ed Cohn**, History, and **John Rommereim**, Music. New faculty member **Deborah Michaels**, Education, has extensive background in Central Europe. If you are interested in the Russian, Central and East European Studies Concentration, please contact **Ed Cohn**, who currently chairs the RCEES Concentration, or any of its members.

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION: special topics

There will be several special topics and short courses that students of Russian/RCEES should consider as they plan their schedules next fall. For more detailed information, including course numbers and so on, you should consult the College Registrar's page, but we would like to draw your attention to these exciting opportunities:

Stephen White, Scotland (CIS visiting scholar) will teach a short course on **Russian Politics**

Konstanty Gebert, Poland (Heath Professor) will teach two courses, **Comparing Genocides and Media and Ethnic Conflict**

Srdja Popović, Serbia (CIS visiting scholar) will teach a course entitled **Non-violent Actions and Strategies**

More information on all of these courses will be available on-line in the live schedule of courses during pre-registration. If you have any questions, please contact **Todd Armstrong**.

Russian Song Circle SPRING 2010

This spring the **Кружок русской песни** is in full swing, meeting every Wednesday evening at 9:00 in ARH 120. Several instruments have been added, songbooks compiled, and **Dima Shklyarov**, local guitar legend, has begun attending every other Wednesday. **Pippa Hoover**

'10 remains the official or unofficial leader of the group, and has registered Kruzok as a student group with SGA. Спасибо, Пиппа! The group will continue meeting this semester, and will present a short repertoire for *Slavic Coffeehouse 2010*, which will be held on May 8th, as announced elsewhere in Novosti. The department continues work on including more virtual participation of alums, many of whom have expressed an interest in contributing to our efforts.

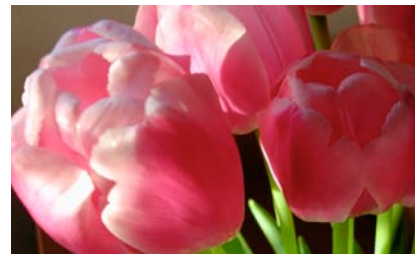


RUSSIAN TABLE~РУССКИЙ СТОЛ

Russian Table continues to be held Fridays during the lunch hour in JRC 224C—and the department has not seen such wonderful attendance for a long time! Participants go through the line in the dining hall to get their meals. We invite speakers of Russian *at every level* to join us for informal Russian conversation. As always, individuals not on board are guests of the Russian Department.



ПОЗДРАВЛЯЕМ ВСЕХ ЖЕНЩИН С
ПРАЗДНИКОМ 8-го МАРТА!



ЖЕЛАЕМ УДАЧИ, СЧАСТЬЯ,
ЗДОРОВЬЯ!

Update on Upcoming Events in Fall 2010

LAUGHING MATTERS: SOVIET PROPAGANDA IN KHRUSHCHEV'S THAW, 1956-1964

The Russian Department, in conjunction with Faulconer Gallery and the Burling Print and Drawing Room, will host an exhibit of Soviet posters and art comprised of selected works from Grinnell's collection of Soviet Socialist Realist graphic art (thanks to **Eric Johnson '88** and **Brenda Horrigan '88**), as well as pieces from a collection owned by Monroe E. Price, Director, Center for Global Communications Studies,



Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. This exhibit is currently at Penn, and then the exhibit will come to **Grinnell College**, and will be here **September 10-November 19, 2010**. Watch future Novosti for more information on the exhibit.

Music from the Republic of Georgia

ZEDASHE

We are excited to announce the appearance on campus next September of Zedashe Ensemble, a Georgian folk group. According to their website (<http://www.zedashe.org/>): "The Zedashe Ensemble is based in the medieval fortress city of Signaghi, Eastern Georgia, which has been home to the Kiziqian wine growers and warriors since ancient times. Directed by Ketevan Mindorashvili, the current incarnation of the ensemble was founded in the mid 1990s to sing repertoire largely lost during the Communist era. Their repertoire consists of ancient three-part harmony chants from the Orthodox Christian liturgy, folk songs from the Kiziqian region as collected from village song-masters and old publications, and folk dances from the region.

The Zedashe Ensemble also sings repertoire from other regions in Georgia, particularly the high North-Eastern mountain province of Svanetia, where time seems to stand



still and the traditional, non-tempered tunings of the old Georgians remain alive in current practice. Folk song genres include field-songs, love songs, historical ballads, war dance songs, and ritual circle dances, and are accompanied by the chunir (Svan lute), panduri (Kiziq lute), chonguri (Gurian lute), doli (drum), chiboni (goat-skin bagpipes), and accordion.

The group's name is taken from the special earthenware jugs — *zedashes* — that were buried under the family home for the purpose of making wine. The wine made in zedashes was especially for the veneration of ancestors and the tapping of the zedashe every year carried great ritual significance."

Claire Griffith '12 is to be commended for her hard work in proposing that Zedashe Ensemble come to the College; she has done extensive work with the group both in Georgia and in the United States, where she is one of their primary organizers. Co-sponsored by the Department of Music, the Rosenfield Program, and RCEES, the event will appeal to students from across campus. **Sarah Burghardt '06**, whom Grinnellians will remember for her many musical activities on campus, has also worked with Zedashe Ensemble in the past.

FALL 2010 ROSENFELD SYMPOSIUM

Next fall the Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights will host a symposium September 21-23, entitled "**Beyond the Cold War: The World Since 1989.**" Russian and RCEES students can expect a number of lectures and presentations of interest during that event.