



RUSSIAN THEATRE LIFE IN BRIEF

Newsletter of the Theatre Union of the Russian Federation (STD)

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December, 2005

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ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The on-line newsletters *Russian Theatre Life in Brief* edited by the Information Centre of the Theatre Union of Russia (STD) is addressed to all who may be interested in the Russian theatre. The newsletter is mainly needed due to the fact that people abroad know about the Russian theatre mostly in connection with well-known names and productions of the best-known Moscow's and St.Petersburg's metropolitan theatres. But there are no less interesting events in places that are removed from the "capitals of culture", in Siberia and the Urals, the Far East, the Volga region and Tatarstan. Internet periodically provides information about that, but most web sites are in Russian. We hope that *Russian Theatre Life in Brief* will to a degree help fill the information gap, as the significant portion of its information will be about events taking place in different parts of Russia, without, of course losing sight of the theatre life of Moscow and St.Petersburg. We plan to mail our newsletter on a monthly basis until a special information web site appears.

THE THEATRE UNION OF RUSSIA (STD)

The Theatre Union of Russia (STD) is a nongovernmental organization established in 1877 as «Compassionate Actors' Benefit Society». In more than 200 years this Russia's oldest association of art professionals knew many changes, but despite all dramatic events of the Russian history it survived. Its present-day objectives and tasks are much more comprehensive than those it set before itself in late 19th century. Today it is an organization representing theatres and professionals of all theatre disciplines all over Russia. The Union aims to promote performing arts in Russia, to provide ministrations to Russian theatres, theatre schools and festivals and to facilitate cooperation and exchange between Russian and foreign institutions of performing arts. With an eye at rendering assistance to its members the STD, which has its

headquarters in Moscow, has opened 75 local branches in all Russian Federation's republics, territories and regions.

The Union initiates and/or supports many festivals, conferences, seminars and workshops, addressed to professionals of all performing arts disciplines, including drama, opera, operetta, ballet, contemporary dance, puppetry and theatre for children and youth, taking place in different parts of Russia. It also organizes conferences on cultural policy and topics related to performing arts, exhibitions of stage and theatre costume designers, and acts as a partner in organizing tours and showcases.

The STD promotes international cooperation and exchange of information at the national and international levels, taking part in a number of international projects. It also hosts Russian centres of international theatre organizations – AITA, ASSITEJ, OISTAT and UNIMA.

THE CENTRE FOR SUPPORT OF RUSSIAN-SPEAKING THEATRES IN CIS AND BALTIC COUNTRIES

In 2004 the Theatre Union of the Russia initiated a program for the support of Russian-speaking theatres in the CIS countries. The initiative was approved at the highest level when President Vladimir Putin took it under his personal patronage. As a result, a new department was set up in the Theatre Union - The Centre for support of Russian-speaking theatres in CIS and Baltic countries.

One of the first moves the Centre made was to create a database of Russian-speaking theatres abroad. Experts who had visited the countries of the former USSR expressed their surprise at the fact that the number of Russian-speaking theatres in the post-Soviet space (naturally, with the exception of Russia) increased rather than decreased. It also became evident that many of those theatres were in need of help, both artistic and financial. It is hoped that the Centre under the Theatre Union will become a connecting link capable of uniting all these theatres on a single cultural space. The events the Centre was involved in 2004 to 2005 included seminars and workshops of leading masters of Moscow-based theatres attended by actors and directors from the most remote parts of the former USSR, trips made by teams of critics and assistance in organization of tours of Russia. The First International Theatre Congress *Russian Theatre Abroad, Today and Tomorrow* that took place in Moscow in November 14 to 15th summed up the events of 2005.

E-mail: r-theatre@mail.ru

FESTIVALS, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES and THEATRE EXHIBITIONS - 2005, in Russia

January **Family Christmas Nights** (*Moscow*), the 10th puppet festival of the Christmas vertep shows. E-mail: oglazunova@mail.ru

Magic of Fairy-Tale (*Sochi*), the 7th festival of amateur children and youth theatre companies. E-mail: alla_zorina@mail.ru

February **Pushkin Festival** (*Pskov, Pushkinskiye Gori*), the 12th festival of the performing arts productions based on Alexander Pushkin's works.
E-mail: gptc@allocard.ru

Anatoly Vasiliev's Workshop (*Moscow*), the workshop for directors from Russia, and the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic countries.

E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

March

Golden Mask (*Moscow*), the annual festival of the Russia's best performing arts productions of the previous theatrical season and national Golden Mask Award. Web: www.goldenmask.ru

Monocle (*St.Petersburg*), the 6th international mono-performances festival of the artists from the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic countries. Web: www.baltichouse.spb.ru

Sterkh (*Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)*), The 3rd Festival of Classic Ballet. E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

Summary of the Season 41 (*Moscow*), the annual exhibition of Moscow stage and theatre costume designers. E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

April

Podium-2005 (*Moscow*), the Moscow international festival of Russia's higher theatre schools. E-mail: info@gitis.net

King-Fairy Tale (*Veliky Novgorod*), the 8th International theatre festival featuring productions based on fairy-tales, mythology and ethnic literature. Web: www.kingfestival.ru

The Oldest Theatres of Russia in Kaluga (*Kaluga*), the national festival of drama theatre productions. E-mail: depcult@adm.kaluga.ru

Suktuvkarsa Tulis (Spring of Suktuvkar) (*Suktuvkar, Republic of Komi*), the 14th international opera and ballet festival. Web: www.teatropera.komi.com/fest.htm

Lisa-2005 (Fox-2005) (*Saransk, Republic of Mordovia*), the festival of contemporary dance. E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

The Stanislavsky`s System Today (*Odintsovo, Moscow region*), The 10th International Practical Seminar. E-mail: alla_zorina@mail.ru

May

The Diaghilev's Seasons: Perm - St.Petersburg - Paris (*Perm*), the international opera and ballet festival. E-mail: opera@permonline.ru

Rainbow (*St.Petersburg*), the 6th international theatre festival featuring productions for children and youth. Web: www.spb-tuz@mail.ru

Nauruz (*Kazan, Tatarstan*), the 8th international festival of Turkic theatres dedicated to the 1000th anniversary of Kazan. E-mail: info@camaltat.ru

Merry She-Goat (*Nizhni Novgorod*), the 12th international festival of the actors' thrill and laugh-shows. E-mail: nostd@kis.ru

June

VI Chekhov International Theatre Festival (Moscow), Russia's biggest festival featuring the world's best theatrical and performing arts productions. Web: www.chekhovfest.ru

KUKART (St.Petersburg), The 7th International Puppet and Synthetic Arts Festival. Web: www.kukart.spb.ru

Golden Turnip (Samara), The 6th International Art Festival for Children and Youth. Web: www.samart.ru

XVIII National Seminar for Playwrights (Tarusa, Kaluga region). E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

Russian Ballet: Existing Models and Development Directions in the 21st Century (Moscow). A conference of chief ballet-masters and artistic directors of ballet groups. E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

July

Tchir Tchayan (Spirit of the Earth) (Abakan, Republic of Khakassia), The 3rd International Ethno-Ecological Puppet Festival. Web: www.skazka.khakassia.ru

Voices of History (Vologda), the 8th international festival of drama theatres. E-mail: vera@cultinfo.ru

Siberian Footlights (Village of Bayandai, the Lake Baikal region), the international festival of amateur theatre companies. E-mail: alla_zorina@mail.ru

September

Baltic House (St.Petersburg), The 15th International Theatre Festival. Web: www.baltichouse.spb.ru

Ryazanskiye Smotrini (Showing-off in Ryazan) (Ryazan), the 10th international puppet festival. E-mail: ryzkyk@mail.ru

Sergei Obraztsov Puppet Festival (Moscow), the 3rd international puppet festival commemorating Sergei Obraztsov. E-mail: gactk@mail.ru

Real Theatre (Ekaterinburg), the 8th national festival of theatre productions for youth. E-mail: tuz@mail.lacerta.ru

October

Golden Sofit (Batten Light) (St.Petersburg), the St.Petersburg's highest annual theatre award and festival. Web: www.goldensofit.ru

November **NET (New European Theatre)** (*Moscow*), the international festival introducing new names. Web: www.netfest.ru

New Look - 2005 (*St.Petersburg*), the festival of student amateur theatres.
E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

December **Lev Dodin's Workshop** (*St.Petersburg*), the workshop for directors.
E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

KLIN 4 (*Moscow*), the annual exhibition of young stage and theatre costume designers. E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

Theatre Critics' Workshop under Irina Kholmogorova (*Moscow*).
E-mail: stdrf@rc.ru

Editor's Note: For more information about any particular event please contact the STD Information Department. E-mail: id@stdrf.ru

In the next issue: Higher theatre schools in Russia.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

STD Information Centre