

RSC

ROYAL
SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY



REVOLUTIONS

**A CELEBRATION
OF THEATRE
IN RUSSIA
AND THE FORMER
SOVIET UNION
21 AUGUST - 1 OCTOBER 09**

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**THIS SEPTEMBER, THE RSC LAUNCHES
A FOUR YEAR CELEBRATION AND
EXPLORATION OF THEATRE IN RUSSIA
AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.**

We begin with the premiere of two new RSC commissioned plays from Russia and Ukraine, performed by the RSC Ensemble. *The Grain Store* and *The Drunks* capture the voices of an exciting new generation of post-Soviet playwrights. We will end with a major Russian contribution to our 2012 Olympic celebration.



REVOLUTIONS

Russia is reasserting itself as a major influence in world politics and culture through its rich natural resources and rediscovery of nationalism. For over a century, Russian theatre has had a profound influence on theatre in the West and particularly that of the RSC. After Shakespeare, Chekhov is the most performed playwright in the world and Russian work has always featured heavily in the RSC's repertoire. Stanislavsky began and is still at the heart of Western film and theatre practice. The RSC has broken free of this by also embracing the bold, expressive style championed by Stanislavsky's rebellious pupil, Meyerhold, especially in Peter Brook's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Trevor Nunn's *Nicholas Nickleby* and Michael Boyd's *The Histories*.

In *Revolutions*, we are beginning a new chapter in the RSC's historic relationship with this daunting, great, paradoxical nation. Join us to explore the breadth of Russian culture through a dynamic series of events. Hear talks and debates with leading cultural commentators and practitioners, listen to readings of work from new and established Russian dramatists, see the latest in visual arts and experience *Late Night Young Russia*, an explosive mix of words, music and breakdancing.

The RSC Ensemble is generously supported by
THE GATSBY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION and
THE KOVNER FOUNDATION

The RSC Literary Department is generously
supported by THE DRUE HEINZ TRUST

The RSC's New Work is generously supported
by CHRISTOPHER SETON ABELE on behalf of
THE ARGOSY FOUNDATION



A provincial town is in search of a hero. Ilya, a shell shocked soldier, downs vodka on his return from the front line in Chechnya. As he arrives home he stumbles into the epicentre of an extraordinary power struggle that threatens to tear the town apart.

Photograph of Jonjo O'Neill by Julia Fullerton-Batten

PLAYS IN REPERTOIRE FROM
FRI 21 AUGUST - THU 1 OCTOBER

THE DRUNKS

MIKHAIL AND
VYACHESLAV DURNENKOV
TRANSLATED BY NINA RAINE
A NEW RSC COMMISSION

ENSEMBLE:

CHARLES AITKEN
ADAM BURTON
DAVID CARR
BRIAN DOHERTY
DARRELL D'SILVA
DYFAN DWYFOR
PHILLIP EDGERLEY
CHRISTINE ENTWISLE
JAMES GALE
PAUL HAMILTON
JAMES HOWARD
RICHARD KATZ
SANDY NEILSON
JONJO O'NEILL
PETER PEVERLEY
SOPHIE RUSSELL
CLARENCE SMITH
JAMES TRAHERNE
HANNAH YOUNG

DIRECTOR

ANTHONY NEILSON

DESIGNER

TOM PIPER

LIGHTING

OLIVER FENWICK

MUSIC AND SOUND

NICK POWELL

MOVEMENT

ANNA MORRISSEY

In this darkly comic and free-wheeling epic, the Durnenkov Brothers get to the heart of small town politics and what it means to please all of the people all of the time.

Jonjo O'Neill takes the role of Ilya following his performance as Orlando in *As You Like It* earlier in the season.

The Drunks is directed by RSC Literary Associate Anthony Neilson. His previous work for the RSC includes *God in Ruins* (Soho Theatre).

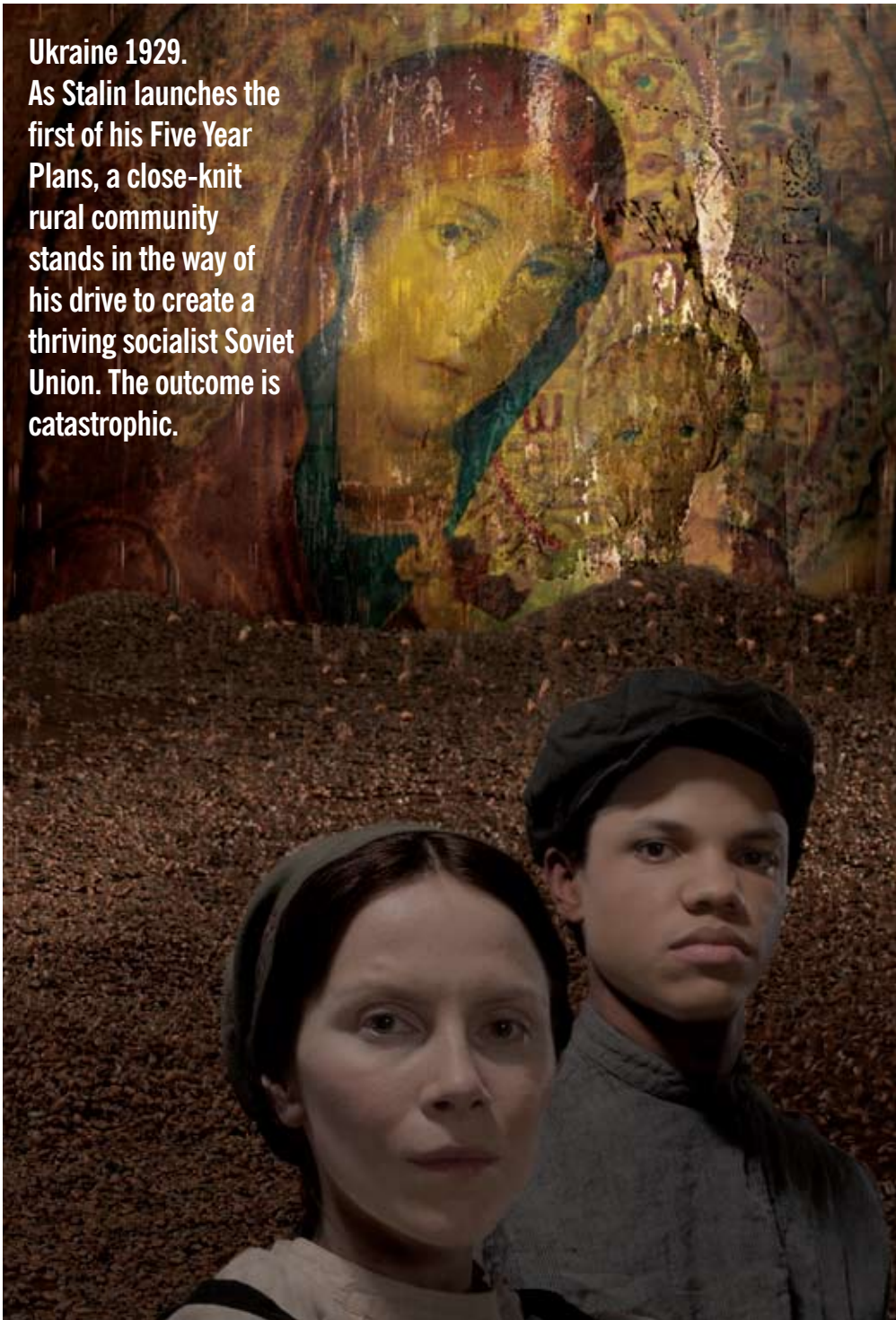
Mikhail Durnenkov is the author of fifteen plays and his critically acclaimed work is widely seen in Russia. His brother and frequent co-author Vyacheslav has written over twenty plays. Their play *The Cultural Layer* is recognised as being a key moment in the revitalising of new drama in Russia.

Translator Nina Raine was awarded the 2006 Critics' Circle Award and the Evening Standard's Charles Wintour Award for her debut play *Rabbit*.

This production contains strong language.

Ukraine 1929.

As Stalin launches the first of his Five Year Plans, a close-knit rural community stands in the way of his drive to create a thriving socialist Soviet Union. The outcome is catastrophic.



Photograph of Tunji Kasim and Samantha Young by Julia Fullerton-Batten

PLAYS IN REPERTOIRE FROM
THU 10 SEPTEMBER - THU 1 OCTOBER

THE GRAIN STORE

NATAL'IA VOROZHBIT
TRANSLATED BY SASHA DUGDALE
A NEW RSC COMMISSION

ENSEMBLE:

JOSEPH ARKLEY
NOMA DUMEZWENI
GEOFFREY FRESHWATER
MARIAH GALE
GRUFFUDD GLYN
GREG HICKS
KATHRYN HUNTER
KELLY HUNTER
ANSU KABIA
TUNJI KASIM
DEBBIE KORLEY
JOHN MACKAY
FORBES MASSON
DHARMESH PATEL
PATRICK ROMER
DAVID RUBIN
OLIVER RYAN
SIMONE SAUNDERS
PETER SHOREY
KATY STEPHENS
SAM TROUGHTON
JAMES TUCKER
LARRINGTON WALKER
KIRSTY WOODWARD
SAMANTHA YOUNG

DIRECTOR

MICHAEL BOYD
DESIGNER
TOM PIPER
LIGHTING
OLIVER FENWICK
MUSIC
JOHN WOOLF
SOUND
NICK POWELL
MOVEMENT
ANNA MORRISSEY

What begins for the people of the village as an amusingly alien political concept rapidly becomes an unstoppable force for change. Robbed first of their land, then their religion and independence, the whole country soon becomes engulfed by a tragedy that will scar a nation for generations.

Natal'ia Vorozhbit's plays *Demons* and *Galka Motalko* have been staged in Moscow and at the National Theatre of Latvia. *Galka Motalko* has been adapted for the screen and is currently being filmed in Moscow.

Sasha Dugdale's translations include *Black Milk* and *Plasticine* by Vassily Sigarev, *Terrorism* by the Presnyakov Brothers and *The Khomenko Family Chronicles*, also by Natal'ia Vorozhbit.

Supported by The Columbia Foundation Fund
of the Capital Community Foundation

POSTCARDS FROM RUSSIA



Vyacheslav Durnenkov, Anthony Neilson, Nina Raine and Mikhail Dumenkov

As part of the development process for *The Drunks*, Jeanie O'Hare, RSC Company Dramaturg, Anthony Neilson, Director, and Nina Raine, Translator, visited Playwrights Mikhail and Vyacheslav Durnenkov in Moscow. Below is an edited extract from Jeanie's diary.



Playwright Evgeny Grishkovets



Playwright Yekaterina Pulinovich



Playwright Alexander Arkhipov



Vyacheslav Durnenkov, Anthony Neilson, Nina Raine and Mikhail Dumenkov



Playwright Vasily Sgarav

Sunday 15 February – Day One

Touch down in Moscow. Snow everywhere. We are met by Tanya Oskolkova, our interpreter. She has worked everywhere and knows everyone in Russian theatre. She takes us to our waiting taxi. Nina's seatbelt doesn't work and even though it is two-below-zero Anthony winds down the window of the front passenger seat to smoke. Nina very quiet holding her seatbelt. When we go to bed at 9pm (UK-time) none of us can sleep.

Monday 16 February – Day Two

Bleary eyed at breakfast we have an hour and a half script meeting. We are agreed on the notes we have. Nina is very diligent and knows the script backwards.

The Meyerhold Centre (where we will work) is next door. Mikhail and Vyacheslav arrive. I'd forgotten just how much I love them as people, not just as writers. We spend much of the first two hours talking about life in Russia, Putin, the motor-town Tolyatti (where Vyacheslav lives) and the future direction of their country. It is a sobering conversation. Three years ago a lot of the play's characters felt like grotesques, but now they don't feel like they are exaggerated enough.

We get down to working through the script line by line. Tanya is a brilliantly subtle interpreter and I know that a note on the script will be intact when she repeats it to the brothers. She understands dramaturgical language precisely. I am keen to work through the script and then get Anthony and Nina out into Moscow to get a taste of particular kind of madness in the vodka-drinking culture. This will inform the aesthetic of the play which is disturbingly off-kilter.

Tuesday 17 February – Day Three

The smoke from the previous day hangs around the rehearsal room. New scenes from the literal translator are faxed through from England and we carry on working through the play. We hit one scene where we find a disagreement amongst the writers. Tanya looks over while they argue in a very animated fashion and tells us that they can't agree on the point we have put to them. Vyacheslav is the soul of the play and Mikhail the structure. They both care passionately about their work and complement each others' strengths as writers. There are a lot of smiles as they argue and they know they are amusing us. They are now so 'inside' the play that any decision they make will feel truthful.

In the afternoon Anthony and Nina go out into Moscow with Mikhail. He is a great guide. Tanya and I meet with other theatre directors who will come over for our *Revolutions* festival in September. I say goodbye to Tanya until we see her in Stratford-upon-Avon.



Natalia Vorozhit and Michael Boyd



Mikhail and Vyacheslav Durnenkov

EVENTS

Join us for a dynamic series of events exploring Russia's cultural past, present and future through theatre, music, literature and the visual arts.

TALKS AND DEBATES

SUNDAY BRUNCH The Courtyard Theatre

The RSC's Sunday Brunches return with a Russian theme. Includes brunch and live music from 11.30am followed by the debate at 1pm.

British Approaches to Russian Theatre

SUN 13 SEP,
11.30AM – 2PM, £15

From Meyerhold to Stanislavsky, Russian theatre practitioners have had an enormous influence on the development of theatre in Britain. RSC Artistic Director Michael Boyd and Cheek by Jowl Artistic Director Declan Donnellan discuss how their practice has been inspired by the great Russian theatre traditions. Chaired by Cynthia Marsh, Professor of Russian Drama and Literature at the University of Nottingham.

Russia Now

SUN 20 SEP,
11.30AM – 2PM, £15

Contemporary commentators and art makers from Russia and the UK including writer and director Ivan Vrypaev, artists Victor Alimpiev and Semyon Faibisovich and Russian theatre critic and rector of Moscow Arts School Anatoly Smelanski discuss emerging but often unnoticed trends in Russian art and society. Chaired by The Independent's Alice Jones.

The Future of Russian Theatre and Writing

SUN 27 SEP,
11.30AM – 2PM, £15

Leading commentators and theatre makers from Russia and the UK including Marina Davydova, writer of *The Death of Russian Theatre*, theatre critic and journalist Elena Karas, translator Sasha Dugdale and Elena Gremina, playwright and founder of Theatre.doc, discuss the future of Russian theatre. Chaired by the BBC Diplomatic Correspondent Bridget Kendall.

Alexandra Dementieva, Kestonme, Kursk region, 2008



Revolution of the Times: The Cox's Yard Play Readings in Context

SAT 19 SEP,
6.45PM, FREE
Attic Theatre, Cox's Yard

RSC Company Dramaturg Jeanie O'Hare, with Elyse Dodgson, curator of the Cox's Yard Play Readings, and poet and translator Sasha Dugdale give an overview of the play readings and explore the process, pleasures and pitfalls of developing and translating contemporary Russian work for the British stage. See page 15 for details of the Play Readings Package

Director and Writers' Talk – The Grain Store

TUE 22 SEP,
5.30 – 6.15PM, £5
The Courtyard Theatre

Director Michael Boyd, playwright Natal'ia Vorozhbit and translator Sasha Dugdale discuss the creative choices made in the production.

Director and Writers' Talk – The Drunks

WED 23 SEP,
5.30 – 6.15PM, £5
The Courtyard Theatre

Director Anthony Neilson, playwrights Mikhail and Vyacheslav Durnenkov and translator Nina Raine discuss the creative choices made in the production.

EVENTS PROGRAMME
SUPPORTED BY

Ministry of Culture of
the Russian Federation



Russian Insights

THU 24 SEP,
4PM, £10
Shakespeare Institute

Reflecting on her time as the BBC's Moscow Correspondent, the BBC's Diplomatic Correspondent Bridget Kendall provides a unique and personal insight into Russian society, politics and culture. Introduced by Doctor of Russian Literature at Oxford University, Julie Curtis, and followed by a Q&A.

EXHIBITIONS

Theatre of the Future: An Exhibition on the Influence of Russian Theatre

21 AUG – 3 OCT, Free, open to audience members during performance times. Mezzanine Level, The Courtyard Theatre

This display looks at the groundbreaking work of Russian theatre practitioners from the late 19th and early 20th century, examining their continuing influence on world theatre design and performance today.

A New Place to Live

21 AUG – 3 OCT, Free, open to audience members during performance times. Mezzanine Level, The Courtyard Theatre

Some of Russia's leading documentary photographers explore themes of contemporary landscape, rural and family life in Russia, curated by photographer and editor Liza Faktor.

Victor Alimpiev Semyon Faibisovich

23 SEP – 15 NOV, open Tuesday to Sunday, 11am-6pm. Ikon, Birmingham, admission free

Ikon presents solo exhibitions by two of Russia's leading contemporary artists. Visit www.ikon-gallery.co.uk or call **0121 248 0708** for more details.



Liza Faktor, St. Petersburg, 2005



Liza Faktor, Republic of Tuva, 2008



Alexander Gronsky, Vladivostok, 2006



Alexander Gronsky, Moscow, 2007

PLAY READINGS

SAT 19 AND SUN 20 SEP, Attic Theatre, Cox's Yard

The best of contemporary Russian playwriting comes to Stratford-upon-Avon for an extraordinary weekend celebrating the beauty and ferocity of new Russian work. Curated by Elyse Dodgson, Associate Director (International) at the Royal Court Theatre, the writers join us for two days to present a rich, varied and heart-stopping array of new work. The plays are translated by critically acclaimed poet Sasha Dugdale.

Ahasverus

by Vassily Sigarev
SAT 19 SEP, 11am, £5
A drunken homecoming party spins out of control with heartbreaking consequences.

How I Ate A Dog

by Evgeny Grishkovets
SAT 19 SEP, 5.30pm, £5
A buoyant monologue about life in the Russian Navy and the best way to cook a dog.

Pacific Island

by Alexander Arkhipov
An RSC Commission
SUN 20 SEP, 3pm, £5
A remote garrison in the Pacific Ocean begins to put on a play. Behind the scenes a love story develops which has horrific consequences for all.

July

by Ivan Vyrypaev
SUN 20 SEP, 6pm, £5
A disturbing and poetic journey into the mind of a psychopathic killer by one of Russia's leading playwrights.
Includes content which some people may find disturbing.

The Track

by Yaroslava Pulinovich
A Royal Court Theatre Commission
SUN 20 SEP, 8pm, £5
In this beautiful and cinematic epic, a family tragedy forces five year old Alina to live near a disused railway line with her Aunt Irma.

For information about the Play Readings Package see page 15

LATE NIGHT YOUNG RUSSIA

Late Night Young Russia FRI 18 SEP, 11pm, £10 The Courtyard Theatre

An explosive mix of words, music and dance, as RSC actors perform Ivan Vyrypaev's 'manifesto of the new generation' *Oxygen*, sharing the stage with Russian DJ Hobot and Russia's world champion B-boy crew, Top 9. Directed by RSC Associate Director, Deborah Shaw.

PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

Russian Performance Day for 16-25s

SAT 19 SEP, from 10am, £10 + cost of matinee ticket
(contact Box Office for details of £5 tickets for 16-25 year olds)
Waterside Space, Stratford-upon-Avon

A two hour practical workshop with an RSC Assistant Director, exploring ways into the text and style of *The Drunks*, followed by a matinee performance of the play and a post-show discussion with members of the Acting Company.

A LEVEL THEATRE STUDIES COURSE

A two day practical programme of work tailor made for A Level Theatre Studies Students and delivered by RSC artists and visiting experts. Inspired by the *Revolutions* season and aimed at students aged 16-19 years old, these days are designed specifically to broaden their knowledge and understanding of practical theatre.

Students can book for either one or both days and will leave the course having a deeper understanding of the impact and influence of key Russian theatre practitioners on arts practice today.

WED 23 SEP

Stanislavsky and the development of Naturalistic Theatre

Explore Stanislavsky's approach to theatre and acting and consider the emergence of Naturalism as a theatrical approach.

Devising theatre inspired by Stanislavsky and Naturalism

Discover what creative outcomes can be developed and created when approaching devising through a Stanislavsky based, Naturalistic Theatre approach.

Exploring Ensemble

Explore the concept of ensemble, and consider how it has influenced the shaping of European Theatre.

THU 24 SEP

Biomechanics, Meyerhold and Physical Theatre

Explore Physical Theatre through Biomechanics and Meyerhold's approach to theatre making.

Devising theatre inspired by Meyerhold and Physical Theatre approach to devising

Consider and create drama from a Physical Theatre starting point using the principles of Biomechanics.

Creating the Design: Russia to the RSC

Investigate the work of Russian theatre designers and the influence of their work on Tom Piper, RSC Associate Designer and designer of *The Drunks* and *The Grain Store*.

10AM – 4.30PM EACH DAY. COSTS: £25 EACH DAY, £40 FOR BOTH DAYS PLUS COST OF PERFORMANCE TICKETS

To book call the RSC Education Ticket Hotline on **0844 800 1113**. This line is answered by a specialist Education Box Office Team, available from 8.30am-5.00pm, Monday-Friday during term time.

TICKET PRICES THE COURTYARD THEATRE

REDUCED PRICE PREVIEWS

STALLS	£20	£15	£10	£8*	
CIRCLE	£20	£15	£10	£8*	
GALLERY	£15	£10	£8	£8*	£5

MONDAY TO FRIDAY EVENINGS AND ALL MATINEES

STALLS	£32	£28	£22	£15*	
CIRCLE	£32	£28	£22	£15*	
GALLERY	£28	£22	£15	£15*	£12

SATURDAY EVENINGS

STALLS	£42	£34	£26	£20*	
CIRCLE	£42	£34	£26	£20*	
GALLERY	£34	£26	£20	£20*	£14

Superseats are available in the Stalls and Circle at a supplement of £10 per ticket.

* View from this seat may be restricted at certain times during the performance.

£5 standing tickets are available in the Gallery.

Seats in the back row of the Stalls are sold at price bands B and C as they are high chairs and slightly narrower than other seating in the Stalls.

THE COMPLETE RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE

FRIDAY 18-SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER £80 (16-25 YEAR OLDS £40)

Immerse yourself in the cultural past, present and future of Russia and the former Soviet Union with this 3 day package:

Package includes:

Friday 18 September

Top price ticket for *The Grain Store* at 7.30pm followed by *Late Night Young Russia* at 11pm

Saturday 19 September

Play Reading: *Ahasverus* at 11am

Top price ticket for *The Drunks* at 1.30pm

Play Reading: *How I Ate A Dog* at 5.30pm (followed by the free talk *Revolution of the Times* at 6.45 pm)

Sunday 20 September

Brunch: *Russia Now* from 11.30am

Three Play Readings: *Pacific Island* at 3pm, *July* at 6pm and *Beyond the Track* at 8pm

LATE NIGHT RUSSIA PACKAGE

FRIDAY 18-SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Buy tickets for both the evening performance of *The Grain Store* on Friday 18 September and the matinee performance of *The Drunks* on Saturday 19 September and get your ticket for *Late Night Young Russia* free.

PLAY READINGS PACKAGE

SATURDAY 18 AND SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER £15

Experience the breadth of new Russian drama and get all five Play Readings for the price of three.

£5 RSC TICKETS FOR 16-25 YEAR OLDS*
*CONDITIONS APPLY

As well as £5 tickets for 16-25 year olds the RSC is offering 50 free tickets for 16-25 year olds every Tuesday until February 2011 as part of the Arts Council scheme A Night Less Ordinary. For more information visit www.rsc.org.uk/16-25

PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SCHEDULE

AUGUST

FRI 21	THE DRUNKS	7.30 F
SAT 22	THE DRUNKS	7.30
MON 24	THE DRUNKS	7.30
TUE 25	THE DRUNKS	7.30
WED 26	THE DRUNKS	7.30
THU 27	AS YOU LIKE IT	7.30
FRI 28	JULIUS CAESAR	7.30
SAT 29	JULIUS CAESAR	1.30 M ■
	THE WINTER'S TALE	7.30
MON 31	WINTER'S	7.30

SEPTEMBER

TUE 1	THE DRUNKS	7.30
WED 2	AS YOU LIKE IT	7.30
THU 3	JULIUS CAESAR	1.30 M
	JULIUS CAESAR	7.30
FRI 4	THE WINTER'S TALE	7.30
SAT 5	THE WINTER'S TALE	1.30 M
	AS YOU LIKE IT	7.30
MON 7	NO PERF	
TUE 8	NO PERF	
WED 9	NO PERF	
THU 10	THE GRAIN STORE	7.30 F
FRI 11	THE GRAIN STORE	7.30
SAT 12	THE GRAIN STORE	7.30
SUN 13	BRUNCH: BRITISH APPROACHES TO RUSSIAN THEATRE	11.30 AM
MON 14	THE GRAIN STORE	7.30
TUE 15	THE GRAIN STORE	7.30
WED 16	AS YOU LIKE IT	7.30
THU 17	THE WINTER'S TALE	1.30 M
	THE WINTER'S TALE	7.30
FRI 18	THE GRAIN STORE	7.30
	LATE NIGHT YOUNG RUSSIA	11.00 PM
SAT 19	RUSSIAN PERFORMANCE DAY	10.00 AM
	PLAY READING: AHASVERUS	11.00 AM
	THE DRUNKS	1.30 M
	PLAY READING: HOW I ATE A DOG	5.30
	REVOLUTION OF THE TIMES	6.45
	AS YOU LIKE IT	7.30

SEPTEMBER

SUN 20	BRUNCH: RUSSIA NOW	11.30 AM
	PLAY READING: PACIFIC ISLAND	3.00
	PLAY READING: JULY	6.00
	PLAY READING: BEYOND THE TRACK	8.00
MON 21	THE GRAIN STORE	7.30
TUE 22	DIRECTOR AND WRITERS' TALK: THE GRAIN STORE	5.30
	THE GRAIN STORE	7.30
WED 23	COURSES FOR A LEVEL THEATRE STUDIES STUDENTS	10AM - 4.30PM
	DIRECTOR AND WRITERS' TALK: THE DRUNKS	5.30
	THE DRUNKS	7.30
THU 24	COURSES FOR A LEVEL THEATRE STUDIES STUDENTS	10AM - 4.30PM
	THE DRUNKS	1.00 M P ■
	RUSSIAN INSIGHTS	4.00
	THE GRAIN STORE	7.00 P ■
FRI 25	AS YOU LIKE IT	7.30
SAT 26	AS YOU LIKE IT	1.30 M
	JULIUS CAESAR	7.30
SUN 27	BRUNCH: THE FUTURE OF RUSSIAN THEATRE AND WRITING	11.30 AM
MON 28	JULIUS CAESAR	7.30
TUE 29	THE WINTER'S TALE	7.30
WED 30	THE WINTER'S TALE	7.30

OCTOBER

THU 1	THE GRAIN STORE	1.30 M L ●
	THE DRUNKS	7.30 L ●
FRI 2	JULIUS CAESAR	7.30 L
SAT 3	AS YOU LIKE IT	1.30 M L
	THE WINTER'S TALE	7.30 L

KEY

F = First Performance P = Press Night

AM = Morning Performance M = Matinee

L = Last Performance PM = Late Performance

■ = Audio-Described Performance

● = Captioned Performance

■ = Reduced Price Preview