



## The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre November 2012 Newsletter

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### October Events Review

In October, the Dashkova Centre hosted a range of events, the first and largest of which was the postgraduate conference entitled '**Negotiating Ideologies II: Inclusion and Exclusion in Russian Language and Culture**', which followed on from a conference in 2010. Ten postgraduate speakers from around the UK gave papers on inclusion and exclusion in Russian language, culture and history. A fascinating keynote speech '**Alterity (un)covered: State Television and the Ethnic Underside of Russian Political Discourse**' was delivered by Professor Stephen Hutchings of the University of Manchester. Focusing on recent developments in the Russian media, Professor Hutchings shared his new research on that topic and showed examples of the television discourse on the Russian protest

movement and the punk group Pussy Riot. An edited collection of the papers from this conference is planned to be published.



Rosie Bainbridge of Cambridge University presents on the films oeuvre of Eisenstein.

The Centre hosted the visit of **Dr Artur Czapiga** from **the University of Rzeszów** in the first half of October. Dr Czapiga carried out research on his current project and took part in the activities of the Centre. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, Dr Czapiga gave a research paper entitled 'On the Speech Act of Approval in Polish, Russian and English'.



Dr Artur Czapiga and Dr Lara Ryazanova-Clarke, Academic Director of the Dashkova Centre

Another highlight of the October events was a public lecture by **Dr Victor Shnirelman** of **the Moscow Academy of Sciences** entitled '**The Politics of a Name: Between Consolidation and Separation in the Northern Caucasus**'.



Dr Shnirelman

Dr Shirelman's lecture introduced the audience to the contested historical memory of the mediaeval Alan people in that region. Dr Shnirelman also presented the Centre with a book of bibliography of his extensive range of publications in the fields of history, ethnology and anthropology.

The podcast of the lecture will be available soon from:

[www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/literatures-languages-cultures/dashkova/media/podcasts](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/literatures-languages-cultures/dashkova/media/podcasts).

A full-text version of the talk can be found at

[http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/publictn/acta/23/02\\_shnirelman.pdf](http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/publictn/acta/23/02_shnirelman.pdf)

## November Events

### 2012 Russian Film Festival in Scotland in association with Edinburgh Filmhouse and Academia Rossica

#### 4<sup>th</sup> November – 6pm

'Unknown Putin', followed by a discussion moderated by Dr Luke March (University of Edinburgh, Politics) and led by Edinburgh University Students  
Venue: Princess Dashkova Centre, Screening Room 1.01  
Price: £5 (concessions £4)  
Details and tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/unknown-putin1>

#### 5<sup>th</sup> November – 6pm

'Winter Go Away!' (Zima ukhodi!), accompanied by a discussion with film specialist Andrey Plakhov  
Venue: Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, Screening Room 1.01  
Price: £7 (concessions £6)  
Details and tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/winter-go-away1>

#### 6<sup>th</sup> November – 8.15pm

'Living' (Zhit'), accompanied by a discussion with director Vasily Sigarev and actor Yana Troyanovskaya  
Venue: Edinburgh Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, EH3 9BZ  
Details and tickets: <http://www.filmhousecinema.com/>

#### 9<sup>th</sup> November – 6.10pm

'Convoy' (Konvoi)  
Venue: Edinburgh Filmhouse  
Details and tickets: <http://www.filmhousecinema.com/>

For the Andrei Konchalovsky season at the Filmhouse see

<http://www.filmhousecinema.com/seasons/andrei-konchalovsky/>

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### Lecture

**Dmitry Dubrovskiy, Smolny Institute of Liberal Arts and Science**

### Art, Protest and Clash of Rights in Russia

Date: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 5.15pm

Venue: The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

### Abstract

Political and performance art make up a substantial part of the contemporary protest movement in Russia. Actions by the performance art groups 'Voina' (War) and Pussy Riot, and the political performances that followed the highly controversial December 2011 election, have not only provoked harsh reactions by the Russian government, which accuses them of violating anti-extremism legislation, but have also created tensions within the protest movements themselves. The prosecution of Voina and Pussy Riot, as well as other civil rights activists, who, according to officials, have crossed boundaries

between freedom of speech, religion, and state security, will be closely examined. The positions of academics, religious activists and human rights organizations on the protest movement and the government's response will also be discussed at length.

### **Speaker Biography**

Ph.D. in Ethnology, European University at St. Petersburg (1999); Executive Director, Ethnic Studies Program, European University (1999-2005); Chair, Department of Modern Ethnography, Russian Museum of Ethnography, St. Petersburg (2002-2008); Fellow on Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars (2007-2008); Kone Fellow, Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies (2011).

Dmitry Dubrovskiy is Associate Professor, Director of the Human Rights program at the Department of Liberal Arts and Science, St. Petersburg State University. An expert in human rights in contemporary Russia, he specializes in such topics as multiculturalism and human rights, freedom of speech and consciousness, history and transitional justice. Since 2004 he is working as a criminal expert in cases on the hate speech and hate crime in St. Petersburg. He has provided his expertise in a number of cases, concerned with radical violence, freedom of speech advocacy and the protection of different religious groups.



Dmitry Dubrovskiy

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### **Film Event**

**Screening: 'Maria's Lovers' by Andrei Konchalovsky**

**Lecture: Seth Graham, UCL SSEES: The Films of Andrei Konchalovsky  
Q&A Session with Konchalovsky. Sponsored by the Princess Dashkova  
Russian Centre.**

Date: Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November

Time: Lecture starts at 5.30pm, film start time 6.15pm

Venue: Edinburgh Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road EH3 9BZ

### **Lecture abstract**

The career of legendary Russian director and screenwriter Andrei Konchalovsky has spanned more than five decades, and several nations: he has made lasting contributions to the cinemas of Russia, the United States, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. From his early collaborations with Tarkovsky, to his eclectic oeuvre as a Soviet (and post-Soviet) filmmaker, to his big-budget

Hollywood productions, Konchalovsky has never failed to surprise. This short lecture will give an interpretive overview of his work.

### **Speaker biography**

Seth Graham has been Lecturer in Russian at SSEES, UCL since 2006. He is the author of many articles and reviews on contemporary Russian and Central Asian cinema, as well as the book *Resonant Dissonance: The Russian Joke in Cultural Context*.



Dr Seth Graham

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### **Public Lecture**

**Merlin James, Curator of Charchoune 'The Exhibition is Open...'**

#### **Charchoune's Trans-Modernism**

Date: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 5.15pm

Venue: Talbot Rice Gallery, Old College, South Bridge, EH8 9YL

Artist Merlin James, curator of 'Serge Charchoune: The exhibition is open...', will introduce and reassess the work of the Russian-born artist and writer, consider its relevance for the post-modern period and its relation to other highly independent figures in twentieth-century art.

**The lecture accompanies the new exhibition 'Serge Charchoune: The Exhibition is Open...', which will run from 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012 to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in the Georgian gallery of the Talbot Rice Gallery.**

This exhibition offers a concise reconsideration of the career of Russian artist and writer Serge Charchoune (1888-1975). While involved with Dada, Cubism, Purism and informal abstraction, Charchoune operated quite autonomously within and beyond those movements. His painting can anticipate, in very personal ways, aspects of Abstract Expressionism, minimalism and 'pattern painting', and his writing looks forward to 'language poetry' and autofiction. In general Charchoune's stylistic diversity speaks to post-modernism, but as a figure in twentieth-century art and literature he seems to hide in plain view, reflecting a couplet from his 1921 Dada poem *Foule Immobile*: 'The exhibition is open. And still no one sees it.' An associate of Duchamp, Picabia, Schwitters, Léger, Tzara, Breton, Ernst, de

Staël and many others, yet Charchoune cultivated an elusive, semi-invisible persona, commenting 'I lie low, and have a lot of freedom.'

### **Speaker biography**

Merlin James (b. South Wales, 1960) trained at the Central School and Royal College of Art London (to 1986). He is represented by Sikkema Jenkins & Co. (New York) and exhibits internationally. His critical writing on art appears in the Burlington Magazine and many other journals and publications.



Serge Charchoune, Pluie Colorée No.1, (1937)

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### **Knowledge Exchange Event – Russian State Children’s Library**

Date: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 5.15pm

Venue: The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

Part of the Russian State Children’s Library study visit to Scotland, this roundtable event will feature the directors of the library and senior members of the National Library of Scotland and Edinburgh University Library.

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**<https://www.facebook.com/DashkovaCentre>**