



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

THE PRINCESS DASHKOVA RUSSIAN CENTRE OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

14 Buccleuch Place,
EH8 9LN, Edinburgh,
Tel: 0131 650 99 02

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Upcoming Events

September 2016

Book Launch: Pam Wardell

A Very Private Affair – a Soviet Dissident’s “English Wife”

Time: Thursday 29th September, 6.00pm

Venue: Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

October 2016

International workshop: Poetic strategies in the time of political repression
Time: Monday, 24th October, 6.00pm

Venue: Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

The Russian Word in Scotland Series
An Evening with Nina Dashevskaya

Time: Monday, 17th October, 6.00pm

Venue: Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

Reporting on our events:

Alicia Kozameh (Argentina)
Reading & Dialogue: A Meeting with the Writer

An evening with Film Director Ekaterina Eremenko:
Screening of the film ‘The Discrete Charm of Geometry’ (2015) with the introduction and a Q&A session with the Director

News:

Welcome Student Party at the Dashkova Centre



Dear friends and colleagues

Welcome to the 2016-17 season of the Dashkova Centre’s events!

Upcoming Events

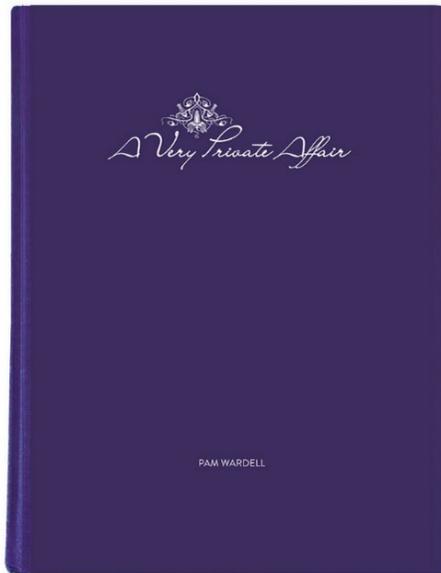
September 2016

Book Launch: Pam Wardell

A Very Private Affair – a Soviet Dissident’s “English Wife”

Time: Thursday 29th September, 6.00pm

Venue: Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place



“A Very Private Affair...” is a memoir of **Speranza Howard** (1903 – 95) who was born and brought up in pre-revolutionary Russia and escaped with her family, in 1920, to London. But it is also a story of the Russian writer **Boris Pilniak**, who visited Britain just once, but who claimed to have lost his heart for ever to a half-English girl he met in 1923 – Pam’s aunt.

The identity of his “English Wife” was unknown until, in the Russian memorabilia **Pam Wardell** had stored in her loft, she found two bundles of love - letters written by Boris to Speranza, from 1923 and 1929. Thus began her researches into their long affair, which had remained a secret for the whole of her aunt’s life.

Pam Wardell tells two stories in parallel: one about the secret life of her enigmatic intellectual Aunt, Speranza Howard (1903 – 1995); the other about her personal journey to uncover the impact of the Russian



Boris Pilnyak

Revolution on her family's history. "It began with the Russian love letters I found among my aunt's papers after her death in 1995. I only realized their full impact when I showed them to the translator **Michael Falchikov**. It took wings after a visit to Russia in 2004 to meet the researcher **Dagmar Kassek**, who spent years collecting the letters of Boris Pilniak for publication by Moscow University Press in 2011. And slowly it grew into a manuscript, the bones of a book." Through a unique collaboration with the graphic designer **Janey Boyd** (Mamook Graphics), Pam has produced a stunningly illustrated account of one twentieth century woman's love for the Soviet dissident writer, Boris Pilniak.

The places are limited so please register on: <https://pamwardell.eventbrite.co.uk>



October 2016

International workshop: Poetic strategies in the time of political repression

Time: Monday, 24th October, 6.00pm

Venue: Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

This workshop is held in association with the University's Department of European Languages and Literatures 'Language and Violence' Research Strand and in partnership with the Russian Rudomino State Library of Foreign Literature and The Institute of Translation. The Dashkova Centre will host an international workshop to mark the 125th anniversary since Osip Mandestam's birth. The speakers include Professor **Oleg Lekmanov** (National Research University, Moscow), Professor **Peter France** (the University of Edinburgh), **Dr Andrew Reynolds** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and poet, writer and translator **Maxim Amelin**.

The event is popular and places will be limited. Early registration is essential: <http://poetandpower.eventbrite.co.uk>



Nina
Dashevskaya

The Russian Word in Scotland Series

An Evening with Nina Dashevskaya

Time: Monday, 17th October, 6.00pm

Venue: Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

Nina Dashevskaya, a writer and musician is a new name in Russian children's literature and a multiple winner of the *Kniguru* award. She will read from her books and answer questions. Children are particularly welcome to this event!

Please register for event on <http://dashevskaya.eventbrite.co.uk>

Reporting on our events:

Alicia Kozameh (Argentina)

Reading & Dialogue: A Meeting with the Writer



On 14th September the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre hosted an evening with the writer **Alicia Kozameh** (Argentina) organized by Department of European Languages and Cultures 'Language and Violence' Research Strand.

Alicia is the author of seven novels, a collection of short stories, a book of poetry, and is the editor of two anthologies. She was a political prisoner from 1975 to 1978, during the last military dictatorship in Argentina. While she writes and travels to lecture and do readings invited by universities in the United States, Europe and South America, Alicia also teaches creative writing in the English Department of Chapman University.

Alicia presented a reading from her book *Pasos bajo el agua* (*Steps Under Water*), and talked about fictionalization of her experience as a political prisoner, and as a political exile. Reading was followed by a Q + A session.



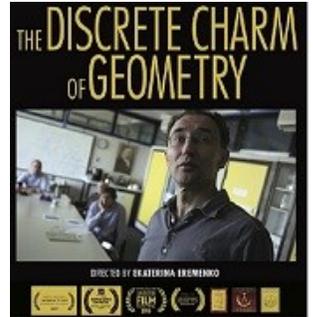
An evening with Film Director Ekaterina Eremenko:

Screening of the film 'The Discrete Charm of Geometry' (2015) with the introduction and a Q&A session with the Director

On 24th September the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre held an evening with the Russian film director Ekaterina Eremenko, which included screening of her recent film "The Discrete Charm of Geometry" (2015).



“The Discrete Charm of Geometry” is designed to convey the joys of science to wide audiences. The film follows the journey of a team of mathematicians from the Collaborative Research Centre “Discretization in Geometry and Dynamics” as they dive into the unknown world of mathematics. United by the idea of discretization these scientists



experience hope, disappointment, success, failure, and the overall excitement of discovery as they work together on a big project. The question of where the boundaries lie between mathematics and the lives of those who are involved in it, and how much they are willing to sacrifice is as important as the search for precise scientific answers. Other films by Ekaterina Ereminko include “The Sound of Russia” (2003), “Big Bones – Big Business” (2004), “My Class” (2008), and “Colours of Math” (2012).

News:

Welcome Student Party at the Dashkova Centre

On Wednesday 21 September, the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre started the academic year with a large party held for students of Russian Studies and the University Russian students. We are delighted that the Centre was packed and joyfully celebrated the largest intake into Russian Studies since the subject began in the University over 70 years ago! We wish our unique First Year a very happy student career and hope that they as well as all Russian students will be regular visitors to the Dashkova Centre’s events.



We’re on the Web!

Follow us on Facebook for regular updates of news and events.

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



The Dashkova Centre is on Twitter! You can follow us on [@DashkovaCentre](https://twitter.com/DashkovaCentre)

To become a friend of the Dashkova Centre please contact Dashkova.Centre@ed.ac.uk

The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre

The University of Edinburgh

14 Buccleuch Place, EH8 9LN, Edinburgh, Tel: 0131 650 99 02, Email: Dashkova.Centre@ed.ac.uk.