

# BEYOND THE CAPITALS: NOT THE USUAL SUSPECTS

## THE WHY

This project is simple: create an encounter between a new generation of Russian cultural animators and the landscape of American theater--not in the usual spots, but in small, unique performance cultures across the country.

The Russian participants are from both the capitals and the far reaches of Russian theater culture. They are young and in a position to influence the direction of culture and theater in their cities and in Russia in general over the next two or three decades.

By bringing them to places outside of the American theater capitals, we will tap into a shared ethos of Russia and America: that *place* has a powerful influence on art, and can create different models of support, partnerships, and both economic and artistic sustainability.

The encounters with these unique performance cultures is not just about seeing the art, but about learning the history, meeting the artists, eating the food, dancing to the music, walking the land, and creating a shared language that could forge partnerships for decades to come.

BALTIMORE

AUSTIN

SAN FRANCISCO

NEW ORLEANS

---

OMSK

MOSCOW

ST. PETERSBURG

YEKATERINBURG



Philip Arnoult,  
Founder and Director

## CITD AND RUSSIA: NEW RUSSIAN DRAMA

Beginning in 2008, CITD, with partner **John Freedman** in Russia, CITD identified contemporary Russian playwrights who were emerging and outstanding voices in the new era of Russian drama.

Over three years, more than 25 Russian plays from the last 15 years were translated into American English, and put into the hands of American theater artists, and many Russian playwrights came to America to see their work produced in English.

A culminating conference of 110 theatre professionals was held at Towson University in Baltimore in May of 2010, where 5 of the plays were presented. A CD of plays was produced with more than 2000 copies now in distribution.

### THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Oleg Bogaev • Alexei Burykin • Alexandra Chichkanova • Vyacheslav Durnenkov • Daniil Gink • Pyotr Gladilin • Viktor Korkiya • Maksym Kurochkin • Dmitry Minchyonok • Olga Mukhina • Yury Klavdiev • Oleg and Vladimir Presnyakov • Yaroslava Pulinovich

### THE TRANSLATORS

John Freedman • John J. Hanlon • Juanita Rockwell • Kate Moira Ryan • Yury Urnov • David M. White



## CITD AND THE BILATERAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION: NEW AMERICAN DRAMA IN RUSSIA

Starting in October 2010, CITD partnered with **The Eugene O'Neill Center, New York Theatre Workshop, The Sundance Theatre Lab, and Actors Theatre of Louisville** to bring contemporary American plays to Russia.

- **Translation** by contemporary Russian playwrights
- **Publication** for distribution to Russian theater artists
- **Production:** public staged readings in cities all across Russia

The final plays were chosen by Russian readers for their ability to speak to Russian audiences.

### THE PLAYWRIGHTS

**Suzan-Lori Parks**  
*THE BOOK OF GRACE*  
**Yury Klavdiev**  
With Maria Nikolaeva

**Eric Bogosian**  
*TALK RADIO*  
**Ivan Vyrypaev**  
With Anna Shulgat

**Adam Rapp**  
*NOCTURNE*  
**Maksym Kurochkin**  
With John Freedman

**Anne Baker**  
*ALIENS*  
**Mikhail Durnenkov**  
With Yekaterina Raikova

**Charles L. Mee**  
*BIG LOVE*  
**Sergei Task**

**Deborah Zoe Laufer**  
*END OF DAYS*  
**Nina Belenitskaya**

**Nilo Cruz**  
*ANNA IN THE TROPICS*  
**Yevgeny Kazachkov**

## THE BILATERAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION: AMERICAN SEASONS IN RUSSIA

Recognizing the need to make a fresh start in relations between the U.S. and Russia, President Medvedev and President Obama created the **U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission** to improve coordination between our countries to address shared challenges and to explore new opportunities for partnership in areas of mutual interest. "Beyond the Capitals" is part of a larger cultural exchange called **American Seasons in Russia**, headed by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, which also includes artists such as Lee Breuer, The Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, The Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and the Smithsonian Jazz Orchestra, and, in the spring of 2012, the triumphant return of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to Russia for the first time in more than two decades.

### THE SCHEDULE

Baltimore May 14 - 18 • Austin May 19 - 23  
San Francisco May 24 - 29 • New Orleans May 30 - June 3

## THE RUSSIANS

**Milena Avimskaya, St. Petersburg:** Founder, Artistic Director of On.Teatr, a new venue promoting the work of young directors, writers, actors. Founded less than two years ago, the theater has already garnered international attention with projects involving Italy, France and the United States. The theater has already helped several important new young directors to emerge on the national Russian scene and there is every reason to believe that the next five to ten years will see the theater grow into a major venue for change and experimentation in Russia.

**Maria Kroupnik, Moscow:** A Moscow-based project manager, translator, and media specialist, cooperates with a number of Russian theatres, including Teatr.doc, J. Beuys Theatre, Theatre 'Centre for Playwriting and Directing.' Her translations/subtitle adaptations of Nina Belitskaya's Pavik Is My God and Elena Gremina's 1 Hour 18 Minutes were showcased at the Golden Mask Festival's Russian Case in 2010 and 2011. In conjunction with Yale University, she translated Meg Miroshnik's The Fairytale Life of the Russian Girls, which was featured as part of their "Workshop on Begovaya" project, performed in December 2011. Kroupnik has also worked in media and public affairs for the British Embassy in Moscow and the British Council in Moscow.

**Natalya Druzhinina, Yekaterinburg:** Executive director of the Real Theater Festival, based in Yekaterinburg, but which is held every other year in various Russian provincial cities. It is one of the oldest and most influential of all Russian theater festivals, and it is instrumental in helping to develop new talents among directors and playwrights. Druzhinina is also executive assistant to Oleg Loevsky at the Yekaterinburg Young Spectator Theater, the site of many festivals and workshops designed to promote the emergence of young talent in Russia.

**Pavel Shishin, Omsk (Siberia):** Literary Director of the Fifth Theater. Omsk is considered by many to be a theatrical city surpassed in reputation only by Moscow, St. Petersburg and, perhaps, Yekaterinburg. The Fifth Theater, created 20 years ago, has contributed a great deal to that reputation. It is a house that champions new, cutting edge work, often supporting it with workshops and festivals. The Fifth Theater is the host of the biannual Young Theaters of Russia festival which brings many emerging artists to perform in Omsk. Pavel has been instrumental in running this festival, as well as several new drama workshops that have helped bring important new plays to the attention of Russian theater.

**Thanks to a grant from the America for Bulgaria Foundation, guest artist Ida Daniel will be joining the Beyond the Capitals tour.**

**Ida Daniel, Sofia, Bulgaria:** Independent theater director. Her work has been produced with independent theater companies all across Bulgaria and internationally. She is a co-founder of ACT--The Association of Independent Theatre, an advocacy group devoted to the growing movement of theaters working outside of the state system. Her work has been presented at the Brouhaha Festival for Street Theatre, the ACT Independent Theatre Festival, the Water Tower Fest and Sofia Poetics Open Air Festival. Productions include "Dagmar the Dead or Little Match Girl," by ghostdog and Sfumato Theatre, "Eating the Apple," based on the texts by Katya Atanasova, and "In Tuscany," by Catalan author Sergi Belbel, premiering in October 2011 at the National Theatre. In 2011 she became part of on "The Mighty Mighty Pressure Cooker: an association for pressure-driven contemporary performing arts."

## THE CITD TEAM

**Yury Urnov:** Theater Director, teacher and translator. Born in Moscow, Russia in 1976. In 2000 graduated from the Russian Academy of Theater Art with an MFA. Directed number of productions in Russia and abroad, including Moscow main-stages. Taught and participated in number of master-classes in Russia, the USA, the GB, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Uganda. Translated into Russian plays of E. Albee, M. Mc Donagh, and S. Ruhl. During the season of 09/10 worked on and directed number of plays of the CITD Russian Season at Towson University as a Fulbright Scholar in Residence. Currently works with the Woolly Mammoth Theater in DC as an Artist in Residence, and teaches at Towson University.

**Susan Stroupe:** MFA in Theatre Candidate at Towson University. For several years she taught theater and writing to adults with developmental disabilities at the North Fourth Theater in Albuquerque, NM, made original works with the multi-ability ensembles there: Equilibrium Theater Company and In Strange Company. For the past two years, she has worked with Philip Arnoult (CITD), including organizing the New Russian Drama Conference at Towson and performing in *Vodka, Fucking, and Television* by Maksym Kurochkin, and *Martial Arts* by Yury Klavdiev. She has also worked with CITD in Hungary and Bulgaria. She holds a BA in Creative Writing and Theater from Macalester College.

**Philip Arnoult:** Founder and director of The Center for International Theatre Development (1991), founder of the Baltimore Theatre Project (1971). His international work spans four decades and four continents. In addition to CITD ([www.citd.us](http://www.citd.us)), he is a long-time collaborator and associate of Double Edge Theatre's Farm Center ([doubleedgetheatre.org](http://doubleedgetheatre.org)) in Ashfield, Massachusetts, and an adjunct professor in the graduate theatre program of Towson University ([www.towson.edu/theatremfa](http://www.towson.edu/theatremfa)). CITD's current work is centered in Russia, Hungary ([hungarianwatch.wordpress.com](http://hungarianwatch.wordpress.com)), Bulgaria and Poland, and is supported by a major grants from The Trust for Mutual Understanding and the Bilateral Presidential Commission: US Embassy Moscow.

### We are working with four key individuals in each of the four cities:

- **Buck Jabaily** (Baltimore) is the co-founder of the Baltimore Open Theatre. Buck was the Founding Artistic Director of Single Carrot Theatre, an ensemble theatre he moved from Colorado to Baltimore in 2006. Buck stepped down as Artistic Director of Single Carrot Theatre in 2010, and left Single Carrot in 2011.
- **Graham Schmidt** (Austin, Texas) studied at both University of Texas and the Moscow Art Theatre. He is a founder of Breaking String Theatre in Austin, and is producing the second New Russian Drama Festival in March 2012.
- **Robert Avila** (San Francisco) is an award-winning critic and journalist. His is the senior critic for the San Francisco Bay Guardian, and has written extensively on theatre in Eastern Europe.
- **Jim O'Quinn** (New Orleans) is the Editor-in-Chief of American Theatre Magazine. He has a distinguished career, with a long history of covering international theatre. He is a New Orleans native.



### CONTACT

[susan.stroupe@gmail.com](mailto:susan.stroupe@gmail.com) 651-329-2618

For more information and to follow the tour, visit  
[beyondcapitals.wordpress.com](http://beyondcapitals.wordpress.com)