

LADY PEASANT

*Барышня-
крестьянка*



**Free and open
to the public**

UO Global Scholars Hall
Room 123
1710 East 15th Avenue
Eugene OR 97403

**Saturday
March 11, 2017
7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday
March 12, 2017
2:30 p.m.**

**Love, alcohol &
misunderstandings.**

The Lady Peasant
(Барышня-крестьянка) is
a bilingual play based on
Aleksandr Pushkin's
Russian-language parody
of Shakespeare's
romantic themes.
Adapted and directed by
Julia Nemirovskaya.

Presented by the Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies Program at the University of Oregon, in collaboration with University of Oregon Libraries, Department of Theatre Arts, UO School of Music and Dance, Global Scholars Hall, and University Housing.

The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Accommodations for people with disabilities will be provided if requested in advance by calling 541-346-4078.

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OREGON

Director's Note

In 1820, at the age of 20, Russia's leading poet Aleksandr Pushkin was exiled to the southern provinces as punishment for writing a liberal ode. In the south, he became friends with the 1812 War General Raevskii and his family. The poet was proverbially amorous: he immediately fell for Raevskii's mischievous teenage daughter Maria and devoted poems and part of "Eugene Onegin" to her beauty. Later, Maria married the leader of the Decembrist anti-government coup and heroically followed her husband to Siberia. Like everyone in her family, she loved all things English. Maria taught Pushkin enough English to appreciate Shakespeare. There are references to the English Bard here and there in Pushkin's works, but one short novella, "Lady Peasant," is literally a hodgepodge of Shakespearian themes and a good-hearted parody on "Romeo and Juliet:" the widowed fathers of the two heroes are enemies; the dialog of the Lady with her servant girl is similar to Juliet's conversation with her nanny; and the whole Anglophile atmosphere at Muromskii's estate is a reference to Raevskii's. This gave us reason to create a mix of Pushkin's love story with that of Shakespeare's. The end is very different in the Russian story: vodka turns enemies into friends - you will discover what comes next...

Pushkin generally used existing literary works like the 20th century postmodernists did: to play with them. So we took liberty to play with his hilarious tale and enjoyed it as much as Pushkin's friend E. Baratynskii who "roared and thrashed about with laughter" reading it. We hope our audience will do the same at the show!

Pushkin wrote "Lady Peasant" in 1830, right after he married a pretty teenage girl, Natalia Goncharova. His work at the time was light and happy-ending. He was superstitious, so Anna Akhmatova suggested that it was a way of casting a lucky spell on his new married life. Sadly, his work didn't change his fate: the marriage was the first step toward his untimely death in a duel in 1837. Yet the happy stories he wrote brought fun and joy to generations of readers in Russia.

Thank you, exceptional "Lady Peasant" cast and crew, for your devotion and talent. It has been a great joy to work with you. May all your adventures end well! Vodka is not always the best remedy, you can always opt for whiskey. It's not only vodka that brings about happy endings: even just a good laugh can ultimately change tragedy into comedy!

Julia Nemirovskaya

Join us at any stage!

Meet The Cast



When **Ksenia Gordeeva** was growing up in Nizhnii Novgorod, Russia, she dreamed of exploring the world, and life has not disappointed her. Throughout her young life she has traveled the globe and then she fell in love with the United States during her first visits. While here, she picked up a couple of degrees. When not studying or teaching, she loves traveling, scuba diving, photography, yoga, making friends with cats, and eating cookies made by Christopher Shiroma.

Win McLaughlin is a PhD candidate in Earth Sciences. She also has a MA in Geology from UO and a BS in Environmental Science from University of the Pacific in CA although she originally hails from Centralia, WA. She studies the relationship between mountain-building events and evolution of fossil mammals in Kyrgyzstan. When she isn't abroad in Kyrgyzstan, she likes to ride horses and be rather snobbish about drinking craft beer.



Lizka Vaintrob is a senior at South Eugene High School, and has been helping with UO Russian Theater for fifteen years. This year, she plays Nastia, Liza's peasant serving girl. Lizka is also involved with art, including the backdrops and poster. This year, Lizka's sister Polina Vaintrob also plays as bunny.

Andrei Andreev was born in Kok-Jangack in Kyrgyzstan. At age 15 he moved to Russia. Now he is a student at the University of Oregon in the Masters program of classical piano performance. Andrei has his own YouTube channel "pianist Andrei Andreev". Andrei has never been to Canada.





Crystal Brown is a Political Science PhD student studying international relations. She is passionate about learning Slavic languages. She grew up in an immigrant neighborhood in Chicago with people from all over the world. When she is in Oregon, she goes on long hikes in the beautiful nature that one can only find in the Pacific Northwest.

Chris Celio is a sophomore, majoring in psychology and sociology. Oregon native with interest in literature, kickboxing, and Russian. He is proud to be in Russian Theater, and it gives him great joy to be a part of it. He hopes to use his knowledge in Russian to aid more people in his community and attend law school.



Stacy Yurishcheva is a native Russian from Novosibirsk, Siberia. She is a junior in the Advertising Program at UO. She played Tatiana in "Eugene Oregin" last year. She enjoyed being a part of the process and came back this year to play Juliet!

Itay Vagner is a fifth year theatre arts major with no Russian experience. He is not afraid of a challenge, which is why he took the course. He had a wonderful time getting to know the Russian culture. Sorry, they only gave him about 200 words to wr...

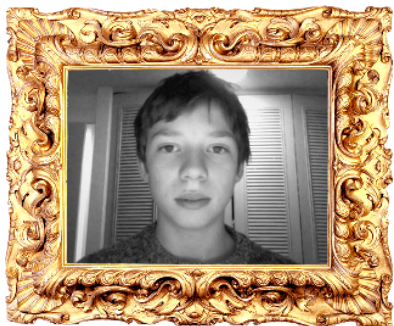


Christopher Shiroma is junior working towards a Bachelor's in Business at UO. Although his experience in Russian studies is limited, he is excited to be studying the works of Pushkin and learning Russian culture.

Willem van Rees is a Freshman at the University of Oregon and currently studies both REEES and political science. Famous for his Blini cooking skills and his Russian soul, he is very motivated to learn Russian and has taken every opportunity to immerse himself in Russian culture.



Gersh Botvinnik is currently a sixth grade student attending Oakhill school. He has been with UO Russian Theater since 2012. This is his last year participating in Russian Theatre since he is moving onto junior high.



Dalton Roberts is a senior at University of Oregon, in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. After college, he plans to move to Europe and become an English teacher for a few years and see the sights.



Katya Rogers comes from the beautiful Kyiv, Ukraine. Growing up, as a little girl, she would walk past Pushkin's monument and tap on his shoulder for good luck, oh boy, has it worked! She is pursuing her Economics major here at the University of Oregon.



Lara Ravitch is thrilled to work with Julia again this year, combining her love of theater and Russia. When not editing the text, blocking scenes, or helping actors memorize Russian lines, she is running the Intensive English Program at the UO AEI and Lesnoe Ozero, Concordia Language Villages' Russian immersion program in Minnesota. She is grateful to her family for supporting her love for theater.

Sulamita Barbiyeru is a junior studying at REEES. Her parents come from Moldova and Ukraine. That has influenced her decision to immerse herself in the language during college. She hopes to study abroad in St. Petersburg next year for the academic year to further delve into this beautiful culture.



Josh Nesmith was originally born in Chelyabinsk, Russia. At age 3, he was adopted and moved to the U.S. Growing up, he knew very little Russian. Now he is expanding his Russian knowledge at UO. Although, being cast for shows previously, this is his first role in a bilingual play. While away from studies, you most likely can find him exploring long lost caves or relics near and far!

Yulia Krasnova is a senior at the University of Oregon majoring in REEES. After she graduates she plans on going back to school for graphic design. It is her second time being part of Julia's plays and she is sad she won't be able to be a part of it next year.



Before coming to the UO for her MA in REEES, **Svetlana Osadchuk** lived in the middle of nowhere in Russia next to the woods. Her favorite past time was writing about the ugly Soviet era mysteries. She is a published author and a former journalist for The Moscow Times.



Sophia Badalian is a first year student at the University of Oregon. She is from Los Angeles and has just begun learning the Russian language this year. Sophia assisted the director and cast throughout the Lady Peasant production and is grateful to have been immersed in such a cultural experience.

Marcella Buser is in her first year at the University of Oregon and just recently begun learning Russian. She loves learning the language and enjoyed being a part of the class this term. Although she does not have an acting role in the play, she has helped backstage throughout.



Kodiak Hast is a senior at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance. He has performed with the Eugene Opera Chorus in “The Elixir of Love”, “Sweeney Todd”, and “Eugene Onegin”. He played the role of Don Alfonso in the UO Opera Ensemble's production of “Così fan tutte”. He loves to learn and speak Russian.

Anya Mears is from Santa Monica, CA. She was fortunate to embrace the Russian culture through her mother who was born and raised in Moscow, Russia. She thought this class would be totally out of her comfort zone considering she has never done anything like this before, but she is very grateful that she did. She has Sulamita Barbiyeru, A.K.A. Olenka, to thank because Sulamita forced her to do this!



Cast

in order of appearance

Матвей, кучер — Matvei, carriage driver.....	Kodiak Hast
Федор, кучер — Fedor, carriage driver.....	Josh Nesmith
Мисс Жаксон, гувернантка у Муромских — Miss Jackson, Muromskii's governess.....	Win McLaughlin
Тришка, слуга Муромского — Trishka, Muromskii's servant.....	Dalton Roberts
Чарли, племянник Мисс Жаксон — Charlie, Miss Jackson's nephew.....	Gersh Botvinnik
Калика Анфиса, сплетница — Kalika Anfisa, gossipier.....	Crystal Brown
Калика Степан, сплетник — Kalika Stepan, gossipier.....	Kodiak Hast
Дети — Children.....	Kijan Ravitch, Alik Polishchuk, Alistair Moore
Иван (Ваня), пастух у Муромских — Ivan (Vania), Muromskii's shepherd.....	Josh Nesmith
Настя, дворовая девушка Лизы — Nastia, Liza's servant girl.....	Lizka Vaintrob
Лиза (Лиззи), дочь Муромского — Liza (Lizzy), daughter of Muromskii.....	Ksenia Gordeeva
Григорий Иванович Муромский — Grigoriy Ivanovich Muromskii.....	Willem Van Rees
Михаил Львович Осоргин — Mikhail Lvovich Osorgin.....	Yulia Krasnova
Анна Петровна Осоргина, жена Осоргина — Anna Petrovna Osorgina, wife of Osorgin.....	Katya Rogers
Оленька, дочь Осоргина — Olenka, daughter of Osorgin.....	Sulamita Barbiyeru
Машенька, дочь Осоргина — Mashenka, daughter of Osorgin.....	Svetlana Osadchuk
Дашенька, дочь Осоргина — Dashenka, daughter of Osorgin.....	Anya Mears
Джюльетта — Juliet.....	Stacy Yurishcheva
Ромео — Romeo.....	Christopher Shiroma
Бенволио — Benvolio.....	Chris Celio
Няня — Nurse.....	Crystal Brown
Веронский певец — Singer of Verona.....	Kodiak Hast
Меркуцио — Mercurio.....	Itay Vagner
Иван Петрович Берестов — Ivan Petrovich Berestov.....	Chris Celio
Алексей (Алеша) Берестов, сын Берестова — Aleksei (Alyosha), son of Berestov.....	Andrei Andreev
Петр, слуга в доме Берестовых — Pyotr, Berestovs' servant.....	Itay Vagner
Зайцы, собака Сбогар — Rabbits, dog Sbogar.....	Timothy Polishchuk, Polina Vaintrob
Синьор Капулетти — Segnor Capulet.....	Itay Vagner
Синьора Капулетти — Segnora Capulet.....	Katya Rogers
Слуга Синьора Капулетти — Segnor Capulet's servant.....	Kodiak Hast

Choir

Kodiak Hast, Crystal Brown, and
Sulamita Barbieru (solos)
Itay Vagner
Chris Shiroma
Lizka Vaintrob
Josh Nesmith
Katya Rogers

Dancers

Crystal Brown
Sulamita Barbieru
Itay Vagner
Gersh Botvinnik
Kodiak Hast
Chris Shiroma
Lizka Vaintrob
Josh Nesmith
Katya Rogers

Music Directors

Kodiak Hast
Andrei Andreev
Lizka Vaintrob

Music and songs by P. Tchaikovsky,
D. Shostakovich, N. Rota, Yu. Kim, S.
Prokofiev, and A. Khachaturian

Crew

Ksenia Gordeeva	
Svetalana Osadchuk	
Lara Ravitch	
Heghine Hakobyan	
Katya Rogers.....	Russian Language Tutors
Lizka Vaintrob	
Sophia Badalian	
Crystal Brown	
Irina Botvinnik.....	Art
Lizka Vaintrob	
Alexander Kashirin	
Chris Shiroma.....	Stage Design
Itay Vagner	
Katya Rogers	
Sophia Badalian	
Willem Van Rees	
Ksenia Gordeeva	
Marcella Buser	
Josh Nesmith	
Crystal Brown.....	PR
Lizka Vaintrob	
Dalton Roberts.....	Makeup
Ben M. Jones.....	Film Production
Lara Ravitch.....	Editor
Itay Vagner	
Lara Ravitch	
Sophia Badalian	
Marcella Buser.....	Assistant Directors
Alexander Kashirin.....	Stage Director
Anastasia Savenko-Moore.....	Costume Director
Lauren Nychelle	Lighting Director
Heghine Hakobyan	
Lizka Vaintrob	
Sophia Badalian	
Marcella Buser	
Katya Rogers	
Stacy Yurishcheva.....	Program
Julia Nemirovskaya.....	Writer-Director

Synopsis

Act I

Miss Jackson travels to Russia, along with her guinea pig Aristocrat and her nephew Charlie, to be the governess of the Russian Anglophile squire Grigorii Ivanovich Muromskii's daughter Liza. Miss Jackson is introduced to the mischievous Liza, her servant Nastia, and Muromskii's butler Trishka, who falls for the British governess. Meanwhile, Ivan the shepherd declares his love for Nastia and she rejects his advances.

Muromskii invites his friends Osorgins over. They tell tales of Aleksei, son of Ivan Petrovich Berestov, a neighbor feuding with Muromskii. All of the girls are entranced by Aleksei's Romantic disillusionment and melancholy. Miss Jackson reads the tale of Romeo and Juliet. Romeo, Mercutio, and Benvolio go to a party and Romeo meets Juliet.

After being rejected once more, Ivan runs into Trishka who persuades him to buy a fancy kerchief to impress Nastia. Nastia goes to Berestovs' to celebrate the cook's birthday. She returns and tells Liza about Aleksei dancing and kissing the peasant girls. Liza is shocked to find out Aleksei is boisterous and playful. Liza and Nastia disguise Liza as a peasant girl so she can meet the infamous Aleksei, and Nastia enlists Ivan's help in getting the best shoes. Liza, dressed as the peasant Akulina, meets Aleksei, and he immediately falls in love with her. Charlie knows of the whole plot. He confides in Miss Jackson, who becomes worried that their story will end up much like that of Romeo and Juliet's. Liza as Akulina and Aleksei meet more and more often.

Intermission



Synopsis

Act II

Miss Jackson discovers the secret of Liza and Aleksei. She expresses her fears in a letter to her friend by referencing the infamous ending to Romeo and Juliet's tragic love affair. We are transported into Shakespeare's play to witness the relationship of these two star-crossed lovers. Miss Jackson then asks Charlie to think of a way to help end this relationship.

Charlie finds Aleksei in the woods; he presents himself as Akulina's brother and tries to discourage Aleksei, saying that Liza will not show up. To his dismay, she arrives. He then instigates the peasant boys to throw cricket balls at the lovers. Liza suggests that she and Aleksei stop seeing each other to prevent gossip.

Miss Jackson tries to warn Muromskii of their relationship, but he is busy preparing for a hunting trip where he runs into his enemy, Berestov. Muromskii's horse rears up and Muromskii falls off and sprains his leg. Berestov comes to his enemy's rescue. The two finally resolve their long feud over vodka and decide to get the two families together for dinner. This sends Liza into a panic. To disguise herself, she dresses in the 18 century attire and covers herself in Miss Jackson's pale white face powder. Aleksei doesn't recognize his beloved Akulina in her.

Back in the woods, Aleksei "teaches" his miraculously gifted peasant Akulina to read and write. Akulina inquires about her competition, who really is just Liza disguised by Miss Jackson's makeup. Aleksei assures that Muromskii's daughter is no threat. Little does he know!

Meanwhile, Ivan follows Trishka's advice and impresses Nastia with his knowledge of the exotic animal, the crocodile. She falls for him and the gossipers spread the news. Trishka's love for Miss Jackson, however, goes unreciprocated.

The fathers Berestov and Muromskii, now best friends, decide that their children should marry. Aleksei, unaware of Akulina's true identity, is reluctant to accept this news. His father Berestov threatens to withhold his property and wealth from him, should Aleksei betray his orders.

Aleksei proposes to Akulina and goes to confront the daughter of Muromskii. He sees that his dear Akulina is really Liza, the daughter of Muromskii, not a blacksmith. The two can finally be together.

They are not the only happy couple to be married. Muromskii and Miss Jackson reveal their true feelings to each other and decide to marry along with the children.

The Russian cast invites the English cast to join their celebration at the ball.

Special Thanks

UO Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies

UO College of Arts and Sciences

University of Oregon Libraries

UO Department of Theater Arts

UO School of Music and Dance

University Housing Global Scholars Hall

Oregon Consortium for International and Area Studies

Tamara Morris, REEES Courtesy Professor, Russian Linguistics (Dialectology)

Amanda Garcia, UO Exhibit and Imaging Specialist

John Schmor, UO Theatre Arts Associate Professor

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