

## “A MONTH IN MOSCOW” AT THE MOSCOW ART THEATRE SCHOOL, JUNE 2015



**"A Month in Moscow" Class of 2014**

### **THE MOSCOW ART THEATRE SCHOOL TRADITION**

#### ***About "A Month in Moscow" (MIM)***

A Month in Moscow is a partnership program of intensive workshop training at the Moscow Art Theatre School, which is the conservatory wing of the renowned Moscow Art Theatre founded in 1898 by Konstantin Stanislavsky and Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko. Open to serious theatre students from accredited colleges or universities, teacher-observers, and working professionals, MIM has successfully integrated practical theatre studies and cultural immersion in Moscow. Established in 2001, MIM is an authorized partner of the Moscow Art Theatre School.

#### ***Why Study with MIM?***

Those selected to participate in A Month in Moscow become part of a distinguished tradition. Since 2001, over 250 actors, directors, designers, theatre managers, and teacher-observers from 20 different colleges and universities, as well as working professionals, have chosen MIM as their preferred summer study abroad program to obtain maximum training results and immersive cultural experience.

MIM participants are enrolled through the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance at Wayne State University—historically ranked among the leading comprehensive theatre programs in the nation—and have access to classes in acting, directing, design, theatre management, theatre history, and Russian film at the Moscow Art Theatre School, as well as excursions to theatres and other cultural locations. Moreover, as guests of the Moscow Art Theatre School, MIM participants enjoy the same benefits and privileges as their Russian counterparts, including MAT School faculty, on-site support staff, housing, and available discounted lunches at the Moscow Art Theatre cafeteria. MIM participants say they had the best summer of their lives in Moscow; they have recommended MIM to their friends and colleagues, and continue to utilize back home the knowledge and skills that they learned in Moscow.

### ***Why Study in Moscow?***

Moscow is famous for its arts, culture, and history. Many rate it as the center of the international theatre world today. Moscow has the energy of a large, modern metropolis, but with the atmosphere of a striking historical locale. Evidence of its cultural reputation can be found in its numerous theatre and performing arts companies, major theatre training conservatories, and world-quality museums and art galleries.

Among Moscow's many cultural institutions are the Moscow Art Theatre, Vakhtangov Theatre, Maly Theatre, Meyerhold Theatre Center, Bolshoi Theatre, Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Tretyakov Gallery, Pushkin Art Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Sovremennik Theatre, Mayakovsky Museum, State Historical Museum, Andrei Sakharov Museum, Cathedral of Christ the Savior, St. Basil's Cathedral, Bakhrushin Theatre Museum, Novodevichy Monastery and Memorial Park, and many, many more.

## **PROGRAM FEATURES**

### ***One Month On-Site in Moscow (Tentative dates for 2015 are May 31–July 1)***

Participants spend four weeks on-site in Moscow studying appropriate theatre subjects and experiencing the capital city's many theatres, museums, political, historical and cultural sites. Housing is provided at the newly remodeled dormitory of the Moscow Art Theatre School. Discount meals are available at the Moscow Art Theatre cafeteria. The dormitory is a short and easy 20-minute walk from the school. Metro and bus transport and supermarkets are also close by the dormitory.

### ***Theatre and Cultural Excursions***

MIM costs include a guided bus tour of Moscow. Included as well is a visit to the Stanislavsky-home museum, where he lived and worked during the last 17 years of his life. The house has been kept as it was while he lived here, showcasing a small practice theater, a few of his original theater costumes, and other memorabilia. Also included in the cost is a day-trip to Melikhovo, which was the country estate of the Russian playwright and writer Anton Chekhov, where he lived from March 1892 until August 1899, and where he wrote some of his most famous plays and stories, including *The Seagull* and *Uncle Vanya*. It is located about forty miles south of Moscow and is now a state historical site. MIM also makes it possible for participants to combine their studies in Moscow with additional performances and cultural excursions as an extra-cost option.

### ***Credit Earned***

MIM participants register for THR5600, Study Abroad: Moscow Art Theatre School, earning 3 hours of Wayne State University academic credit for one month of practicum completed under supervision of the program. Credits are transferable to any accredited college or university. MIM is an elective at WSU; applicability to degrees at other institutions depends on local requirements.

## PROGRAM SUPPORT

### *Russian Language Support*

MIM provides interpreters for classes and other official group activities for the entire month of study.

### *Living Arrangements*

To ensure maximum convenience and minimum cost, and to encourage maximum immersion in Russian culture, MIM participants live in single or double rooms in the same Moscow Art Theatre School dormitory as Russian students. The up-to-date student dormitory floors have two shared shower-baths and two shared kitchenettes with washers. Public transportation provides quick and convenient access to the entire city, but many participants will prefer walking to and from classes by way of Tverskaya Street, Moscow's main commercial and cultural thoroughfare.

### *Orientation Sessions*

Several orientation sessions are scheduled prior to departure, and conference calls are arranged for those living away from Detroit. These sessions introduce participants to various features of everyday life in Moscow and the Moscow Art Theatre School, as well as to the content and schedule of classes. Session dates have not been determined yet, and participants will receive that information as soon as they are available.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### *Eligibility*

Graduate and current Junior or Senior undergraduate theatre students in good standing from any accredited college or university, working professionals and theatre teachers are also eligible. Contact the Program Director for eligibility exceptions.

### *All Applicants*

Students must be theatre majors with an average grade of "B" or better, or the documented equivalent that is acceptable to the Program Director. College/university theatre teachers must be employed full-time in a theater program at an accredited college or university. Working professionals must have graduated with a theatre degree from an accredited college or university. Information and application form:

<http://studyabroad.wayne.edu/program/program.php?id=6&section=overview>

### *WSU Applicants*

Interview plus...

- Undergraduate actors: an audition consisting of one-minute from any play and a resume.
- Designers and theatre managers: a portfolio review and resume.
- College/university theatre teachers must be employed full-time at an accredited college or university.

### *Non-WSU applicants*

- Actors: an audition video consisting of one-minute performed from any play, a resume, and a letter of recommendation from a theatre faculty member confirming qualifications and good standing at the home program.
- Designers and theatre managers: a selected video portfolio review, a resume, and a letter from a faculty member confirming qualifications and good standing at the home program.
- Working professionals: an audition video consisting of one-minute memorized from any play, resume, and a letter from a senior professional confirming experience and qualifications.

### ***University of Windsor exchange agreement with Wayne State University***

- Wayne State University and the University of Windsor have entered into an exchange agreement whereby students from each institution may enroll in selected courses at the other institution. Courses available are limited to those not offered at the student's home institution. Limitations also apply to the number of courses and credits a student may take under this agreement. Wayne State University and the University of Windsor students who wish to participate in the program must be in good standing at their home institution and must have prior approval of the appropriate academic unit that the course(s) will be accepted as part of the student's course of study. Students who participate in the Wayne State University/University of Windsor program pay tuition and fees at the home institution and receive credit for the course(s) only at the home institution. Students should consult the Director of International Programs, Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, for further information.

### ***Teacher-Observers***

Teacher-observers interested in participating should contact the MIM Program Director for individualized arrangements.

### ***Application Instructions***

The application and instructions can be downloaded from the WSU Study Abroad and Global Program website: <http://studyabroad.wayne.edu/program/program.php?id=6&section=overview>. There is a \$50 non-refundable application fee, and a \$490 non-refundable deposit is required upon admission to the program.

### ***Application Deadlines***

For WSU applicants: the application form should be submitted no later than November 15. Auditions and interviews are usually scheduled during October, though exceptions can be made by arrangement with the Program Director. Decisions are normally made by the first week of November.

## **PROGRAM FEES AND LIVING EXPENSES**

### ***Program Fees***

**June 2015: \$3861 (not including WSU tuition and fees<sup>see note below</sup>), including:**

- Round-trip transatlantic airfare
- Moscow Art Theatre School costs, including
  - Classes in Acting, Dance, Singing, Stage Movement and Combat, Theatre History, and Design (as needed); housing; assorted plays and cultural excursions, including day-trip to Anton Chekhov's estate in Melikhovo; teacher salaries; interpreters, administrative costs; Moscow Bus Tour; and bus travel to and from Moscow Airport.
- WSU administrative costs, including
  - International health insurance, Moscow Art Theatre School invitation processing, Visa processing, Orientation sessions

MIM reserves the right to change program fees in the event that differentials in exchange rates, Moscow Art Theatre School fees, or other conditions warrant such changes.

Note: For WSU tuition and fees see the WSU Tuition and Fee calculator at <http://apps.reg.wayne.edu/>

### ***Basic Living Expenses***

Basic living expenses are not included in the programs fees, and therefore are subject to currency exchange rates and local conditions. Such expenses include meals, books, personal purchases, local transportation, as well as extra performances and cultural excursions. Additional travel, eating in restaurants and major purchases will certainly add to basic expenses, although MIM participants tend to find bargains and develop spending habits that optimize their financial resources.

MIM suggests that participants should budget for a minimum of about \$200-300 per week for one month of basic living expenses. However, participants may wish to adjust this amount depending on their own particular lifestyles, travel plans, and resources.

### ***Round-Trip Transatlantic Airfare***

MIM arranges a round-trip transatlantic group flight Detroit-Moscow-Detroit for the group. Group arrival at and departure from Moscow is mandatory so that the resident staff can meet us at the Moscow airport and transport us by bus to the dormitory. Sometimes participants may connect or disconnect at the changeover-point between Detroit and Moscow. Arrangements for such deviations, however, must be made ASAP through the WSU Study Abroad office, and we cannot guarantee that your additional plans will be available.

### ***WSU Scholarships***

#### College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts:

- The dean's office administers several scholarships for student travel and for special areas of interest. See <http://cfpca.wayne.edu/scholarships.php>.
- The guidelines and application deadlines for these scholarships are listed at the links below.
- Annetta Miller Endowed Scholarship [<http://cfpca.wayne.edu/files/miller.pdf>]
- Harriet Kanter Award for Student Development [<http://cfpca.wayne.edu/files/kanter.pdf>]
- International Council of Fine Arts Deans Endowment for Student International Travel - for undergraduates only. [<http://cfpca.wayne.edu/files/icfad.pdf>]
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Endowed Scholarship [<http://cfpca.wayne.edu/files/lgbt.pdf>]
- Linda L. Moore Endowed Scholarship - for undergraduates only. [<http://cfpca.wayne.edu/files/moore.pdf>]
- Made In Detroit Scholarship [<http://cfpca.wayne.edu/files/madeindetroit.pdf>]

#### Department of Theatre and Dance:

- Jacqueline Eckhous Endowed Award for Student Development. Submit letters of request with justifications directly to Professor John Wolf, Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance. Deadline is December 15.
- Austin and Fay Kanter Special Needs Award in Theatre. One award for \$3000 (undergraduate or graduate). Submit letters of request with justifications directly to Professor James Thomas, Director, Study Abroad Moscow at the Art Theatre School, Department of Theatre and Dance. Deadline is December 15.

### ***Financial Aid***

Almost all schools now process Federal Financial Aid for their students when they study abroad. Students should

begin by contacting their Office of Financial Aid or the Study Abroad Office to discuss this. WSU students can still apply for scholarships even if they have Federal Aid.

### ***Refunds***

To initiate a refund, participants must send written notification of their intention to withdraw from the program to the Office of Study Abroad and Global Programs. The application fee and initial deposit are non-refundable.

### ***Dismissal***

Adherence to appropriate standards of conduct and full academic and practical participation are expected. The Program Director reserves the right to dismiss any participants who fail to meet these expectations. By accepting admission to A Month in Moscow, participants agree to recognize the right and authority of the Program Director, after consultation with the appropriate WSU and MAT School staff, to dismiss a student at his discretion for conduct constituting a danger to the student, to others, or to the acceptability of the program to its host.

## **MIM CALENDAR**

### ***2014-2015 Academic Year***

- Throughout October: Auditions and interviews
- Deadline for WSU applicants: November 17.
- Deadline for non-WSU applicants (exact date TBA)
- Acceptance notices mailed (exact date TBA)
- Non-refundable deposit due no later than two weeks after acceptance letter is received. (exact date TBA)
- January 1, February 1, March 1, April 1: Provisional dates for monthly fee installments (exact date TBA)
- January-April: orientation sessions (exact dates and times TBA)
- May 31: Group departure (exact date TBA)
- June 2: Classes begin (exact date TBA)
- July 1: Group return (exact date TBA)

## **ACADEMIC PLANNING**

### ***Acting/Directing***

Acting (Stanislavski technique), Acting (Michael Chekhov technique), Stage Movement, Stage Voice, Dance, Theatre History, Theatre performances, MAT School student projects, plays, cultural excursions to home-museums of Stanislavsky, Nemirovich-Danchenko, Meyerhold, and others.

### ***Design\****

Study all aspects of design in Moscow theatres, including drama theatres, musical theatres, children's theatres and studio theatres. Meet regularly with Victor Shilkrot (Academic Head of Design) and other MAT School teachers and their students, discuss their classes, and observe their final projects. Work on a special design project for the month, visit scenery, lighting, and costume shops MAT and other Moscow theatres. Visit museums, including Bakrushin Theatre Museum, MXAT Museum, Tretyakov Gallery, Pushkin Museum, New Tretyakov Gallery, Kremlin costume warehouse and others. Performances and excursions, TBA.

### ***Theatre Management\****

Theatre management students will study how Moscow theatres are administered, including box office operations, production meetings, advertising, ticket sales, rehearsals, promotion and marketing, literary

management, sponsorships, legal affairs, government relations, financial affairs, written reports, financial planning, season planning, partnerships, affiliate companies, banking affairs, bookkeeping, purchasing affairs, budgeting, staffing, management technology, maintenance, audience services, house auditorium management, files and record keeping, management telecommunication, etc. Meet regularly with Alexander Rubenstein, head of the MAT School Management Department and his staff and students; discuss their classes and final projects. Visit drama, children's, opera, musical, dance, puppet, and studio theatres and meet with theatre managers and literary managers. Observe MAT and other theatre managers in their daily work routines. Visit museums, including the Bakrushin Theatre Museum, MAT Museum, Tretyakov Gallery, Pushkin Museum, New Tretyakov Gallery, and others. Performances and excursions, TBA.

### ***Other Specializations\****

Other learning plans available on request. Contact the Program Director.

\*Note: MAT School requires a minimum of 4 participants to arrange classes for designers or theatre managers.

### ***Directed Study Option***

Students who wish to do special research as part of the degree requirements for their home institution are encouraged to register also for THR 5650 Study Abroad: Directed Study in Russian Theatre (1 cr.). With prior approval of a faculty member from the home institution and the MIM Program Director, MIM provides a framework for students to pursue independent research while in Moscow.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Required Readings***

Readings to Obtain:

- Anton Chekhov's Major Plays (any translations):
  - *Ivanov*
  - *The Seagull*
  - *Uncle Vanya*
  - *Three Sisters*
  - *The Cherry Orchard*
- **\*\**To the Actor: On the Technique of Acting*** by Michael Chekhov
- **\*\**An Actor's Work: A Student's Diary, "Year One: Experiencing"*** (aka *An Actor Prepares*) by Konstantin Stanislavsky (Routledge version)
- *My Life in Art* by Konstantin Stanislavsky (Routledge version)
- **\*\**Konstantin Stanislavsky*** by Bella Merlin (Routledge Performance Practitioners)

Readings on Blackboard THR5600

- "The Last Decade: Stanislavsky and Stalinism" by Anatoly Smeliansky (**Blackboard**)
- **\*\*"Foundations of Russian Actor Training"** by Vreneli Farber (**Blackboard**)
- **\*\*"First Year and a Little of Second Year"** by Vreneli Farber (**Blackboard**)
- "Russian Theatre in the Post-Communist Era" by Anatoly Smeliansky (**Blackboard**)
- *Black Snow* by Mikhail Bulgakov (selections on **Blackboard**)

### **Instructions for Reading Summaries and Required Daily Journals**

**There is lots of reading to do!** This will give you a perspective for all your experiences in Moscow, so it will stick in your actor's "well of creativity."

- One reading is expected to be completed each week starting from the beginning of the winter semester, earlier if possible. **Remember: there's lots of reading!**
- Reading summaries must be submitted on Blackboard. Use any format and length you wish, as long as it allows the teacher to know that the entire assignment has been read.
- For the required Moscow Daily Journals, please use a standard composition book. It must be extra sturdy. Journals are submitted at the end of the project and are scored as part of the Final Grade.

### *Daily Journal*

All regular participants are required to submit daily journals written in a standard school composition book and due at the end of the course, with one journal entry for each day of the course.

### *Russian Alphabet*

All participants (including Teacher-Observers) are required to learn the Russian (Cyrillic) alphabet. A test on the alphabet will be given at an orientation session date TBA.

## MIM FACULTY

**James Thomas.** Director, Study Abroad: Wayne State University-Moscow Art Theatre School. Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance, Wayne State University.

**Anatoly Smeliansky.** President, Moscow Art Theatre School and Associate Artistic Director of the Moscow Art Theatre.

**Sergei Zemtsov.** Head of Acting Department, Moscow Art Theatre School

**Renat Mamin.** Professor of Movement Culture, Moscow Art Theatre School

**Vladimir Sazhen.** Master Teacher of Movement Culture, Moscow Art Theatre School

**Marina Smirnova.** Professor of Stage Speech and Voice, Moscow Art Theatre School

**Victor Shilkrot.** Master Teacher of Design, Moscow Art Theatre School

**Stanislav Benediktov.** Head of Design Department, Moscow Art Theatre School

## MIM CONTACTS

James Thomas  
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