



BEARR/CEELBAS\* Forum, 22 March 2013

The Arts and Attitudes to Disability in Russia and Eastern Europe

## Speakers' biographies

### Prof José Alaniz

Associate professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Department of Comparative Literature (adjunct) at the University of Washington - Seattle, received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 2003 with a dissertation entitled "Necrorama: Spectacles of Death and Dying in Late/Post-Soviet Russian Culture." He published his first book, *Komiks: Comic Art in Russia* (University Press of Mississippi) in 2010. His articles have appeared in the *International Journal of Comic Art*, *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema* and *Kinokultura*, as well as the anthologies *The Cinema of Alexander Sokurov* (I.B. Tauris, 2011), *Travma: Punkty* (NLO, 2009) and *Russian Children's Literature and Culture* (Routledge, 2007). His research interests include Death and Dying, Disability Studies, Film Studies, Eco-criticism and Comics Studies. His current projects include *Death, Disability and the Superhero: The Silver Age and Beyond* and a study of disability in Russian cinema.

### Tatiana King (Interpreter)

Tatiana is a UK-based bilingual Russian-English interpreter, translator, and language teacher. She holds a Diploma in Public Service Interpreting, an MA in Bilingual Translation and is an associate member of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI). She has several years' experience interpreting in the criminal justice sector. She has trained public service interpreters since 2009.

Born in Vladivostok, Tatiana grew up in Russia, Vietnam and Moldova. After living for several years in Russia and South-East Asia, Tatiana moved to the UK in 2003 where she trained as a probation officer before moving on to public service interpreting, teaching and translating. In 1998-2002, she worked for WildAid, an international conservation charity, and assisted with the making of Nigel Marven's "Big Cats" (2001) ITV documentary, featuring the endangered Amur Tiger. She has also interpreted at high-profile awards ceremonies such as the Whitley Fund for Nature Awards (2006) and the Rolex

**Patrons:** The Duchess of Abercorn, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Elena Bashkurova Barenboim, Myra Green OBE, Professor Geoffrey Hosking, Sir Roderic Lyne KBE CMG, Sir Jonathan Miller, Anthony Oppenheimer, Rair Simonyan, Sir Andrew Wood GCMG

**Trustees:** Robert Brinkley CMG MA (Chairman), Megan Bick BA (Russian) MA, Janet Gunn CMG BA, Daryl Ann Hardman BA (Russian) MA, Her Honour Judge Marcia Levy, Ann Lewis CMG BA, Jo Lucas BSc MSc, Nicola Ramsden MA MBA, Robert Scallon MA, Michael Simmonds

Awards for Enterprise (2012). Tatiana also provided the Russian subtitles for Tony Hawks' latest film, "Playing the Moldovans at Tennis" (2012).

### **Artur Kocharyan**

Founder and head of the NGO "New Life" that was created for youth in his hometown Konotop, Sumy Region, Ukraine. His organisation's activities are focused on social projects, on the involvement of disadvantaged people in public life. As an expert on child safety on the Internet, he has also developed educational programmes to motivate children to adopt safe behaviour on the Internet, and healthy living generally. As a professional coach, he has been working in personal development and the formation of 21st century skills. As a researcher at one of leading universities in Kyiv, he is working on the development of information and communication skills for its teaching staff.

### **Dr Michael Rasell**

Michael is a qualitative sociologist whose research focuses on how state welfare programmes affect well-being, everyday life and social rights in Russia and the CIS region. He is especially interested in the development of community-based provision for physically disabled people in Russia and the move away from medicalised approaches to disability at local and national level. He has published on welfare reform in Russia and is editor of a forthcoming collection of research entitled *Disability in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union* (Routledge, 2013). He is involved in a range of international projects on social work development, including a recent EU-Tempus project to modernise social work curricula in Russian universities. He is a Senior Lecturer in Health and Social Care at the University of Lincoln, where he leads the Erasmus Mundus MA Advanced Development in Social Work.

### **Dr Oliver Ready**

Oliver is Research Fellow in Russian Society and Culture at St Antony's College, Oxford, where he is also Director of the Russkiy Mir Programme, organizing events and conferences on themes related to Russian culture. His main academic interest, as a scholar and translator, is Russian literature, especially of the past fifty years. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the fascination with 'folly' exhibited by Russian writers of this period, and has recently published articles on this and related themes in *Modern Language Review* and the *Slavonic and East European Review*. He is general editor of the anthology, *The Ties of Blood: Russian Literature from the 21st Century* (Rossica, 2008).

Oliver's publications as a literary translator include, from contemporary Russian fiction, *The Prussian Bride* and *The Zero Train* by Yuri Buida, and *Before and During* by Vladimir Sharov (forthcoming). His new translation of *Crime and Punishment* is to be published in Penguin Classics in January, 2014. He is also Consultant Editor for Russia and East-Central Europe at the TLS.

## **Denise Roza**

Denise grew up in Chicago, and began studying Russian in College. In 1989 she traveled to Moscow to coordinate student exchange programs and has been living in Russia since. From 1994-97, she served as the director of the Russian office of the World Institute on Disability (US). In 1997, together with Russian colleagues from the disability rights movement, Ms. Roza set up a Russian disability NGO, Perspektiva, to support people with disabilities to lead full, active, independent lives. As Executive Director of Perspektiva, Ms. Roza oversees the development and implementation of programs which promote youth empowerment, equal access to education, employment and sports. Together with her staff of 50 people at Perspektiva -- both disabled and non-disabled - Ms. Roza has developed and implemented training, outreach, public education, advocacy, needs assessment and information-referral activities. As director of Perspektiva in 2002, Ms Roza founded the International Disability Film Festival "Breaking Down Barriers". In June, 2009 Ms Roza set up another NGO – Best Buddies Russia. Best Buddies Russia is a member of the global volunteer movement *Best Buddies international* that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## **Dr Claire Shaw**

Claire graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2005 with a degree in Russian and French, before moving to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, to take an MA and PhD in Russian and Soviet History. Her PhD research examined the history of deafness and the deaf community in the Soviet Union, for which she spent a year in Moscow learning RSL and working with the archive of the All-Russian Society of the Deaf. After spending two years as a research fellow at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Claire was appointed Lecturer in Russian at the University of Bristol in September 2011, where she now teaches Russian language and history at undergraduate level and runs the MA Russian History programme. Claire is currently preparing a monograph on the history of the Soviet deaf community. She has an article on Soviet deaf theatre forthcoming in the *Slavonic and East European Review*.

Claire is Information Officer for the British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES).

## **Dr Irina Yasina**

Irina graduated in economics from Moscow State University, specialising in the economics of Poland, and became a journalist. She was a columnist for various liberal publications in the 90's. In the early 2000's she headed the Open Russia foundation associated with the Yukos oil company. After the arrest of its head, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, and the closure of the foundation by the authorities, she returned to work as a journalist with the news agency Novosti. 2009-2011 she was on President Medvedev's Council for Human

Rights, leaving as a protest against the falsification of the parliamentary election results.

Author of two books: a children's book "A person with human potential", published as part of Ludmila Ulitskaya's project, and an autobiography, "Story of an Illness", published in 2012. (She was stricken by a serious neurological disorder which has left her confined to a wheelchair.)