

“A MONTH IN MOSCOW”

JUNE 2009

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The Moscow Art Theatre School Tradition

About “A Month in Moscow”

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 any accredited college or university, theatre teachers, and working professionals, MIM has successfully integrated practical theatre studies and cultural immersion in Moscow. Established in 2000, MIM enjoys a special status as an authorized affiliate 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 2000, over 200 actors, directors, designers, theatre managers, and teachers from 15 colleges and universities, including working professionals, have chosen MIM as their preferred summer study abroad theatre program to obtain maximum training results and cultural experience.

MIM participants are enrolled through the Department of Theatre at Wayne State University—

historically ranked among the top comprehensive theatre programs in the nation—and have access to classes in acting, directing, design, theatre management, and theatre history 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.

Visit these websites to learn all about what Moscow has to offer:

- <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/europe/russia/moscow>
- <http://www.geographia.com/moscow/>
- <http://www.friends-partners.org/oldfriends/mes/russia/moscow/main.html>
- <http://wikitravel.org/en/Moscow>
- <http://www.mnweekly.ru/>

Program Features

One-Month on Site in Moscow

Spring/Summer Term, 4 weeks on site in Moscow, June 2008 (exact dates TBA). Participants spend four weeks 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

St. Petersburg Option

MIM makes it possible for participants to combine their studies in Moscow with a short-term visit to St. Petersburg. Depending on the number of participants and their specializations, this non-credit, extra-cost option can include organized instruction as well as cultural excursions and plays. Cost for a weekend trip in 2008 was R8000 rubles or about USD\$300, including round trip overnight sleeper train and accompanying interpreter from the MIM staff of the Moscow Art Theatre School. Longer visits of several additional days cost proportionately more. MIM suggests that participants should budget approximately \$200 more basic living expenses, including meals, souvenirs, and personal expenses etc.

Credit Earned

MIM participants (except teacher-observers) register for THR 5600, Study Abroad: Moscow Art Theatre School, earning 3 hours of Wayne State University degree credit for one month of study completed under supervision of the program. Credits are transferable to any other 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 Russian interpreters for classes, plays, excursions, and other 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 double or single rooms in the same Moscow Art Theatre School dormitory as Russian students. Public transportation provides quick and convenient access to the entire city, but many participants will prefer walking to and from classes via Tverskaya Street, Moscow's main commercial and cultural thoroughfare.

Orientation Sessions

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. Sessions dates have not been determined yet, and participants will receive that information as soon as they are available.

Admission Requirements

Eligibility

Graduate and undergraduate theatre students from any accredited college or university, working professionals and theatre teachers are eligible.

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
- Application form:
http://studyabroad.wayne.edu/programs/applications/07_moscow_app.pdf

WSU applicants

Interview plus...

- Actors: an audition consisting of one-minute memorized from any play and a resume
- Designers and theatre managers: a portfolio review and resume

Non-WSU applicants

- Actors: an audition video consisting of one-minute memorized from any play, resume, and a letter of recommendation from a theatre faculty member confirming qualifications and good standing in the home program
- Designers and theatre managers: a video portfolio review, resume, and a letter from a faculty member confirming qualifications and good standing in home program
- College/university theatre teachers: letter from academic supervisor confirming full-time employment
- 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

Application Instructions

The application and instructions can be downloaded from the WSU Study Abroad and Global Programs website:

http://studyabroad.wayne.edu/programs/applications/07_moscow_app.pdf. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee. A \$300 non-refundable deposit is required upon admission to the program.

Application Deadlines

For WSU applicants: the application form should be submitted by November 17. Auditions and interviews are scheduled for the week of November 17-21. Decisions are normally made the following week, prior to Thanksgiving break.

Non-WSU applicants may submit applications until December 10; however applications will be accepted until all places are filled.

Teacher-Observers

The MIM Teacher-Observer option allows theatre teachers from accredited institutions to observe classes and attend group plays and cultural excursions for no credit. It is not necessary to be formally admitted to the University to take advantage of the Teacher-Observer option. Teacher-Observers only observe (i.e., do not participate in) classes and do not submit written work or take examinations.

Program Fees and Living Expenses

Program Fees

June 2009: ±\$4600

Program fees include:

- Moscow Art Theatre School tuition
- Administrative fees
- Housing (single or double room)
- Health insurance
- Russian invitation
- Russian visa
- Orientations sessions
- Theatre performances
- Cultural excursions
- Round-trip transatlantic airfare

A Month in Moscow 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.

Additionally, you are required to pay tuition for 3 WSU credit hours at your appropriate rate, payable through the normal tuition payment process.

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, and local transportation. 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 approximately \$600-\$1000 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 and departure in Moscow is mandatory so that our resident staff can meet them at the Moscow airport and transport them by bus to the dormitory. However, participants may connect or disconnect at Chicago, New York, or Paris, depending on which city is the changeover-point from Detroit.

Dates for summer are May 31–July 1, 2009.

Teacher-Observers

Program Fees: June 2009: ±\$2900-\$4880
(depending on room choice)

Program fees include:

- Moscow Art Theatre School audit fee
- Administrative fees
- Health insurance
- Russian invitation
- Russian visa
- Orientations sessions
- Theatre performances
- Cultural excursions
- Round-trip transatlantic airfare

Living Arrangements

Teacher-Observers live in single rooms (\$86/day) or double rooms (\$72/day) in the visiting-faculty hotel facility located on the first floor of the dormitory, or in single dormitory rooms on the student floor (\$20/day). Hotel accommodations include separate entrance, private shower-baths, and shared kitchen with washer and dryer. The student dormitory floor has two shared shower-baths and two shared kitchenettes with washers. Teacher-Observers pay room costs in US dollars on-site in Moscow.

Living Expenses and Round-Trip Transatlantic Air Travel

Costs for Teacher-Observers are the same as regular participants, for which see above.

Scholarships and Financial Aid**WSU Scholarships**

WSU students are encouraged to apply for a grant to support travel and internships outside the U.S. in order to offset some expenses. Awards run from \$250 to \$1,500, depending on program cost, length and other factors. Each year awards are offered by the WSU Office of Study Abroad and Global Programs, the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, the Department of Theatre, and A Month in Moscow. Information and application forms are available on the relevant websites:

- Study Abroad-Global Programs Grants
http://studyabroad.wayne.edu/forms/0405_grant_app.pdf
- Harriet Kanter Award for Student Development
<http://www.cfpc.wayne.edu/files/KanterAward.doc>
- International Council of Fine Arts Deans Student Travel Grant (undergraduates only)

<http://www.cfpc.wayne.edu/files/ICFADGuidelines.doc>

- Jacqueline Eckhous Endowed Award for Student Development (No application form. Send letter to Chair, Department of Theatre)
- Austin Kanter Award
<http://theatre.wayne.edu/files/MoscowScholarship.doc>

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 initial deposit is 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 fails 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**2008-09 Academic Year**

November 17-20: Auditions and interviews
November 24-26: Acceptance notices mailed
December 15: Non-refundable deposit due
January 1, February 1, March 1, April 1: Nominal dates for monthly fee installments
January-April: five orientation sessions (exact dates and times TBA)
May 30: Group departure (exact date TBA)
June 2: Classes begin (exact date TBA)
July 1: Group return (exact date TBA)

Academic Planning

MIM Study Plans

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 (Design Teacher) 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 with Stanislav Benedictov (Head of Design), 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 four participants to arrange classes for designers and theatre managers.

Directed Study Option

Students who wish to write a special paper 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. 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

Readings

(Outlines for all readings and videos are required for all participants and must be submitted in a standard composition book prior to departure. Submission dates TBA.)

All Participants:

- Chekhov, Anton. *The Complete Plays*. Trans. Laurence Senelick. Norton, 2007. This edition only.
- Slonim, Marc. *Russian Theatre From the Empire to the Soviets*. New York: Collier.
- Smeliansky, Anatoly. *The Russian Theatre After Stalin*. London: Cambridge.
- ---. "The Last Decade: Stanislavsky and Stalinism," BlackBoard handout.

Acting/directing participants:

- Merlin, Bella. *Konstantin Stanislavsky*. London: Routledge Performance Practitioners, 2003.
- Stanislavsky, Constantin. *An Actor Prepares*. New York: Theatre Arts Books.
- Chekhov, Michael. *To the Actor*. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Videos

- "The Stanislavsky Century," video recording, System TV, Union of Soviet Theatre and La Sept, Produced by Daniel Renouf, Written and directed by Peter Hercombe, Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities, c2003, 3 parts.
- "The Face of Russia," video recording, Written and hosted by James H. Billington, Produced by Michael Gill, Directed by Murray Grigar, Chicago, IL: Home Vision Select, c2003, 3 parts.

Recommended Travel/Phrase Books

- *Lonely Planet Moscow*, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet City Guides, www.lonelyplanet.com.
- *Lonely Planet Russian Phrasebook: With Two-Way Dictionary*, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet City Guides. www.lonelyplanet.com.

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, Head of Ph.D. Program, Department of Theatre, Wayne State University.

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

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

Michael Lobanov. Professor of Acting, Moscow Art Theatre School

Larissa Dmitrieva. Professor of Movement Culture, Moscow Art Theatre School

Natalia Fyodorova. Master Teacher of Movement Culture, Moscow Art Theatre School

Andrei Droznin. Professor of Movement, Moscow Art Theatre School and Schukin School of the Vakhtangov Theatre

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

Viktor Rizhakov. Master Teacher of Acting and Directing, Moscow Art Theatre School

Igor Zolotovitsky. Master Teacher of Acting, Moscow Art Theatre School

Alexander Rubinstein. Head of the Management Department, 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

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<http://studyabroad.wayne.edu/programs/moscow.htm>

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MOSCOW ART THEATRE SCHOOL

WAYNE STATE
 UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

