

Министерство образования Республики Беларусь

Учреждение образования
«Гомельский государственный университет
имени Франциска Скорины»

Е. В. САЖИНА

ENGLISH
TEXTS FOR READING, DISCUSSING
AND RETELLING

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК
ТЕКСТЫ ДЛЯ ЧТЕНИЯ, ОБСУЖДЕНИЯ
И ПЕРЕСКАЗА

Практическое руководство

для магистрантов

Гомель
ГГУ им. Ф. Скорины
2015

УДК 811.111(075.8)
ББК 81.432.1я73
С147

Рецензенты:

кандидат филологических наук И. Н. Пузенко;
кандидат филологических наук С. Н. Колоцей

Рекомендовано к изданию научно-методическим советом учреждения образования «Гомельский государственный университет имени Франциска Скорины»

Сажина, Е. В.

С147 English: texts for reading, discussing and retelling =
Английский язык: тексты для чтения, обсуждения и пересказа :
практическое руководство / Е. В. Сажина ; М-во образования РБ,
Гом. гос. ун-т им. Ф. Скорины. – Гомель: ГГУ им. Ф. Скорины,
2015. – 42 с.

ISBN 978-985-577-067-2

Практическое руководство предназначено для обучения магистрантов различным видам чтения, переводу и пересказу текстов социокультурной направленности, что необходимо при сдаче кандидатского экзамена по английскому языку, а также формирования устной речи, переводческих навыков. Эффективное практическое овладение языком обеспечивается системой речевых упражнений.

УДК 811.111(075.8)
ББК 81.432.1я73

ISBN 978-985-577-067-2

© Сажина Е. В., 2015
© Учреждение образования «Гомельский
государственный университет
имени Франциска Скорины», 2015

Оглавление

Предисловие	4
Text 1. Diving ravens and Slavonic chants: early 20th century Alaska in photos	5
Text 2. Russian investigators to put Bloodhound Gang on wanted list	6
Text 3. Gorky Park food festival, Organ competition and The Editors	8
Text 4. Forgotten Soviet photo master gets first major exhibit in 70 plus years	9
Text 5. Moscow marks 120th anniversary of poet Vladimir Mayakovsky	11
Text 6. Putting all of Tolstoy online	12
Text 7. Bolshoi Theater director replaced	14
Text 8. Come hell or high-water, the party raged on	15
Text 9. ‘Rebellious demon’ Rudolf Nureyev honored in photos, film	17
Text 10. Old yet New Order comes to Moscow	18
Text 11. Pitt Stop at Moscow Film Festival	20
Text 12. Tate Britain’s hit Pre-Raphaelite show comes to Moscow	22
Text 13. Songs of wind and cold	23
Text 14. A treasure-trove office at the Shchusev Architecture Museum	25
Text 15. In love and war	26
Text 16. Drawing ‘colors and textures’ out of guitars	28
Text 17. World Press Photo winners go on show in Moscow	29
Text 18. Larry King says ‘da’ to Russian channel RT	31
Text 19. Balabanov’s modern icons	32
Text 20. Depardieu and Hurley take Grozny	34
Text 21. Austrian Cultural Season brings Vienna’s best to Moscow..	35
Text 22. Steven Seagal to hold concert in Chechnya – Kadyrov ...	37
Text 23. ‘Body extensions’ by German artist Rebecca Horn come to Moscow	38
Text 24. Alan Bennett play ‘People’ shown at Gorizont cinema ...	40
Литература	42

Предисловие

Характерной чертой нашего времени являются активно протекающие во всех сферах общественной жизни интеграционные процессы. Важным направлением современной интеграции является отмена социально-культурных и образовательных барьеров, сближение систем образования и стремление Беларуси к мировым стандартам и эквивалентности высшего образования.

В современном мире в соответствии с европейскими стандартами магистратура – это второй уровень высшего образования. Магистерские программы ориентированы на рынок труда и на тесное сотрудничество с работодателями. Кроме того, они учитывают условия вхождения отечественной высшей школы в общеевропейскую систему высшего образования.

Недостаточный уровень обеспеченности учебного процесса необходимой литературой делает актуальным создание настоящего практического руководства, которое предназначено для работы в группах как магистрантов, так и научных работников, готовящихся к сдаче кандидатского экзамена по английскому языку. Помимо этого руководство может быть использовано при работе в студенческих группах с углубленным изучением английского языка для развития навыков чтения и говорения по темам социокультурной направленности.

Целью руководства является развитие коммуникативных умений и навыков различных видов речевой деятельности, а также навыков пересказа.

Руководство включает в себя 24 текста, каждый из которых сопровождается упражнениями для развития лексических навыков говорения, отвечающими принципам современной коммуникативной методики.

При отборе текстов автор стремилась к тому, чтобы каждый текст носил социокультурный характер и был полезен для выработки навыков пересказа, необходимых магистранту для успешной сдачи кандидатского экзамена по английскому языку.

Text 1

Diving ravens and Slavonic chants: early 20th century Alaska in photos

Ex. 1. Read the text.

A passionate amateur photographer, Vincent Soboleff went everywhere with his camera, capturing snapshots of tribal dances, church services and factory lunch breaks. His photographs document the area's inhabitants both at work – hauling fish over the side of a boat – and at play, celebrating the Fourth of July.

There were other photographers working in southeastern Alaska at the time, both commercial and amateur. But they tended to stage exotic shots bemoaning the tragic, yet seemingly inevitable demise of Indian culture; the mournful Indians were often played by white men, made up and wrapped in ceremonial garb.

As a local teenager, Vincent Soboleff had an ideal vantage point from which to capture the community's true inner workings. In his shots, people play the fiddle and the guitar, smoke fish and pick crabapples; his sister Vera stands playfully on top of a dead whale. He also identified his native subjects by name – highly unusual at the time.

However, tensions lurked behind the photographs' scenes of easy socializing. "Sokoloff had a reputation of a heavy drinker and was criticized by his church superiors for drinking and 'fraternizing' with the Indians," said Dartmouth University anthropologist Sergei A. Kan who was behind the publication of the book.

The photos also reveal an emerging set of cultural schisms: at a Tlingit grave ceremony, European-style marble headstones stand alongside painted wooden poles. In a shot of Chief Kichnaalx's family at home, his wife is wearing a puffy-shouldered European-style dress.

In the late 1910s, Father Soboleff died, bringing his son's amateur photography career to an end. Vincent began working as a mailman to support the family, and left his camera at home. In 1928, a fire devastated the community and he moved to nearby Angoon, where he ran a general store until his death in the 1950s.

Though several of his photos were printed on local postcards, where they were tinted into color, Soboleff's work remained obscure for decades. After his death, his sister donated 780 plate negatives to the Alaska State Library, where they remain today.

Kan has been doing ethnographic research in Angoon since 1980. He has spoken with relatives of many of the people who appear in Soboleff's photos. "They are of great interest to the local native people themselves," he said.

Some of Angoon's 800 to 900 residents are still Russian Orthodox. Though they don't speak Russian, Kan said, "The descendants of these people are still around, and preserve the memories and the stories of their ancestors."

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 What is Vincent Soboleff?
- 2 What do his photographs document?
- 3 Where did he work?
- 4 What is depicted in his shots?
- 5 When did Soboleff's career come to an end?
- 6 What was Vincent's job after his father's death?
- 7 Why did he move to nearby Angoon?
- 8 When did Vincent die?
- 9 Kan has been doing ethnographic research in Angoon since 1970, hasn't he?
- 10 Where are Soboleff's plate negatives now?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 2

Russian investigators to put Bloodhound Gang on wanted list

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Russian investigators have launched a probe against the American rock group Bloodhound Gang who desecrated the Russian flag during a concert in Ukraine, Investigative Committee spokesperson Vladimir Markin said on Monday.

Proceedings have been initiated against Franks James Moyer, Hennegan Jared Victor and other unidentified individuals who

performed actions aimed at the incitement of hatred or enmity, as well as abasement of dignity, Markin said.

As previously reported, during a Bloodhound Gang performance in the Ukrainian port of Odessa on July 31, Jared Hasselhoff crammed a Russian flag inside his pants and literally wiped his behind with it, according to a video posted on YouTube. Russian authorities subsequently canceled the band's scheduled appearance at the KUBANA Festival near the southern Russian city of Anapa, and were deported from Russia.

According to Markin, Hennegan, who was on the stage with Franks and other members, desecrated the Russian flag.

The display was earlier described as "disgusting" by US Ambassador Michael McFaul, as Russian lawmakers said that the group's actions could have consequences for other foreign musicians performing in Russia.

"I find the actions of Bloodhound Gang disgusting. I also condemn the act of violence against them," McFaul tweeted, apparently referring to a subsequent incident in Anapa's airport when band members were assaulted by local activists before boarding their flight.

A series of high profile Russian lawmakers spoke out against Bloodhound Gang, calling for harsh punishment and suggesting that banning them from performing in Russia could serve as a "precedent" for other foreign musicians.

Desecration of the Russian flag is punishable by up to one year in prison, according to Article 329 of the Russian Criminal Code.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where have Russian investigators launched a probe?
- 2 What is Vladimir Markin?
- 3 Who have proceedings been initiated against?
- 4 What did Jared Hasselhoff do during a Bloodhound Gang performance in the Ukrainian port of Odessa on July 31?
- 5 Why did Russian authorities subsequently cancel the band's scheduled appearance at the KUBANA Festival?
- 6 What was the reaction of US Ambassador Michael McFaul?
- 7 Band members were assaulted by local activists before boarding their flight, weren't they?
- 8 Did a series of high profile Russian lawmakers speak out against

Bloodhound Gang?

9 Can banning the musicians from performing in Russia serve as a “precedent” for other foreign musicians?

10 Is desecration of the Russian flag punishable?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 3

Gorky Park food festival, Organ competition and The Editors

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Gorky Park turns itself over to food once more for its third annual Festival of Food. There will be the usual master classes, lectures and dozens of different food outlets; entry is 600 rubles. Many cafes will have special menus for the event. Be warned that lines can be very long at times. If you get bored, you can check out the communication tube that has just opened in the park, which allows you to speak with whoever is at a tube on New Holland Island in St. Petersburg.

The Moscow News, in partnership with Sberbank Premier, is giving away three free tickets to the festival (complete with a free lunch from Veranda restaurant) and three hammocks to the first six readers who send a recipe for their favorite Russian dish to info@moscownews.ru.

KrasnayaPresnya Park will be the stage for Double Play, a theater and music festival on Sep. 1 offering a series of workshops by directors and musicians. The evening will see a series of shows by small, independent theater groups before the headliners, Belarusian indie-rock group The Toobes – who are big in Poland, apparently – finish the day.

The 8th Mikael Tariverdiev International Organ Competition will see 15 musicians from seven countries compete against each other on Sep. 2 and 3 at the Glinka Museum. Michael Bauer, professor of organ and church music at the University of Kansas, will perform in a

concert titled “Five Centuries of the Organ” on Sep. 4, playing music from the early Baroque period to 21st century American composers. The final round of the competition takes place the following weekend in Kaliningrad.

The Pushkin Museum is putting the scrapbooks of 40 pre-revolutionary noble families on show. The books were often passed on from generation to generation. One of the most interesting is from the Bakunin-Poltoratsky family. The book was begun by Pavel Bakunin, a diplomat, in the late 18th century and contains drawings of places the family visited by various European artists. The books often had autographs of visitors to the families’ houses – one is signed by Tsar Alexander I. Runs till Nov. 17.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 What festival takes place in Gorky Park for the third time?
- 2 Will there be the usual master classes, lectures and dozens of different food outlets at the festival?
- 3 What has just opened in the park?
- 4 Who is giving away three free tickets to the festival?
- 5 Where can you attend a series of workshops by directors and musicians?
- 6 Who will perform in a concert titled “Five Centuries of the Organ”?
- 7 What kind of music will Michael Bauer play?
- 8 When will the final round of the 8th Mikael Tariverdiev International Organ Competition take place?
- 9 What is the Pushkin Museum putting on show?
- 10 The books often had autographs of visitors to the families’ houses, didn’t they?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 4

Forgotten Soviet photo master gets first major exhibit in 70 plus years

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Photographer Yeleazar Langman championed the might of the Soviet Union in the 1930s, but his innovative approach didn't quite fit with Socialist realism. The first-ever major exhibition of his work gives viewers an opportunity to fully discover the photographer decried as a "formalist" by Stalinist authorities.

According to Burasovsky, the only major exhibition of Langman's works was held in the 1930s. It featured his Donbass series and is recreated in its entirety at the Multimedia Arts Museum. The shots capture the daily lives of miners in the Donbass region at the height of the Soviet Union's mass industrialization. The frame is often tilted a "formalist" tool criticized by Soviet ideologues. Five of the shots ended up as covers for the main Soviet news magazine, Ogonyok.

Viewers also see street scenes of 1930s Moscow, including Tverskaya Ulitsa illuminated at night, the old MosTorg building with its splashy electric street sign and the parachuting tower in Gorky Park. One evocative image captures an official parade in which the participants sported gas masks.

Other works are portraits, ranging from a schoolgirl writing Stalin's name on a chalkboard in Kazakhstan to an extreme close-up of artist Alexander Rodchenko.

Born in 1895 in Odessa, Langman studied at the Odessa Art College, followed by Kharkov's polytechnic institute and musical conservatory. He went through various jobs, including orchestra violinist and head of welding works at a railway construction company, before taking up photography in the late 1920s.

He worked alongside such pioneering Soviet photographers as Rodchenko and Boris Ignatovich, who collaborated in the Oktyabr group. Unlike his peers, however, Langman's name was nearly forgotten after his death in 1940.

In the final years of his life, Langman didn't have a permanent residence, staying at the studios of his photographer friends. As a result, his archives were lost. Some of his photographs were preserved by Rodchenko and the satirical writers Ilya Ilf and Yevgeni Petrov, who were also friends.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

1 Who championed the might of the Soviet Union in the 1930s?

- 2 When was the only major exhibition of Langman's works was?
- 3 What did the only major exhibition of Langman's works feature?
- 4 What did Langman's shots capture?
- 5 How many of the shots ended up as covers for the main Soviet news magazine?
- 6 What else can viewers see in Langman's shots?
- 7 One evocative image captures an official parade in which the participants sported gas masks, doesn't it?
- 8 When and where was Langman born?
- 9 Where did Langman study?
- 10 What happened to Langman in his final years of life?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 5

Moscow marks 120th anniversary of poet Vladimir Mayakovsky

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Today Moscow is marking the 120th anniversary of Futurist poet Vladimir Mayakovsky with poetry readings, walking tours and even Georgian polyphonic singing.

The festivities began at 11 a.m., when a small group of admirers laid flowers at Mayakovsky's grave in Novodevichy Cemetery, and continued by the statue of the poet on Mayakovskaya Ploshchad. A crowd of around two dozen people, divided evenly between over 70 stalwarts and excited teenagers, gathered to hear poet Yevgeny Rein read two of his own works dedicated to Mayakovsky, followed by the winners of a youth competition staged by the Mayakovsky Museum proclaiming some of the poet's most famous lines.

In an unusual interlude, dancers gyrated to techno music in costumes designed by Suprematist artist Kazimir Malevich for the Futurist opera "Victory over the Sun." A large black-and-yellow sculpture representing the letter "Ya," standing just to the right of the Mayakovsky monument, paid homage to Mayakovsky's poem of the

same name.

Born in Georgia on July 19, 1893, Mayakovsky rose to become the voice of the Bolshevik revolution, as well as the co-creator of the progressive journal “LEF” and the author of numerous slogans for propaganda posters and ads. He shot himself in his Moscow apartment at the age of 36, a tragedy some claim was arranged by the state.

After a set of guided tours this afternoon around spots connected with the poet, the events will continue this evening at the Mayakovsky Museum at Lubyanskaya Ploshchad with live music and more readings. At 7:30 p.m., the Union of Georgians in Russia will perform dances and poetry in Georgian. The commemorations will conclude at 10:40 p.m. with a reading by actor Anatoly Bely of Mayakovsky’s “I Love.”

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 What was Vladimir Mayakovsky?
- 2 What anniversary is Moscow marking?
- 3 What time did the festivities begin?
- 4 What did a small group of admirers do?
- 5 Who read two of his own works dedicated to Mayakovsky?
- 6 Dancers gyrated to techno music in costumes designed by Suprematist artist Kazimir Malevich for the Futurist opera “Victory over the Sun”, didn’t they?
- 7 What stands just to the right of the Mayakovsky monument?
- 8 When and where was Mayakovsky born?
- 9 At what age and how did Mayakovsky die?
- 10 What will happen after a set of guided tours?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 6

Putting all of Tolstoy online

Ex. 1. Read the text.

If you look at a book by Leo Tolstoy published in his lifetime, you

will see a disclaimer in Russian and French encouraging its dissemination. The author wanted his book to be read by as many people as possible, and so do his descendants.

All of Tolstoy in One Click was launched earlier this year by the State Tolstoy Museum and ABBYY, a software company specializing in text recognition. Its aim is to scan, proofread and make readily available online all 90 volumes of Tolstoy's life's work, including various editions of his books, letters and commentary.

Several thousand volunteers joined up to help with proofreading through the crowd sourcing website www.readingtostoy.ru. Once the project is completed, all 90 volumes will be available in various electronic formats, compatible with most e-readers. The most active volunteers will get various awards, including books and trips to Tolstoy's estate in YasnayaPolyana.

Starting in spring, volunteers proofread texts. The first round was completed way ahead of schedule.

Tolstaya took part in the proof-reading too. "It was exciting to read one of the earlier versions of the first chapter from Anna Karenina, without the famous line, 'All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.' It was like peeking inside the writer's laboratory."

Her mother, Svetlana Tolstaya, took part in the first round. Her sister Marfa Tolstaya, who works at the Academy of Sciences, agreed to supervise the third and final round, which will be completed by professionals. The first volumes are expected to go online in September.

Originally it was planned to use experts for the second round of proofreading, but the volunteers did so well in the first round that it was decided to use them again. For the first round of proofreading anyone who filled out the online form could take part. For the second round, you first must complete a difficult test.

Igor Kuzmin, 25, a volunteer proofreader, said that so far the second round has been more interesting. "In the first round I was mostly spotting similar mistakes caused by scanning, while in the second round I was correcting texts."

The author would approve of what they are doing, said Tolstaya. "I am certain that if Tolstoy lived in our time he would have published his work online for free."

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

1 What will you see if you look at a book by Leo Tolstoy published in his lifetime?

2 What did the State Tolstoy Museum and ABBYY launch this year?

3 What does ABBYY specialize in?

4 Several thousand volunteers joined up to help with proofreading, didn't they?

5 How many volumes will be available in various electronic formats?

6 What will the most active volunteers get?

7 When did the proof-reading start?

8 Who took part in proof-reading?

9 What was originally planned?

10 If Tolstoy lived in our time would he have published his work online for free?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 7

Bolshoi Theater director replaced

Ex. 1. Read the text.

The Bolshoi Theater's director general, Anatoly Iksanov, has been sacked and replaced by Vladimir Urin, Russia's Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky said on Tuesday.

The Bolshoi, mired in corruption scandals and battling the aftermath of an acid attack on artistic director Sergei Filin, also recently saw ballet star Nikolai Tsiskaridze leave the theater.

Iksanov has held his post since September 2000, and oversaw a six-year reconstruction of the Bolshoi's historical building in central Moscow. His stint also coincided with a series of internal conflicts.

"Anatoly [Iksanov] worked at the Bolshoi Theater for 13 years, he did a lot: construction is completed, there is a new stage," Medinsky was quoted by RIA Novosti as saying. "But everyone understands that human strength has its limits. A complicated situation suggests that

the theater is seeking renewal. This is not a spontaneous decision.”

The Bolshoi slipped into chronic decay amid the economic turmoil of the 1990s that succeeded the collapse of the Soviet Union. In recent years, the government has invested heavily in restoring the theater’s interior and its annual budget has now reached around \$120 million. The rush of cash has ensured the return of opulent productions, but has also turned the Bolshoi into a nest of vicious infighting.

In May, authorities charged male ballet soloist Pavel Dmitrichenko with ordering an acid attack on Filin that left him with third-degree burns to his face and eyes.

Urin, who comes to the Bolshoi following a theater career that spanned 40 years, was previously the director general of the Stanislavski and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theater, a post he has occupied since 1995. Urin also oversaw the reconstruction of his theater and was widely seen as helping improve its reputation.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who has been sacked and replaced by Vladimir Urin?
- 2 What is the Bolshoi mired in?
- 3 Who recently left the Bolshoi?
- 4 Since when has Iksanov held his post?
- 5 What did Iksanov’s stint also coincide with?
- 6 When did the Bolshoi slip into chronic decay?
- 7 The government has invested heavily in restoring the theater’s interior, hasn’t it?
- 8 Who did authorities charge with ordering an acid attack on Filin?
- 9 Who comes to the Bolshoi following a theater career?
- 10 Did Urin oversee the reconstruction of his theater?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 8

Come hell or high-water, the party raged on

Ex. 1. Read the text.

The Culture Clash festival, hosted by The Moscow News with the help of our partners at the Bauman Garden, Goodman Steak House, 105.2 Moscow FM, Formula Kino and Moscow Interacts, was an exercise in true diversity: there was sun and rain, there were hipsters and old folks, American food and the traditional Russian game of gorodki, not to mention Indie rock and an international crowd. While teams competed for the coveted gorodki trophy, a design market provided a mix of vintage Soviet greeting cards and exquisite wooden iPhone cases. For the intellectuals in the crowd, there was a book-swapping stand and an exhibition of old-school Moscow News covers, while dedicated carnivores chowed down in a steak-eating contest.

The festivities started out with a BBQ master class with Goodman Steak House Brand Chef PavelGalkovsky. Shortly after medieval Russian folk group “VedanKolod (Slavic Folk)” finished their set of original songs based on Old Russian language and authentic and folklore songs of the Siberian people, myths and legends of Western Russia, a couple raindrops quickly multiplied into a torrential downpour. While people crowded under the shelter of trees, umbrellas, and hammocks the stage crew worked swiftly to keep the stage roof from caving in under the weight of the quickly accumulating water.

The shower ran its course and after completely swapping out the damp electrical equipment for dry replacements the festivities resumed with a steak eating contest and the unique talents of overtone singer and Jew’s harp player CheineshBaitushkina.

The party concluded with Indie Rock group “Far Cities” serenading the crowd as ominous dark clouds rolled in. A strong gust of wind stole the last few notes and ripped balloons from their tethers sending them soaring up into the dark stormy skies.

Although the erratic weather prematurely thinned the crowd, by the end, Culture Clash emerged as a celebration of all that is weird and wonderful about both the newspaper and our readers, and as a reminder that the Soviet-era notion of “friendship of nations” can be both viable and fun.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Why was the Culture Clash festival an exercise in true diversity?
- 2 Did teams compete for the coveted gorodki trophy at the festival?

- 3 What did a design market provide?
- 4 What was there for the intellectuals in the crowd?
- 5 Who chowed down in a steak-eating contest?
- 6 What did the festivities start out with?
- 7 The shower ran its course, didn't it?
- 8 What did the party conclude with?
- 9 What emerged as a celebration of all that is weird and wonderful?
- 10 Can the Soviet-era notion of "friendship of nations" be both viable and fun?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 9

'Rebellious demon' Rudolf Nureyev honored in photos, film

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Rudolf Nureyev, the male dancer who revolutionized the form, would have been 75 years old this year. In honor of the anniversary, a special section at the Moscow International Film Festival – including a new documentary – and an exhibition at Dom Nashchokina look at his acclaimed work and tempestuous personality.

Born in a train car on the Trans-Siberian Railroad in 1938, Nureyev grew up near Ufa before joining Leningrad's renowned Kirov Ballet. During a foreign tour in Paris in 1961, he defected to the West, prompting Nikita Khrushchev to issue a personal order to have the dancer assassinated. After a brilliant career with Paris's Opera Ballet, Nureyev died of AIDS in 1993 at age 55.

The centerpiece of the exhibition "Rudolf Nureyev: A Life in Photographs" is a series of color shots that capture the dancer's sumptuously appointed apartments in Paris and New York.

An ardent collector, Nureyev filled his rooms with antique furniture and old musical instruments. In the photos, the walls are covered with nude oil paintings, gleaming icons and jewel-toned tapestries. Nureyev, then already sick with the disease that would claim his life,

sits on an embroidered throne in period dress.

The exhibition also features oil portraits of the dancer by Andrew White Jr., as well as black and white photographs chronicling Nureyev's life and career, from his sensational early performances at the Kirov to his years at the helm of the Paris Opera Ballet.

According to producer Alfiya Chebotaryova, the fact that Nureyev's name was taboo in the Soviet Union after his defection to the West led to the dancer's relative obscurity in Russia – even now, over two decades after the Soviet collapse.

Nureyev's life will also serve as the basis for an upcoming French and British feature film focused on the dancer's youth.

This week, the Moscow Film Festival is screening two other movies about Nureyev: "I Am a Dancer," which follows the dancer's technique from rehearsal to performance, and "Valentino," a fantastical 1977 film that imagines Nureyev as amorous silent screen star Rudolph Valentino.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 What was Rudolf Nureyev?
- 2 What looks at his acclaimed work and tempestuous personality?
- 3 When and where was Rudolf Nureyev born?
- 4 When did Nureyev defect to the West?
- 5 When did Nureyev die?
- 6 What is the centerpiece of the exhibition "Rudolf Nureyev: A Life in Photographs"?
- 7 Was Nureyev an ardent collector?
- 8 What did Nureyev fill his rooms with?
- 9 What else does the exhibition feature?
- 10 What is the Moscow Film Festival screening?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 10

Old yet New Order comes to Moscow

Ex. 1. Read the text.

More than 30 years after forming, the legendary British group New Order is coming to Moscow for the first time.

With a new lease on life after its second reunion in 2011, the group will play a mix of New Order and Joy Division tracks, said drummer Stephen Morris, adding that he was surprised they were still playing together.

New Order was formed out of the ruins of Joy Division, the iconic Manchester-based post-punk band which collapsed after the suicide of singer and songwriter Ian Curtis. The remaining members, including Morris, bassist Peter Hook and guitarist Bernard Sumner, launched New Order, which would become one of the most influential bands of the next two decades, mixing new wave and electronic/dance music.

With this new sound, New Order worked to be pioneers of new music technology.

The crudity of the available technology pushed musicians to make the most of it, he said. "The down side of it was it broke down a lot. The sequencers used to break down," he said, laughing.

Speaking about how technology has changed the way music is made and consumed, Morris said he sees the good and the bad side.

"I've only recently gotten into downloading and it's very unsatisfactory compared with going to a record store. I mean, it's great but I kind of miss finding stuff by accident and the social aspect of record shops. It's become more of a solitary thing," he said.

Music has become ubiquitous. "It's everywhere. Nowadays you can hear music in a bank, you can hear music in a supermarket," he said. "But 20 years ago it was only on the radio or on a record player."

It was a "jaded" New Order that split in 2005, Morris said, but that today, group members felt "invigorated."

The band reformed without Hook, and the bassist actually beat the band to Moscow, playing a gig of Joy Division songs in March last year.

New Order will play a mixture of its older material and Joy Division hits, plus some new songs, at Stadium Live.

When it comes to recording a new album, however, nothing is certain yet.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

1 Who are coming to Moscow for the first time?

- 2 When was its second reunion?
- 3 What will the group play?
- 4 Who is the group's drummer?
- 5 What was New Order formed out of?
- 6 After what did the iconic Manchester-based post-punk band collapse?
- 7 With this new sound, New Order worked to be pioneers of new music technology, didn't they?
- 8 What pushed musicians to make the most of it?
- 9 What does Morris say speaking about how technology has changed the way music is made and consumed?
- 10 When will it come to recording a new album?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 11

Pitt Stop at Moscow Film Festival

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Brad Pitt was the undoubted star in the Moscow International Film Festival's first few days, as he drew crowds and kept an impatient director Nikita Mikhalkov waiting on the red carpet at the opening.

More than 360 films will be shown at the festival, and a smattering of foreign stars are expected. Christian Slater was a host at the opening ceremony and Gerard Depardieu will be at the closing, which features his film "Rasputin."

Pitt, in town to promote his new zombie disaster movie, "World War Z," was undeniably the star attraction, with not only fans and local actresses, but also female journalists lining up to have their picture taken with him.

As the star turn, Pitt was the last to arrive. Mikhalkov grew visibly impatient as Pitt's journey from the edge of Pushkin Square took longer and longer as he stopped to speak to fans and then the eager press. Meanwhile, the sound of an announcer asking people to sit

down for the start of the opening ceremony continually blared onto the square.

After signaling with his hands for Pitt to be hurried up, Mikhalkov eventually went down to meet the big draw.

The last time Pitt was in Moscow was in 1997, said fashion critic Evelina Khromchenko, for a Marie Claire event. But “he was with Gwyneth then,” she said referring to his then-girlfriend, Gwyneth Paltrow.

The first Moscow Film Festival took place in 1935, headed by Sergei Eisenstein, but only returned to the capital again in 1959. It has taken place annually since 1999, with Mikhalkov, the head of the Filmmakers Union, as its titular figure.

It’s unlikely that Mikhalkov’s father would have taken to the opening film either, a blockbuster in which Pitt plays a UN employee trying to save the world from zombies.

In the original version, Russia enslaves thousands and forces them to fight and kill zombies with weapons called lobos or lobotomizers, the magazine reported.

Despite those lobos, “World War Z” director Marc Forster told The Moscow News the best way to kill a zombie – with a crowbar. The more traditional Russian axe is no good, he said, “as it gets stuck in the head.”

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

1 Who was the undoubted star in the Moscow International Film Festival’s first few days?

2 Did Brad Pitt draw crowds and kept an impatient director Nikita Mikhalkov waiting on the red carpet at the opening?

3 How many films will be shown at the festival?

4 Who else was a host at the opening ceremony?

5 Did Pitt come to promote his new zombie disaster movie?

6 Pitt was the last to arrive, wasn’t he?

7 When was Pitt last in Moscow?

8 When did the first Moscow Film Festival take place?

9 Who headed the first Moscow Film Festival?

10 What is Pitt’s film about?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 12

Tate Britain's hit Pre-Raphaelite show comes to Moscow

Ex. 1. Read the text.

In a parade of sumptuous purple gowns and russet tresses, Tate Britain has brought its show “Pre-Raphaelites: Victorian Avant-Garde” to Moscow’s State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. Decried by some critics for what they see as kitschy excess, the emotion-soaked canvases remain a perennial crowd-pleaser, drawing swarms of eager visitors to the museum’s halls.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was formed in 1848 by a group of seven art students barely out of their teens. Reacting against the mechanized spirit of Britain’s Industrial Revolution, they alighted on the early Renaissance as the model for “a new kind of moral history painting that was relevant for people of their own time,” said Tate Britain curator Alison Smith.

The Pushkin show is a scaled-down version of last fall’s blockbuster in London, which was followed up by a popular run at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C. But its set of 80 works – which contains icons such as John Everett Millais’ “Ophelia,” as well as tapestries, stained glass and interior designs – still feels like an exhaustive look at the movement.

In search of brilliant color, painters such as John Everett Millais and Dante Gabriel Rossetti laid thin layers of pigment over a white canvas, creating a radiant effect. Nowhere is there richer violet or more buttery gold than in works such as Arthur Hughes’s “April Love” or Rossetti’s “Beata Beatrix.”

The Pre-Raphaelites’ source material was well-trodden ground: the Bible, Shakespeare, Arthurian legend. But they infused familiar tales with modern imagery and meaning. In Rossetti’s take on the classic Annunciation scene, a waifish Mary hunches on a bed with stringy red hair, looking more like Kate Moss in a trashed hotel room than the beatific virgin gracing centuries of Catholic altar paintings.

In the Pre-Raphaelite imagination, even Christ is red-haired – a subtle but significant twist.

To the happy visitors transfixed by “Ophelia,” however, whether such art was truly progressive is perhaps beside the point.

Though no Pre-Raphaelite works can be found in Russian collections, their influence can be seen on artists such as Mikhail Nesterov, whose works are currently on show at the New Tretyakov Gallery, and even the Socialist Realist style of the Stalinist period, which upheld “Work” as an iconic image.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 What has brought its show “Pre-Raphaelites: Victorian Avant-Garde” to Moscow’s State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts?
- 2 How do some critics describe the emotion-soaked canvases?
- 3 When was the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood formed?
- 4 Who formed the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood?
- 5 What did the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood alight on?
- 6 The Pushkin show is a scaled-down version of last fall’s blockbuster in London, isn’t it?
- 7 What followed the Pushkin show?
- 8 What does the Pushkin show contain?
- 9 What does Christ look like in the Pre-Raphaelite imagination?
- 10 Can Pre-Raphaelite works be found in Russian collections?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 13

Songs of wind and cold

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Kjuregej, or “the lark,” was born as Alexandra Argunova in Yakutia. After 47 years of living in Iceland, she’s returning to Moscow to play in her homeland.

Kjuregej’s music stems from Yakutia’s native traditions, ranging from Siberian folk songs to shamanic chants; hers are the sounds of distant lands, icy cold and endless expanses. She also performs Russian folk tunes and the melodies of Iceland, her adopted home.

Kjuregej was born in 1938 in what is now the Sakha Republic, the northeastern region of oil and diamonds. In 1941, her father was killed in Ukraine during WWII. After her father's death, her mother was unable to raise her children alone. She died soon after, and Kjuregej and her brother were taken to a boarding school. Locals told Kjuregej how her father once saved her life with a folk remedy.

In the early '60s, Kjuregej moved to Moscow to study acting at the Russian University of Theater Arts (GITIS). There, she met the Icelandic writer and director Magnus Jonsson; after graduating, they married and moved to Iceland. (Kjuregej's relationship with Jonsson was recreated in the 2008 film "Magnus and Kjuregej," by Russian documentary filmmaker Yuri Salnikov).

Kjuregej's native language is Yakut. Nearly a half-century after leaving the Soviet Union, her Russian is now shaky.

As a schoolgirl, her talent for singing earned her the nickname "Kjuregej," or "the lark." Her songs incorporate traditional throat singing and mouth harp, as well as footstomping gypsy violin and balalaika. In Moscow, Kjuregej will play a set called "Lavirkinn" ("the lark" in Icelandic), with two eastern Icelandic musicians on guitar, cello and banjo.

Since moving to Iceland, Kjuregej has also worked as an artist, actress, costume designer and decorator. For 16 years, she worked as an art therapist in a state psychiatric hospital. She has worked to develop cultural ties between Iceland and Yakutia, opening a Yakut house and culture center in Iceland six years ago.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who is Kjuregej?
- 2 Where did Kjuregej live?
- 3 What does Kjuregej's music stem from?
- 4 What else does Kjuregej perform?
- 5 When was Kjuregej born?
- 6 Kjuregej and her brother were taken to a boarding school after their mother's death, weren't they?
- 7 When did Kjuregej move to Moscow?
- 8 Who did she meet at GITIS?
- 9 What is Kjuregej's native language?
- 10 What do her songs incorporate?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 14

A treasure-trove office at the Shchusev Architecture Museum

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Anyone who ever went to see David Sarkisyan, the late director of the Shchusev State Museum of Architecture, would likely find him in his office on the ground floor. Behind a mass of fascinating objects piled up on desks and drawers, the walls covered in posters and photos, he would be sitting with a cigarette and a welcome.

When he died in 2010, his office remained untouched, partly in grief, partly in remembrance – until just recently, when it was painstakingly taken apart and moved to a new space in the museum that's open to the public.

“David's Office,” as the room is called, was unveiled last week in “The Ruins,” the exhibit area in the courtyard of the museum.

Sarkisyan had a remarkable life. He was a scientist who invented a cure to relieve the suffering of those with Alzheimer's, a movie maker who worked and became friends with the likes of French legend Jeanne Moreau, who visited him at the museum, and finally, the revolutionary head of the Shchusev. Over the course of 10 years, he transformed the museum into one of the city's best cultural spaces and created a home for the city's architectural conservation movement, of which he was a passionate leader.

When he died, the Moscow city government, then led by Mayor Yury Luzhkov, with whom he had fought many battles, blocked his burial in the Armenian cemetery, a move that had friends wryly noting that he could annoy Luzhkov even in death.

The museum was forced to move the office after a visit from a different kind of city official – fire safety officers, who said that it was a fire hazard.

Graduate students moved the pieces one by one. Almost all of them are in exactly the same position as they were in his original office, and are now visible through a glass wall, said architect Yury Grigoryan,

who organized the move.

When visitors stare through the glass, a thousand and more objects look back: a model of Ostankino Tower, an Armenian cognac bottle with Sarkisyan's photo on it, a statue of a boy in a turban, a plastic melon, a Yury Gagarin badge, a statue with the nose missing and much more.

The room will remain open year round; when heated, it's a nice place to go after seeing an exhibit in the "The Ruins."

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 What was David Sarkisyan?
- 2 When did David Sarkisyan die?
- 3 Did his office remain untouched?
- 4 What was unveiled in "The Ruins," the exhibit area in the courtyard of the museum?
- 5 Did Sarkisyan have a remarkable life?
- 6 What did he transform the museum into?
- 7 Who blocked his burial in the Armenian cemetery?
- 8 What can visitors see staring through the glass?
- 9 The room will remain open year round, won't it?
- 10 Is it a nice place to go after seeing an exhibit in the "The Ruins"?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 15

In love and war

Ex. 1. Read the text.

The late Pyotr Todorovsky, once nominated for an Oscar, was probably the first Soviet director to break a cardinal rule when it came to prostitution in Russia. His 1989 hit, "Intergirl," forced perestroika era society to admit that sex workers did, indeed, exist.

"Intergirl" was a grim movie. Starring Yelena Yakovleva, it focused on sex workers that catered to foreigners in Leningrad in the 1980s.

Yakovleva's character, Tatyana, works as a nurse and supplements her income by turning tricks at a local hotel.

Tatyana's mother, a prim Soviet teacher, has no idea as to her daughter's main source of income. Although Tatyana is able to escape abroad by marrying one of her Swedish clients, she does not meet a happy end. Her naive mother, who attempts suicide when investigators reveal the true nature of Tatyana's work, is akin to a symbol of everything that went wrong in the final years of the Soviet Union, as hard-working idealists often found themselves unable to survive.

Todorovsky was also remembered for melodramas such as "The Mechanic Gavrilov's Beloved Woman" and, of course, "Wartime Romance," which was the film that earned him an Oscar nomination in 1985. In the former, he directed the exuberant Lyudmila Gurchenko, while the latter film starred screen legends Inna Churikova and Natalia Andreichenko. Churikova earned a Silver Bear award at the Berlin Film Festival for her role.

It has been said that Todorovsky was an expert on both love and war. "Wartime Romance" portrayed a classic love triangle made all the more intense by the painful legacy of WWII. "The Mechanic Gavrilov's Beloved Woman" was a wry study in both hope and despair, as Gurchenko's character must figure out if she has been jilted by Gavrilov right before they were due to get married.

With his last film, "Riorita," he returned to the theme of the war – but also delved into the much more controversial legacy of the gulag.

Todorovsky's death on May 24 was the end of yet another chapter in Russian filmmaking. This was a director who knew praise, who knew criticism – and who knew the way to your heart.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Was Todorovsky nominated for an Oscar?
- 2 What did his 1989 hit, "Intergirl," force perestroika era society to admit?
- 3 Was "Intergirl" a grim movie?
- 4 Who starred in "Intergirl"?
- 5 What is the film about?
- 6 What else is Todorovsky remembered for?
- 7 Which actresses starred in Todorovsky's films?
- 8 Was Todorovsky an expert on both love and war?

9 What did “Wartime Romance” portray?

10 When did Todorovsky die?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 16

Drawing ‘colors and textures’ out of guitars

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Oren Ambarchi stretches instruments’ boundaries, drawing shouts and moans out of everything from electric guitars to wine glasses. For his first gig in Russia, the Australian musician is playing a solo guitar set – but don’t expect his avantgarde style to go anywhere.

The show will be “almost like a solo variation of my piece ‘Knots,’” he said in an e-mail interview. “Knots,” which lasts 33 minutes and 32 seconds, grows from a simple beginning with a steady cymbal rhythm to a distorted soundscape.

Born in Sydney to Iraqi Jewish parents, Ambarchi made his musical debut in the late ’80s as a jazz drummer.

A prolific musician, Ambarchi has several dozen records to his name and has performed with a wide variety of artists, including drone doom band Sunn O and Hungarian black metal singer Attila Csihar. For the past few years, he said, he’s explored the contrast between rhythms and abstract, textured sounds.

Ambarchi’s material is stylistically diverse, featuring elements of rock, noise, avant-garde jazz and even neoclassical music. The musician himself doesn’t have a definition for his music.

On his 2012 album “Audience of One,” Ambarchi incorporated unconventional instruments such as wine glasses. He also invited other musicians to record with him. “When I work on my own, I tend to become really obsessive about all the details and self-critical about every element,” he said, adding that working with other artists on the album was “very liberating.”

“It allowed me to be looser with the material and allow things to happen in a more organic, natural way,” he said. “This recent development is very exciting for me.”

Among his wide repertoire of instruments, he says he doesn't have a favourite. "There's so much to explore from each instrument," he said. "I love working with different colors and textures when I record in the studio, so I'm happy to grab whatever instrument is around that can help me shape a piece of music."

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

1 Who stretches instruments' boundaries, drawing shouts and moans out of everything from electric guitars to wine glasses?

2 Where does Oren Ambarchi come from?

3 How long does "Knots" last?

4 What does "Knots" grow from?

5 When did Ambarchi make his musical debut as a jazz drummer?

6 How many records does Ambarchi have?

7 Who has he performed with?

8 For the past few years he's explored the contrast between rhythms and abstract, textured sounds, hasn't he?

9 What does Ambarchi's material feature?

10 Does he have a favourite instrument?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 17

World Press Photo winners go on show in Moscow

Ex. 1. Read the text.

The annual World Press Photo exhibition is back in Moscow this month, presenting harrowing images of war, poverty and human resilience.

Located in KrasnyOktyabr's former chocolate shop, the exhibition features almost 200 photographs from the international contest, which was held this year for the 56th time. This year's winning entries were selected from over 100,000 pictures submitted by nearly 6,000 photographers from 124 countries.

World Press Photo exhibit organizer Erik de Kruijf said at the

opening that the winning photograph has to show a newsworthy event, as well as appeal to the viewer's emotions.

This year's top honors went to "Gaza Funeral" by Swedish photographer Paul Hansen. Taken in Gaza City last November, the photo depicts two Palestinian children killed by an Israeli rocket being carried to their funeral. Hansen has fended off accusations that the image had been significantly altered, with organizers calling in an independent expert who verified its authenticity.

Some of the exhibition's most compelling images are focused on a Somalian women's basketball team. The black-and-white series by Danish photographer Jan Grarup shows the athletes training while under armed guard.

Grarup, who is known for his work in war zones, attended the team's training sessions for several weeks. He said the athletes were initially camera-shy, but gradually got used to the presence of a white male photographer. Despite the dangers they face, the young women behave much like any team, clowning around in the weight room and shedding their waist-length head coverings to don baggy shorts and jerseys.

In another striking series, Italian photographer Paolo Patrizi documented Italy's roadside sex workers, most of whom are African immigrants. Patrizi's photos show the women, back to the camera, near their trash-strewn mattresses in forest clearings, fields and parking lots.

Similarly memorable – and disturbing – is American photographer Micah Albert's image of a woman sitting on bags of trash she picked at a municipal dump outside Nairobi, Kenya. Albert's photo was the winner in the Contemporary Issues Singles Category.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

1 What is back in Moscow this month, presenting harrowing images of war, poverty and human resilience?

2 Where is the exhibition located?

3 How many photographs does the exhibition feature?

4 This year's winning entries were selected from over 100,000 pictures, weren't they?

5 How many photographers took part in the exhibition?

6 Who is organizer of the exhibition?

7 Who did this year's top honors go to?

8 What are some of the exhibition's most compelling images

focused on?

9 What is Grarup known for?

10 What did Italian photographer Paolo Patrizi document in his photos?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 18

Larry King says ‘da’ to Russian channel RT

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Larry King, the legendary U.S. television talk show host, 25-year veteran of cable news and self-professed fan of Russian President Vladimir Putin, is coming to Kremlin-funded English-language Russian news channel RT, the network announced Wednesday along with digital network Ora TV, in a move likely to raise more than a few eyebrows in the United States.

Beginning next month on RT America, “Politics with Larry King” will air weekly and “Larry King Now” will air four times a week, Mondays through Thursdays. Both shows will also be streamed online at Hulu.com and Ora.tv, which was founded by King and began producing “Larry King Now” last year.

King has been an American radio and television host for more than 50 years, including a quarter-century with CNN where he was known for landing big name guests, a riveting interview style and his quirky suspenders.

But the move is attracting attention in part because of RT’s reputation for being anti-American. Also known as Russia Today, it launched in 2005 as part of an effort in Moscow to improve Russia’s global image.

RT was the focus of a 2010 report from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a non-profit civil rights organization that investigates hate groups in the United States.

The report said RT “has devoted considerable airtime not only to coverage that makes Russia look good, but to coverage that makes the United States look bad.” It found RT reported on conspiracy theories

with “zeal,” and “frequently quotes US extremists as authorities on world events or interviews them at length without asking anything more than softball questions.”

In a statement to the SPLC, which was included in its report, Simonyan dismissed the criticism and said RT’s editorial policy is “open and balanced.”

RT has a bureau of 70 people in Washington, including some former staffers from CNN and NBC News, and is available to 630 million viewers worldwide, according to its website.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 What is Larry King?
- 2 Larry King is coming to Kremlin-funded English-language Russian news channel RT, isn’t he?
- 3 What Larry King’s programmes will be on RT America?
- 4 How long has King been an American radio and television host?
- 5 What is King known for?
- 6 Does RT have a reputation of being anti-American?
- 7 RT was the focus of a 2010 report from the Southern Poverty Law Center, wasn’t it?
- 8 What is the SPLC?
- 9 Does RT have a bureau of 90 people in Washington?
- 10 Is RT available to 630 million viewers worldwide?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 19

Balabanov’s modern icons

Ex. 1. Read the text.

The films of the late Alexei Balabanov can be viewed as a kind of iconography of Russian life. A filmmaker of cult status, Balabanov also created new cult figures.

It was Balabanov’s action films, “Brother” and “Brother 2” that introduced the handsome Sergei Bodrov Jr. to squealing young

women (and serious movie critics, some of whom were squealing young women in the past). In 2002, Bodrov was shooting a movie in Karmadon Gorge. He went missing alongside his production team following a devastating landslide. His body was never found, and his status as the lost, tragic hero of Russia's turbulent 1990s was solidified in a way that no one could have predicted.

Even the usually staid director Nikita Mikhalkov could be counted on to don a wig and a ridiculous, magenta-colored jacket for a role in Balabanov's "Dead Man's Bluff." The movie approached the topic of Russian gangsters in a breathless fashion – utilizing gallons of fake blood and loads of dark humor. Mikhalkov's role showcased his innate charm in a way that many of his own later films did not.

Balabanov also did well by working alongside the late Mikhail Skryabin, who had a small but important role in "Cargo 200" – a chilling look at the Soviet Union of 1984, which was the same year that serial killer Andrei Chikatilo managed to get away with killing 15 people (Chikatilo continued murdering people until he was caught in 1990). Skryabin went on to star in 2010's "The Stoker," but sadly died soon after gaining widespread fame for the role. There is something about Skryabin's screen presence – the combination of muted emotion and precision – that characterized Balabanov's oeuvre perfectly.

Balabanov's work has frequently been described as "brooding" and "dark." But there is also a go-forbroke attitude that ultimately offers a very honest, real and refreshing look at Russian society.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

1 Whose films can be viewed as a kind of iconography of Russian life?

2 Balabanov created new cult figures, didn't he?

3 What film introduced the handsome Sergei Bodrov Jr. to squealing young women?

4 Who went missing alongside his production team following a devastating landslide?

5 Who else played in Balabanov's films?

6 What topic did "Dead Man's Bluff" approach?

7 Is "Cargo 200" a chilling look at the Soviet Union of 1984?

8 Who went on to star in 2010's "The Stoker"?

9 How has Balabanov's work frequently been described?

10 Does Balabanov's work offer a very honest, real and refreshing look at Russian society?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 20

Depardieu and Hurley take Grozny

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Reports are streaming out of Chechnya about French actor – and new Russian citizen – Gerard Depardieu, who is working on two films set in the North Caucasus republic.

Depardieu arrived last week in Grozny to begin work on the thriller “Turquoise” alongside British actress Elizabeth Hurley. Directed by Philippe Martinez, “Turquoise” is filming in the Chechen capital and Moscow. According to the film's producer, Depardieu plays a gangster recently released from prison. The character travels to Moscow to find his son's killer, with the help of Hurley's femme fatale.

Hurley told reporters in Grozny that filming in the republic is “a great adventure.” “When I was told that the movie would be filmed in Chechnya, I had to take a very deep breath,” she said. “But then I realized it was a very good opportunity for me to come to a part of the world that I wouldn't necessarily have expected to visit.”

Hurley has posted photos on Instagram of herself with the republic's controversial head, Ramzan Kadyrov, who has been accused of human rights abuses.

Depardieu visited Chechnya earlier this year after controversially receiving Russian citizenship and residency in Mordovia's capital, Saransk, where he is now registered as an “individual entrepreneur.” Kadyrov also granted him an apartment in Grozny.

Earlier this month, Le Monde reported that Depardieu is also to play Chechnya's former president Akhmat Kadyrov, Ramzan Kadyrov's father, who was killed in a terrorist attack in 2004.

However, Depardieu's friend Nikolai Borodachev, director of the state film archive Gosfilmfond, corrected the report, saying the actor will play not Kadyrov, but a regular Chechen in a film with a tentative

title “Serdtsse Otsa” (A Father’s Heart). “This is a totally different story, more like an action thriller,” he told Izvestia. “Depardieu will be playing a positive Chechen character.”

The film is centered on Chechnya’s reconstruction in the wake of the wars of the mid-1990s – early 2000s.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Why are reports streaming out of Chechnya?
- 2 Gerard Depardieu is working on two films set in the North Caucasus republic, isn’t he?
- 3 Who directs “Turquoise”?
- 4 Does Depardieu play a gangster recently released from prison?
- 5 What did Hurley tell reporters in Grozny?
- 6 What photos has Hurley posted on Instagram?
- 7 Did Depardieu visit Chechnya earlier this year?
- 8 Who was killed in a terrorist attack in 2004?
- 9 What is Nikolai Borodachev?
- 10 What is “Serdtsse Otsa” centred on?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 21

Austrian Cultural Season brings Vienna’s best to Moscow

Ex. 1. Read the text.

The Austrian Cultural Season, the largest-ever festival of Austrian culture in Russia, is presenting more than 50 events from now to December 2014. Starring some of the country’s leading cultural figures, the diverse program includes imperial finery, modern dance inspired by cyborgs and an art show aboard an icebreaker.

The packed exhibition schedule kicks off this month with “Collective,” an audiovisual show by the Vienna festival sound-frame on display through June 26 at Manezh Exhibition Hall. On June 25, the Dadaist art group Geltin will present new installations at the

National Solyanka State Gallery.

Modern artist Rainer Prohaska has created the multimedia installation KRFTWRK as part of the Fifth Moscow Biennale, opening in late September. In order for Prohaska's work to be visible, visitors must pump water into a tank that generates electricity.

But not all the art is modern: starting in December, visitors to the Kremlin Museum will have the chance to see weapons, silver tables, ivory figurines, elaborate clockwork and other treasures from the Forchtenstein Castle. The items come from the collection of the Esterhazy family, which rose to power in the 16th century; many of them are leaving the country for the first time.

"Beyond Seeing," a unique exhibition designed for the visually impaired, will run from November 2013 through January 2014 at Winzavod. The ancient Benedictine monastery Admont Abbey commissioned 25 artists to create works that can be experienced by both blind and seeing people, who go through the exhibition blindfolded.

The curators explain their task as the "artistic expression of the history and idiosyncrasies of the unique icebreaker." Meanwhile, Moscow viewers will be able to check out sketches and photos of the icebreaker exhibit at a show at D.E.V.E. Gallery the same month.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

1 What is presenting more than 50 events from now to December 2014?

2 What does the diverse program include?

3 What does the packed exhibition schedule kick off this month with?

4 When will the Dadaist art group Geltin present new installations at the National Solyanka State Gallery?

5 Who has created the multimedia installation KRFTWRK as part of the Fifth Moscow Biennale?

6 What must visitors do in order for Prohaska's work to be visible?

7 What will visitors to the Kremlin Museum have the chance to see starting in December?

8 When and where will "Beyond Seeing" will run?

9 How many artists did the ancient Benedictine monastery Admont Abbey commission to create works?

10 How do the curators explain their task?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 22

Steven Seagal to hold concert in Chechnya – Kadyrov

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Hollywood star and martial artist Steven Seagal promised Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov a concert in his republic's capital of Grozny by the end of the year, Kadyrov wrote in captions to photos posted on his Instagram account.

Seagal, who was in Grozny on Wednesday for a visit with the Chechen leader, watched a traditional Chechen dance called the lezginka and even took part himself.

“The actor (he's also a singer, in case you didn't know), promised to hold a solo concert in Grozny this year. Great guy!” Kadyrov wrote.

After watching a show by the Vainakh and Nokhcho dance ensembles, “Steven admitted that he had never seen anything more beautiful,” Kadyrov wrote. “We're fans of Steven Seagal's movies over here, and it turns out that he's a fan of our traditional dances.”

The Chechen leader also posted pictures with Seagal posing with Kadyrov's children and taking a tour of his personal zoo outside Grozny.

Kadyrov, whom activists have widely criticized for rights abuses and strong arm tactics in his restive, semi-autonomous North Caucasus republic, launched an Instagram account last fall in an apparent bid to improve his image. Last week he wrote that he might close the account after criticism over his appearance with a man who turned out to be a murder convict recently released from jail.

Kadyrov has prided himself on overseeing a restoration of Grozny, which was badly damaged during two military campaigns in the 1990s against separatist militants.

Under the caption to the photos of Steven Seagal, one user appealed to Kadyrov for help with housing, claiming her home was destroyed

during the war and that her family still lives in a temporary shack. “Please forgive me for being so upfront, but I am upset that in such a famous country, which is visited by such famous people, people still need homes,” the user, malkan44444, wrote. “We know that you are very busy, but we don’t have anyone else to ask for help. All hope is on you.”

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who promised Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov a concert in his republic’s capital of Grozny by the end of the year?
- 2 Why was Seagal in Grozny?
- 3 Did Seagal watch a traditional Chechen dance called the lezginka and even take part himself?
- 4 What ensembles dance?
- 5 When did Kadyrov launch an Instagram?
- 6 Why might Kadyrov close the account?
- 7 What has Kadyrov prided himself on?
- 8 Grozny was badly damaged during two military campaigns in the 1990s against separatist militants, wasn’t it?
- 9 What did one user appeal to Kadyrov for?
- 10 Is Chechnya visited by famous people?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 23

‘Body extensions’ by German artist Rebecca Horn come to Moscow

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Legendary German artist Rebecca Horn has worn a mask made of pencils and made stones bleed. In Horn’s latest installation, she makes a suitcase fly through the Multimedia Art Museum.

Horn decided to use the inner space of the Moscow venue much as she did at her Guggenheim retrospective in 1993. The resulting

installation, “Suitcase for a Refugee,” features a suitcase with a painting inside, which Horn said “flaps like a butterfly” while sliding up and down a metal rod.

The exhibition, which takes up three floors, features several other kinetic installations that stop and start in careful orchestration, including “Solar Admirer,” which is centered around a violin.

Horn first came to the limelight in the late 1960s with her series of “body sculpture” performances, an idea she developed during a year-long hospital stay for lung poisoning. Her most famous work was 1971’s “Einhorn” (Unicorn), a play on the artist’s name that featured the artist in a bodysuit with an enormous horn projecting from her head.

Horn continued to explore the relationship between the animate and inanimate in later works such as “The Feathered Prison Fan,” a clamshell-like construction which envelops the body in feathers. Objects assume human feelings in works such as “Broken Landscapes,” a machine that stabs stones until they appear to bleed.

Horn has also made full-length films including “Buster’s Bedroom,” which is screened continuously at the exhibition. The 1990 movie, starring Geraldine Chaplin and Donald Sutherland, follows a woman obsessed with the great silent film star Buster Keaton.

Horn said the idea for her film “Der Eintänzer,” made in New York in the 1970s, came from a dream. “I had no money, and each summer when I went back to Europe, I had to rent out my studio,” she said. “And each time I came back, nearly everything was stolen or destroyed. I was in Europe and I had that dream. I woke up and said: “Oh, my God, what happened in my studio!” Then I came back to New York, and out of that dream I created a story and it became a film.”

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who has worn a mask made of pencils and made stones bleed?
- 2 What does Horn do in her latest installation?
- 3 Horn decided to use the inner space of the Moscow venue, didn’t she?
- 4 What is the title of the resulting installation?
- 5 What does “Suitcase for a Refugee” feature?
- 6 How many floors does the exhibition take up?
- 7 When did Horn first come to the limelight?

- 8 What was her most famous work?
9 Has Horn made full-length films?
10 Where did the idea for her film “Der Eintänzer,” made in New York in the 1970s, come from?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.

Text 24

Alan Bennett play ‘People’ shown at Gorizont cinema

Ex. 1. Read the text.

All of Alan Bennett’s play “People” takes place in a grand room of a stately English home that’s crumbling around its inhabitants.

The play, a typically bittersweet comedy by Bennett, is on at the National Theater in London, and will be shown Wednesday at Gorizont cinema.

It features a cast of famous British actors: Frances de la Tour plays Dorothy, an aristocratic former model who doesn’t want to give up the house, despite the leaks. Selina Cadell plays her sister, a vicar, who is eager for the house to be taken over by the Concern, an organization based on the National Trust, a British conservation fund that restores and preserves stately homes.

The play takes on the preservation industry and its Disneyfication of history – and suggests sometimes it’s better to just let things fall apart.

At one point in “People,” there is a discussion about the stately home’s collection of aging chamber pots.

Not that the play is an all-out attack on conservation organizations.

The short trip was Cadell’s first to Russia since the early 1970s – an awful trip, she said, marred by corrupt tour guides who hid them from the public. Cadell, though, crept off from the tour to local cafes.

Later in the trip, Cadell was in a cafe in the Bolshoi, eager for some vitamin C after ten days with barely a sight of fruit. She asked in vain for an orange at the cafe counter.

“A woman came up to us dressed in black and started talking to us in Russian,” she said, “Seconds later she produced two oranges out of her bag and she gave them to us. I kept on going ‘no, no,’ she kept on going ‘yes, yes.’ She said, ‘tell your friends when you got home that a

Russian lady gave you an orange.’ I offered her biros, she didn’t want biros.”

Cadell was staying at the Marriott Aurora, an ostentatious hotel full of marble, she said, a world away from the “prison cell” she occupied at the Intourist back in the 1970s, but about as real as a National Trust home.

Cadell then went to check out the statue of Anton Chekhov at the end of Kamergersky Pereulok. She has performed in Chekhov plays a number of times, including in an acclaimed Sam Mendes production on Broadway.

“Do you think I could find a postcard of the statue?” she asked. A marble Chekhov, yes; a postcard, not a chance.

Ex. 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where does all of Alan Bennett’s play “People” take place?
- 2 Where is the play on?
- 3 What does the play feature?
- 4 What does the play suggest?
- 5 The short trip was Cadell’s first to Russia since the early 1970s, wasn’t it?
- 6 Where was Cadell staying?
- 7 What hotel did she stay at in the 1970s?
- 8 Did Cadell then go to check out the statue of Anton Chekhov?
- 9 How many times has she performed in Chekhov plays?
- 10 Has she performed on Broadway?

Ex. 3. Find the key words in the text and write them out.

Ex. 4. Make the plan of the text and retell the latter.



Литература

1 The Moscow News [Electronic resource]. – Moscow, 2013. – Mode of access: <http://themoscownews.com/arts.html>. – Date of access: 14.09.2013.

Производственно-практическое издание

САЖИНА Елена Владимировна

ENGLISH
TEXTS FOR READING, DISCUSSING AND RETELLING
АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК
ТЕКСТЫ ДЛЯ ЧТЕНИЯ, ОБСУЖДЕНИЯ И ПЕРЕСКАЗА

Практическое руководство
для магистрантов

Подписано в печать 21.10.2015. Формат 60x84 1/16.
Бумага офсетная. Ризография. Усл. печ. л. 2,6.
Уч.-изд. л. 2,8. Тираж 25 экз. Заказ 620.

Издатель и полиграфическое исполнение:
учреждение образования
«Гомельский государственный университет имени Франциска Скорины».
Свидетельство о государственной регистрации издателя, изготовителя,
распространителя печатных изданий № 1/87 от 18.11.2013.
Специальное разрешение (лицензия) № 02330 / 450 от 18.12.2013.
Ул. Советская, 104, 246019, Гомель.

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИМЕНИ Ф. СКОРИНЫ

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИМЕНИ Ф.СКОРИНЫ

Е. В. САЖИНА

**ENGLISH
TEXTS FOR READING, DISCUSSING
AND RETELLING**

**АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК
ТЕКСТЫ ДЛЯ ЧТЕНИЯ, ОБСУЖДЕНИЯ
И ПЕРЕСКАЗА**

Гомель
2015

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИМЕНИ Ф.СКОРИНЫ