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## Six-day festival at Laurier focuses on life in Soviet Union

The life and culture of the Soviet Union will be featured during a six-day festival at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo from Thursday, Jan. 11 to Tuesday, Jan. 16.

The public festival will include two plays, musical performances, panel discussions, lectures, art displays and a book signing.

Festival chairman Loren Calder said the event, called "Back in the U.S.S.R.," is meant to encourage people to re-evaluate their views -- some of them stereotypes -- of the Soviet Union.

"We're challenging people to go back, to re-examine the country and see what it's like to live under Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms," he said.

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Note: A detailed festival program is attached.

Some festival participants will be available for interviews before their presentations. For assistance with special arrangements, please contact Julia Ann Easley.

"BACK IN THE USSR"

PROGRAM FOR FESTIVAL LAURIER  
JANUARY 11 TO 16



THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

PLAY ABOUT CHERNOBYL Sarcophagus, a play about the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986, will have its Canadian premiere at the festival. Named for the 300,000 ton concrete and steel structure that now entombs the reactor core, the play is about the immediate aftermath of the accident which released a cloud of radioactivity and affected the lives of millions.

It was written by Vladimir Gubaryev, who was science editor for the Russian newspaper Pravda and the first reporter on the scene.

A representative from Ontario Hydro's Bruce Nuclear Plant assisted the cast with its research. Director Leslie O'Dell, an English professor at WLU, said a lecture and demonstration helped the cast members to get into their characters as workers, firefighters and medical personnel dealing with radiation sickness.

The play will begin at 8 p.m. in the Theatre Auditorium. For tickets (\$8 regular and \$5 for students and seniors), contact 884-1970 ext. 2882 or the WLUSU Info Centre at 884-5210 after Jan. 3.

OPENING RECEPTION The Soviet ambassador to Canada, Alexei Rodionov, will be the guest of honor at a reception to officially open the festival. He will also present the prizes for a high school essay contest on the Soviet Union. The reception will be held in the Paul Martin Centre immediately following the conclusion of the play.

FOOD FAIR Traditional Russian food will be available in the Concourse area of the Central Teaching Building over the lunch hour.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Sarcophagus will be presented at 8 p.m. in the Theatre Auditorium.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Sarcophagus will be presented at 8 p.m. in the Theatre Auditorium.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

CHILDREN'S PLAY A second play, titled Qelalugaq, is meant for younger audiences. It is the story of a Russian child and a Canadian child who meet in the North and co-operate to save a trapped whale. It is based on the rescue of two whales that involved international co-operation and received media attention around the world.

Presented by ACTSENSE, which specializes in theatre for the developmentally challenged, Qelalugaq will begin at 3 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre. Free.

CLASSICAL RUSSIAN MUSIC Lydia Frumkin, a Soviet-born pianist who both taught and studied at the Leningrad Conservatory, will give a concert of classical Russian music, featuring the works of Mussorgsky, Scriabin and Shostakovich. Frumkin now teaches at the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. in the John Aird Centre recital hall. Free.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

MASTER CLASS Lydia Frumkin, a Soviet-born pianist who both studied and taught at the Leningrad Conservatory, will teach a master class at 10 a.m. in the John Aird Centre recital hall.

SONGS OF DISSENT Frumkin's husband, Vladimir, and their 12-year-old daughter, Maya, will perform Soviet songs of dissent. Vladimir Frumkin, who studied musicology at the Leningrad Conservatory, has published extensively on the Russian guitar poet movement and Soviet popular music. Now on leave of absence from the department of Russian at Oberlin College, Frumkin is an editor and programmer for the Soviet audiences of Voice of America, a government radio service.

His presentation will run from 11 a.m. to noon in the Concourse of the Central Teaching Building and then from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Atrium of the Frank Peters Building.

WOMEN UNDER GLASNOST The conditions of Soviet women under glasnost will be the subject of a colloquium. Ester Reiter, a professor of sociology at Brock University, and Meg Luxton, co-ordinator of women's studies at Atkinson College in Toronto, will explore the Soviet concept of "liberation or over emancipation."

While women are in the work force, they are still living with a traditional division of labor in the home and without the labor-saving amenities North American women depend on, Reiter said. "What you have is a generation of exhausted women."

Reiter and Luxton will discuss reform proposals dealing with such issues as part-time work and extended child care.

The two professors are guest editors of an issue of Canadian Women's Studies Journal that deals exclusively with women in the Soviet Union. It will be published just before their presentation.

The colloquium is sponsored by WLU's departments of political science and sociology, and women's studies. It is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. but its location is yet to be announced.

MEDIA AND THE U.S.S.R. Media analyst and publisher Barrie Zwicker of Toronto will present a workshop on how the western media covers the Soviet Union. Using examples from print and broadcast media, he will look at the "old hoary myths" and assumptions that underline western reporting about the country. Zwicker will speak at 7 p.m. in Rm. 1027 of the Frank Peters Building.

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

MEET THE AUTHOR Lawrence Martin, author of Breaking with History: The Gorbachev Revolution -- An Eyewitness Account, will speak at 3:30 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre. Martin was Moscow correspondent for The Globe and Mail from 1985 to 1988.

GO GORBACHEV'S REFORMS A panel discussion on Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms will feature Lawrence Martin, Moscow correspondent for The Globe and Mail from 1985 to 1988; Moshe Lewin, Soviet scholar and professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania; and Igor Lobanov, press officer for the Soviet embassy in Ottawa. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in Rm. 1E1 of the Arts and Science Building.

#### ONGOING

Some regular CLASSES on various aspects of Soviet life will be open to the public.

Soviet POSTERS on the perestroika theme will be displayed in the Paul Martin Centre during other events.

In co-operation with the festival, the Princess Cinema in Waterloo will be showing FILMS by Russian artists or about the country.

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