

Totalitarian Laughter

cultures of the comic under socialism

interdisciplinary conference

May 15-17, 2009 219 Aaron Burr Hall



FRIDAY, MAY 15

10:00 – 12:00 FUNNY STALIN

Chair: Petre Petrov (Princeton U)

Alexandra Arkhipova (Russian State U for the Humanities, Moscow)

Boris Briker (Villanova U)

Natalia Skradol (Hebrew U of Jerusalem / Ben-Gurion U of the Negev)

Discussant: Benjamin Nathans (U of Pennsylvania)

12:30 – 14:30 TWISTED TEXTS AND CRYPTIC LIVES

Chair: Liliana Milkova (National Gallery of Art, Washington)

Dennis Ioffe (Memorial U of Newfoundland / U of Amsterdam)

Yuri Leving (Dalhousie U)

Dragan Kujindzic (U of Florida)

Dmitry Golyenko (Russian Institute of Arts History, St. Petersburg)

Discussant: Eliot Borenstein (NYU)

14:45 – 16:45 PICTURING JOKES

Chair: Jane A. Sharp (Rutgers U)

Stephen Norris (Miami U of Ohio)

Alena Ledeneva (University College London)

Neringa Klumbyte (Miami U of Ohio)

Discussant: Catharine Nepomnyashchy (Columbia U)

17:00 – 18:30 Keynote Address

**Caryl Emerson, A. Watson Armour III University Professor,
Princeton University**

**"We Almost Died Laughing
and Other Theories of the Comic for a Dark Age"**

SATURDAY, MAY 16

9:30 – 11:30 THE LAUGHABLE EVERYDAY

Chair: Serguei Oushakine (Princeton U)

Iliia Kalinin (Smolny College, St. Petersburg / *Neprikosnovennyi Zapas*)

Bella Ostromoukhova (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales)

Maria Ionitã (U of Toronto)

Alexander Lamazares (Bronx Community College, CUNY)

Discussant: Kevin M. F. Platt (U of Pennsylvania)

11:45-13:45 TEARFUL LAUGHTER

Chair: Kim Lane Scheppele (Princeton U)

Sibelan Forrester (Swarthmore College)

Andrew Horton (U of Oklahoma)

Svetlana Adonyeva (St. Petersburg State U)

Discussant: Martha Lampland (U of California, San Diego)

14:30 – 16:30 JOLLY FELLOWS OF SAD COMEDIES

Chair: Ellen Chances (Princeton U)

Olga Bessmertnaya (Russian State U for the Humanities)

Bill Martin (U of Chicago)

Mark Lipovetsky (U of Colorado, Boulder)

Lilla Töke (SUNY, Stony Brook)

Discussant: Seth Graham (University College London)

16:45 – 18:00

***Hammer and Tickle: The Story of a Political System
that Was Laughed out of Existence* (2006)**

screening and discussion with film director Ben Lewis

SUNDAY, MAY 17

9:30 – 11:30 NOTES OF SUBVERSION

Chair: Stanislav Shvabrin (Princeton U)

Anna Nisnevich (U of Pittsburgh)

Anthony Qualin (Texas Tech U)

Laura Olson Osterman (U of Colorado, Boulder)

Discussant: Helena Goscilo (Ohio State U / U of Pittsburgh)

11:45-13:45 ETHNICITY OF JOKES

Chair: Michael Reynolds (Princeton U)

Anna Oldfield (Hamilton College)

Ivana Dobrivojevic (Belgrade Institute of Contemporary History)

Justine Gill (U of Alberta, Canada)

Discussant: Mark Beissinger (Princeton U)

The conference is sponsored by the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies; Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies; Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Eberhard L. Faber Fund of the Humanities Council; University Center for Human Values in honor of James A. Moffett '29; Program in Russian and Eurasian Studies; and Program in European Cultural Studies.