

Russian 402 & U of M Slavic Department Presents:

The Wedding Mishap



The Wedding Mishap

Adapted from the short story "Wedding" by Mikhail Zoshchenko

Directed by Nina Shkolnik

Note from the Director

Three days before our story begins, a young man spies an attractive woman on the bus. Instantly taken by her, he proposes and they agree to marry. Now, on the day of the wedding, our fiancée arrives to the bride's house with a problem. It is the middle of winter, and he only knows what his bride-to-be looks like when she is bundled up head to toe in winter clothing! To find his bride, our hapless hero must contend with costume changes, a drunk father-in-law (to be), and a critical case of mistaken identity.

We now invite you to the home of the bride, where the first guests are just arriving....

Dramatis Personae

One important detail for our production is that many of the roles are shared. Clothing and accessories are important for establishing the identities of our characters and in one case is an important plot point!

Groom (properly dressed up with a coat and tie) - Cavin Park, Clay Dibble, Jon Poser

Friend of the Groom - Junghoon Kang

Bride - Aliya Brown

Father of the Bride (never far from his hat, bowtie and bottle of vodka) - Jon Poser, Alex Craver

Mother of the Bride - Anna Heim

Friend of the Bride - Alexandria Bodfish

Guests - Alexandria Bodfish, Alex Craver, Clay Dibble, Cavin Park, Jon Poser

About the Author

Mikhail Zoshchenko was born in 1895, in the Ukrainian town of Poltava, but spent most of his life in St. Petersburg. His Ukrainian father was a mosaicist responsible for the exterior decoration of the Suvorov Military Museum in St. Petersburg. The future writer attended the Faculty of Law at the St. Petersburg University, and joined the army before World War I. He attained some popularity in the 1920s, but lived and died in poverty after he denounced the Zhdanov decree of 1946.

Zoshchenko wrote in a simplified, deadpan style which simultaneously made him accessible to 'the people' and mocked the official requirements to be 'accessible'. As he reflects, "I write very compactly. My sentences are short. Accessible to the poor. Maybe that's the reason I have so many readers." Volkov compares this style to the nakedness of the Russian holy fool (yurodivy). This style was much admired by the composer Dmitri Shostakovich, who adopted it as part of his own artistic persona.

Special thanks to...

Nina Shkolnik for her patience and guidance. She makes an excellent director and an even better teacher.

The principal illustration for the flyer and program comes from Swedish artist Gösta Åberg's poster for 'We Have Our Moments' (Universal, 1937)

The Wedding Mishap

Cast



Alexandria Bodfish

Alexandria is a junior studying Russian and Psychology. She is planning on doing something to help the world with her degree and is still in the process of figuring out what in the world that could be. She loves dogs and favorite past time is reposting videos of cute animals on facebook for the enjoyment of her and her friends.



Aliya Brown

Aliya is a senior graduating with a dual major in History and Russian, with plans to pursue her J.D. at Georgetown Law in Washington D.C. this coming fall. Despite having no Eastern European ancestry, she is constantly mistaken as a Russian spy upon mentioning her major. However, she intends on remedying this problem, and also at the same time disappointing all of her Russian professors, by pursuing a career as a Navy JAG in the U.S. Military upon completion of Law School.



Alex Craver

Alex is a 2nd year MA student at the International Institute's Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Next fall he will be starting a PhD program in Russian History at Northern Illinois University. Alex's last role was as Zeus, God of Thunder, when he was 10.



Clay Dibble

Clay is a first year PhD student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. He focuses on Yugoslav and Czech cinema. He likes coffee and hates talking about himself.



Anna Heim

Anna is a senior studying Political Science and Russian. She wrote an honors thesis on the Russian fiscal system and likes to read academic journals articles on taxation in her free time. She studied abroad in Paris last year but argues that Russian is a prettier language than French. She will be teaching English in Moscow after graduation.



Junghoon Kang

Learning Russian certainly gave me a lot of fun and a lot of pain at the same time. However, I have never regretted to learn this amazing language. This is my last semester in U of M, and I hope I will be having some nice drinks this summer at home in Moscow!



Cavin Park

Cavin is a Senior graduating with a BA in Russian, Political Science, and REES. He personally identifies with a corgi since it is the closest thing to a potato with legs. He is called Fedya due to his second middle name, Fedor (He admits that it is misspelled but accepts that at this point his names are all slightly altered forms of regular names that are just rare and/or weird)



Jonathan Poser

Jon is a first-year MA/MPP student in CREES and the Ford School of Public Policy. He has worked in Ukraine and Moldova, he enjoys a good road trip, and he can build you a kitchen table.