

RUSSIAN 402 AND THE U OF M SLAVIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS...

The Wedding Mishap



April 13th, 2023 12pm

The Wedding Mishap

Adapted from the short story by Mikhail Zoshchenko

Directed by Nina Shkolnik

Produced by the Slavic Department

April 13th 2023 12 pm



Director's Notes:

Three days before our story begins, a young man sees an attractive woman on the bus. Instantly taken by her, he proposes and they agree to marry. But wait! We must remember that this is Russia in the dead of winter and our bride-to-be was bundled up from head to toe in a long winter jacket and hat. Therefore, our fiancé arrives at the house, where the mother of the bride has been hastily preparing for the event and the father is drowning his despair with a tall bottle of vodka, without knowing what his future wife looks like. Flirting with a married woman, believing his fiancée to be the mother of the bride, and believing the best friend to be his real fiancée in pursuit of finding his future wife, calamity and hilarity ensue. Needless to say, our fiancé finds himself ushered from the house and thrown into the street. The next day he gets a divorce.

We now invite you to join us in this comic adventure.

ROLES:

Groom - Thomas Pazik (scene 2, 3), Jack Pribble (scene 5, 6), Tim Olson (scene 7, 10)

Friend of the Groom - Ethan Finn (scene 2, 3), Francesco Ossino (scene 5, 6, 10)

Bride - Megan Major (scene 1, 2, 4), Darya Lollos (scene 7), Anya Young (scene 9, 10)

Father of the Bride - Andrew Watson (scene 1, 5), Nikita Markov (scene 3, 10)

Mother of the Bride - Elaina Karpenko

Friend of the bride - Darya Lollos

Guest - Brian Wiltse (scene 1, 10), Darya Lollos (scene 5), Megan Major (scene 10), Jack Pribble (scene 10), Grey Tingstad-Carl (scene 10)

Husband of guest - Brian Wiltse

About the author....

Mikhail Zoshchenko

Zoshchenko was born in 1895, in the Ukrainian town of Poltava, but spent most of his life in St. Petersburg / Leningrad. His Ukrainian father was a mosaicist responsible for the exterior decoration of the Suvoroy in Saint Petersburg. The future writer attended the Faculty of Law at the Saint Petersburg University and then joined the army during World War I. He attained particular popularity in the 1920s, but lived and died in poverty after his denunciation in the Zhdanov decree of 1946.

He developed a simplified deadpan style of writing which simultaneously made him accessible to "the people" and mocked official demands for accessibility: "I write very compactly. My sentences are short. Accessible to the poor. Maybe that's the reason why I have so many readers." Volkov compares this style to a nakedness of the Russian holy fool or yurodivy. This style was much admired by the composer Dmitri Shostakovich who adopted it as a part of his own persona.

Special thanks to

Nina Shkolnik

*for her direction and guidance all year and
to all of our students!*

*And to you, our audience,
for coming to see our show!*

Cast:



Nikita Markov is a sophomore in Computer Science in Engineering. He was born in Nefteyugansk, Siberia and lives in Moscow. He likes to play soccer.



Elaina is a first year master's student of Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies. She likes vegetarian cooking, knitting, and watching movies.



Brian Wiltse is a senior in International Relations. He grew up in Flint, MI. Before coming to the University of Michigan, Brian was a farmer and worked on the Flint Water Crisis. After graduation, Brian plans to attend the University of Tartu for a master's in International Relations.



Megan Major is a senior majoring in Gender & Health and Russian. She will be returning to U of M as a master's student in Health Behavior & Health Education in the School of Public Health. In her free time, Megan enjoys working on creative projects, listening to music, and being with her cat Pancake!



Darya Lollos is a junior studying Earth and Environmental Sciences. She is in the third year of Russian Language and enjoys playing ultimate frisbee outside of school.



Jack Pribble is a sophomore studying economics. His favorite food is candy.



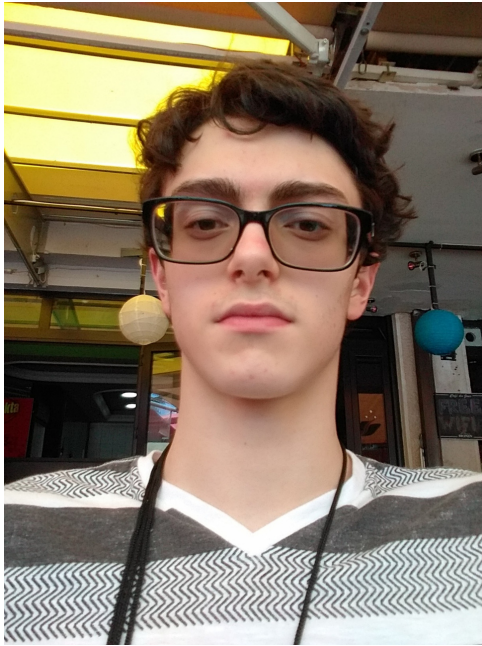
Andrew is a graduate student in the Russian Studies program. He likes to read and spend time with family.



Ethan Finn is currently a junior studying Microbiology and Russian Language and Literature. Outside of class he enjoys making crafts and cooking with Megan Major, and is an avid fan of the Seattle Seahawks and Detroit Pistons.



My name is Francesco Ossino, and I am a freshman studying Economics and Russian. I am a coxswain on the rowing team and I enjoy playing the cello in my freetime. After college, I plan to pursue a career in international business.



I'm Thomas Pazik. I am majoring in Russian and History. I have completed an Honors Thesis in the History Department about the Holodomor Famine of 1932-1933 and its impact on Ukrainian national identity. My thesis explores (at least in the most important parts) how this Famine shapes Ukrainians' opposition to Russian imperialism in the 2010s and 2020s. I love to read, but university has ruined reading for me; I am always assigned the most useless and boring readings imaginable. I also hate poetry with enough might to destroy the Death Star.



My name is Greyson Tingstad-Carl—3rd year Russian student, guitarist, and Cheburashka's biggest fan.



Anya is a graduating senior getting her degree in biochemistry. Russian 225 (Heritage Speakers II) is her first-ever Russian class, but likely not her last. She hopes to continue improving her Russian and learning other languages in the future!



Tim is a first-year MA student in the MIRS program, specializing in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. After graduating from Colorado College with a degree in Religious Studies, he was shocked to find that very few employers were desperate to hire recent graduates with Religious Studies degrees. As a result, Tim spent three years working as a wildland firefighter and helicopter-rappeler with the US Forest Service before arriving at Michigan.