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: Peter Petrov (Princeton U)
Alexandra Arkhypova (Russian State U for the Humanities, Moscow)
Boris Brik (Villanova U)
Natalia Skr adorned (Hebrew U of Jerusalem / Ben-Gurion U of the Negev)
Discussant: Benjamin Nathan (U of Pennsylvania)

12:30 – 14:30  TWISTED TEXTS AND CRYPTIC LIVES
Chair: Liliya Mikova (National Gallery of Art, Washington)
Dennis Volgin (Memorial U of Newfoundland / U of Amsterdam)
Yuri Livering (Balboa U)
Dragan Kujundzic (U of Florida)
Dmitry Golyko (Russian Institute of Arts History, St. Petersburg)
Discussant: Eliot Bornstein (NYU)

14:45 – 16:45  PICTURING JOKES
Chair: Jane A. Sharp (Rutgers U)
Stephen Norris (Miami U of Ohio)
Alena Ledeneva (University College, London)
Nanita Klimbyle (Miami U of Ohio)
Discussant: Catharine Nigomnyashch (Columbia U)

17:00 – 18:30  Keynote Address
Caryl Emerson, A. Watson Armour II 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: Boguslaw Dukalski (Princeton U)
Ilija Kalin (Smolny College, St. Petersburg / Neprosternoye Znamen)
Bella Osmonoukhova (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales)
Maria Ionisa (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)
Sibila Forestier (Swarthmore College)
Andrew Horton (U of Oklahoma)
Svetlana Adonjeva (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 Besmertnaya (Russian State U for the Humanities)
Bill Martin (U of Chicago)
Mark Lipovetsky (U of Colorado, Boulder)
Ulrike Tolef (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 (2005)
screening and discussion with film director Ben Lewis

SUNDAY, MAY 17

9:30 – 11:30  NOTES OF SUBVERSION
Chair: Stamatios Smirnios (Princeton U)
Anna Minkevich (U of Pittsburgh)
Anthony Quail (Texas Tech U)
Laura Olson Osterman (U of Colorado, Boulder)
Discussant: Helena Grimaldi (Ohio State U / U of Pittsburgh)

11:45-13:45  ETHNICITY OF JOKES
Chair: Michael Reynolds (Princeton U)
Anna Oldfie (Hamilton College)
Ivana Dobrovolec (Belgrade Institute of Contemporary History)
Justine Gill (U of Alberta, Canada)
Discussant: Mark Bessinger (Princeton U)

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