



# Современная

## In this issue:

*Top Floor* by V. Zaikin. Romantic love story between a successful lawyer and an unfortunate actress unfolds in a small space of staircase landing.

### *Between the past and the future*

*Sham King Passion* by A. Ignashov. Poetic drama reconstructs the events of a popular uprising headed by Yemelyan Pugachev and tells us about a conflict between a strong man and establishment, the main character and his two wives and even Catherine the empress.

*Fugitive* by A. Pozdniakov. 1920's, political camp on the island up in the north. Among the prisoners, veteran officer, war participant, and a well-known St. Petersburg poet. He takes a big risk to regain his freedom.

*Moscow Speaking* by Yu. Pospelova. The play is based on reminiscences by Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's daughter. Pictures of a cloudless childhood and youth, then the mysterious death of her mother and disappearance of close friends, her father's comrades-in-arms. It is a chronicle of enlightenment of an inexperienced soul.

*Cold Cell* by L. Timofeev. Autobiographical play by a prominent writer, scientist, human rights advocate and dissident, who was convicted "for anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" in 1985. Three dwellers in a cold cell are looking for big changes in the country.

### *For children and parents*

*Ugly Kitten* by A. Bogacheva. At first they called this little "sphinx" a beauty, but later discovered that his tail did not meet the high standards of a rare breed and exiled him to a village where he befriended a Cow and a Mouse and later a friendly female Cat.

*New Year Birthday* by I. Ignatov. In this fairy tale, together with people, act pets and exotic beasts. In the spotlight is an unusual married couple, a Fox and a Cock, who want to breed. And though their adopted son Vasya belongs to an unknown biological specie, it does not taint the happiness of all three.

### *Foreign Plays*

*Guards at the Taj* by Joseph Rajiv (USA). A historical legend about the creation of Taj Mahal mausoleum in India, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Head of state orders to cut off the builders' hands so they never build anything as beautiful as this one.

*Toreros* by J.-M. Piemme (Belgium). The newly-born friendship between two migrants turns to a conflict in their struggle for a place in the sun.

### *Critique. Theory*

Fourteen reviews of premieres of modern and classical plays in Moscow and regional theatres; talks with playwright O. Zhanaidarov (S. Novikova), directors V. Mirzoev (S. Task) and N. Roshchin (P. Bogdanova); notes about Golden Mask Festival-2017 (T. Kupchenko) and theatre life of Vienna (N. Yakubova).

### *History. Bibliography*

Publication of two unfinished plays, found in archive, by poet and playwright V. Brusov (1873—1924), *Visionary* and *Teacher*, which reflect the author's devotion to mysticism and his attitude toward Christian religion. This is discussed at length in an introduction by A. Andrienko. Ye. Nagrodskaya's (1866—1930) play *Lady and the Devil* also reflects the spiritual search of Russian intelligentsia during the Silver Age, which is dwelled upon in M. Mikhailova's commentary. This section is rounded up by G. Kovalenko's two reviews of new books on playwrighting and theatre.



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