

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*Modernism to Realism on  
the Soviet Stage*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

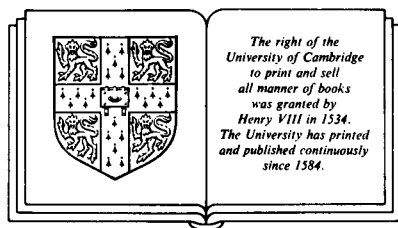
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*Modernism to Realism on  
the Soviet Stage*

TAIROV – VAKHTANGOV – OKHLOPKOV

NICK WORRALL



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE

NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521103961](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521103961)

© Cambridge University Press 1989

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1989

This digitally printed version 2009

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Worrall, Nick.

Modernism to realism on the Soviet stage: Tairov – Vakhtangov – Okhlopkov/Nick Worrall.

p. cm. – (Directors in perspective)

Bibliography: p.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-521-24763-2

1. Theater – Soviet Union – History – 20th century. 2. Tairov, Aleksandr Iakovlevich, 1885–1950 – Criticism and interpretation. 3. Vakhtangov, Evgenii Bagrationovich, 1883–1922 – Criticism and interpretation. 4. Okhlopkov, Nikolaï Pavlovich – Criticism and interpretation. I. Title. II. Series.

PN2724.W67 1989

792'.0947 – dc 19 88–15975

ISBN 978-0-521-24763-4 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-10396-1 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov -  
Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*For  
Ellen*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

<i>Illustrations list</i>	<i>page</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>		ix
<i>A note on transliteration</i>		ix
<i>Table of historical and theatrical events</i>		x
General introduction		i
1 Alexander Tairov, 1885–1950		15
2 Evgeni Vakhtangov, 1883–1922		76
3 Nikolai Okhlopkov, 1900–67		140
<i>Notes</i>		197
<i>Select bibliography</i>		224
<i>Index</i>		227

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Illustrations

1	Alexander Tairov in 1908	page 16
2	Setting for Kalidasa's <i>Shakuntala</i> (1914)	26
3	Poster for <i>Thamyris Kitharodos</i> (1916)	28
4	Scene from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (1921)	36
5	Scene from <i>Phaedre</i> (1922)	38
6	Setting for Lecocq's <i>Giroflé-Girofla</i> (1922)	40
7	Scene from O'Neill's <i>Desire Under the Elms</i> (1926)	48
8	Setting for <i>Sonata Patbétique</i> (1931)	56
9	Scene from Vishnevsky's <i>Optimistic Tragedy</i> (1933)	61
10	Scene from Flaubert's <i>Madame Bovary</i> (1940)	68
11	Evgeni Vakhtangov, c. 1920	77
12	Scene from act 2 of Berger's <i>The Deluge</i> , Moscow Art Theatre First Studio (1915)	92
13	Scene from Maeterlinck's <i>The Miracle of St Anthony</i> (second version), Moscow Art Theatre Third Studio (1921)	110
14	Setting by I. Nivinsky for Vakhtangov's production of Strindberg's <i>Erik XIV</i> , Moscow Art Theatre First Studio (1921)	113
15	Serafima Birman as Katarina Stenbok, Erik's stepmother	115
16	Michael Chekhov as Erik XIV	119
17	Scene from Vakhtangov's production of <i>The Dybbuk</i> (1922)	125
18	Setting by I. Nivinsky for Vakhtangov's production of Carlo Gozzi's <i>Princess Turandot</i> , Moscow Art Theatre Third Studio (1922)	128
19	Sketch by Mironov of Yuri Zavadsky as Kalaf	132
20	Scene from act 1 of <i>Princess Turandot</i>	138
21	Nikolai Okhlopkov in the 1930s	141
22	Sketch by Ya. Shtoffer of set for <i>Running Start</i> (1932)	151
23	Sketch by Ya. Shtoffer of set for Gorky's <i>Mother</i> (1933)	156
24	Sketch by Ya. Shtoffer of set for Pogodin's <i>Aristocrats</i> (1935)	162
25	Setting by V. Ryndin for balcony scene of Rostand's <i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i> , Vakhtangov Theatre (1942)	173
26	Final scene of Fadeyev's <i>The Young Guard</i> , Theatre of Drama (1947)	180
27	Scene from <i>Hamlet</i> (1954)	183
28	Scene from <i>Irkutsk Story</i> (1960)	190
29	Project for a new Mayakovsky Theatre (unrealised)	192
30	Scene from <i>Medea</i> (1961)	194

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Acknowledgements

This study could not have been undertaken without a British Council Scholarship, which facilitated a ten-month period at the Leningrad Institute of Theatre, Music and Cinematography. Considerable thanks are owed to members of the theatre research department at the Institute but, in particular, to the late Sergei Vasilevich Vladimirov and Yuri Alexandrovich Golovashenko for academic support and advice. Thanks for friendship, sustenance and encouragement are owed to Irina Malyutina, the late Alexander Gladkov and Professor A.G. Obraztsova of the VNII in Moscow, especially, but also to many other Soviet, British and American colleagues and friends. Thanks, finally, to Middlesex Polytechnic for periods of sabbatical leave and a respite from other duties to permit full-time work on this project; and to my wife.

### *A note on transliteration*

As this study is intended for the general reader, I have not been pedantically purist as far as the transliteration of Russian names is concerned and have preferred to stick to established variants, where these exist, or to transliterate in a way more readily acceptable to English-language readers (e.g. Alexander is preferred to Aleksandr; Alexei to Aleksei).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Table of historical and theatrical events

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Theatrical events</i>
1859 Birth of Nemirovich-Danchenko.	
1860 Birth of Chekhov.	
1861 Emancipation of the serfs.	
1863 Birth of Stanislavsky.	
1868 Birth of Gorky.	
1870 Birth of Lenin.	
1872 First Russian translation of Marx's <i>Das Kapital</i> .	
1874 Birth of Meyerhold.	
1879 Birth of Stalin.	
1881 Alexander II assassinated.	
1882	Repeal of Imperial Theatre monopoly.
1883 First organised group of Marxist Social Democrats. Birth of Vakhtangov.	
1885 Birth of Tairov.	
1886 Death of Ostrovsky.	
1887 Attempt to assassinate Alexander III by Lenin's brother, Alexander Ulyanov.	
1888	The Society of Art and Literature opens in Moscow.
1890	Meiningen Company visits Russia.
1894 Nicholas II becomes tsar.	
1896	First production of Chekhov's <i>The Seagull</i> .
1897	Moscow Art Theatre founded.
1898 First Congress of Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party.	Opening of Moscow Art Theatre.
1900 Birth of Okhlopkov.	
1902	Premiere of Gorky's <i>The Lower Depths</i> . Meyerhold leaves Moscow Art Theatre.
1903 Second Congress of Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party. Formation of 'Bolshevik' faction.	
1904 Death of Chekhov.	
1905 General strike and 'Bloody Sunday' in St Petersburg. Moscow uprising.	Premiere of <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> Stanislavsky opens Povarskaya Studio for Meyerhold's experimental work
1906 First Duma constituted	Meyerhold joins Komissarzhevskaya's Theatre.
1908	Meyerhold appointed head of Imperial Theatres in St Petersburg.
1909	Vakhtangov enters Adashev acting school.
1911 Prime minister Stolypin assassinated.	Premiere of Craig/Staniavsky <i>Hamlet</i> . Vakhtangov joins Moscow Art Theatre.



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Table of historical and theatrical events*

xi

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Theatrical events</i>
<b>1912</b>	Formation of Art Theatre First Studio.
<b>1913</b>	First production at First Studio – <i>The Wreck of 'The Hope'</i> (dir. Boleslavsky). Official opening of First Studio with Vakhtangov's production of <i>The Festival of Peace</i> . Foundation of Free Theatre. Premiere of Tairov's production of <i>The Veil of Pierrette</i> . First meeting of Vakhtangov's Mansurov Studio Group.
<b>1914</b> Germany and Austria–Hungary declare war on Russia.	Premiere of Vakhtangov's production of <i>The Lanin Estate</i> . Premiere of Sushkevich's production of <i>The Cricket on the Hearth</i> . Opening of Kamerny Theatre with Tairov's production of <i>Shakuntala</i> . Premiere of Vakhtangov's production of <i>The Deluge</i> .
<b>1915</b>	Premiere of <i>Thamyris Kitharodos</i> at the Kamerny Theatre.
<b>1916</b> Assassination of Rasputin.	Formation of Art Theatre Second Studio. Death of Sulerzhitsky.
<b>1917</b> February (old style) and October (old style) revolutions. Abdication of Nicholas II. Armistice with Germany.	Premiere of Meyerhold's production of Lermontov's <i>Masquerade</i> . Premiere of Stanislavsky's production of <i>Twelfth Night</i> at First Studio. Theatres placed under aegis of Narkompros (People's Commissariat of Education and Enlightenment) headed by Lunacharsky. Okhlopkov joins the local theatre in Irkutsk.
<b>1918</b> Introduction of new (Gregorian) calendar. Treaty of Brest/Litovsk. Foreign Intervention. Red Army organised by Trotsky. Royal family executed. Assassination attempt on Lenin.	Premiere of <i>Salomé</i> at the Kamerny. Opening of the Jewish Habimah Studio. Premiere of Vakhtangov's production of <i>Rosmersholm</i> at First Studio. Premiere of first version of <i>The Miracle of St Anthony</i> at Vakhtangov's Mansurov Studio. Opening of the People's Theatre. Premiere, in Petrograd, of 'the first Soviet play' – Mayakovsky's <i>Mystery-Bouffe</i> (dir. Meyerhold).
<b>1919</b> First congress of the Communist International in Moscow. White offensive launched.	Meyerhold captured by Whites and imprisoned in Novorossisk. Theatres nationalised.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

*Table of historical and theatrical events*

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Theatrical events</i>
	Bolshoi Theatre in Leningrad founded (later renamed Gorky Theatre in 1932).
	Premiere of Mardzhanov's production of Lope de Vega's <i>Fuente Ovejuna</i> in Kiev.
1920 End of Western Powers blockade.	Premiere of Stanislavsky's production of Byron's <i>Cain</i> at Moscow Art Theatre.
	Premiere of Vakhtangov's production of Chekhov's <i>The Wedding</i> at Mansurov Studio.
	Mansurov Studio incorporated within Moscow Art Theatre as its Third Studio.
	Premiere of <i>Princess Brambilla</i> at the Kamerny.
	Meyerhold appointed head of the theatre section of Narkompros.
	Launches 'October in the Theatre' movement.
	Meyerhold stages Verhaeren's <i>The Dawns</i> at the RSFSR Theatre No. 1.
	Evreinov stages mass spectacle <i>The Storming of the Winter Palace</i> .
	Mardzhanov stages mass spectacle <i>Towards the World Commune</i> .
1921 Kronstadt uprising.	Premiere of Stanislavsky's production of <i>The Government Inspector</i> with Michael Chekhov at the First Studio.
Tenth Party Congress.	Art theatre Fourth Studio founded.
New Economic Policy put into effect.	Premiere of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> at the Kamerny.
	Tairov's <i>Notes of a Director</i> published.
	Okhlopkov stages mass spectacle, <i>The Struggle of Labour and Capital</i> , in Irkutsk.
	Premiere of second version of <i>The Miracle of St Anthony</i> at the Third Studio.
	Premiere of Vakhtangov's production of <i>Erik XIV</i> at the First Studio.
	Official opening of Third Studio.
	Premiere of Meyerhold's productions of <i>The Magnanimous Cuckold</i> and <i>Tarelkin's Death</i> .
1922 The RSFSR becomes the USSR.	The Theatre of the Revolution founded in Moscow.
Stalin becomes general secretary of the central committee of the party.	Moscow Art Theatre embarks on European and American tour.
Death of Vakhtangov.	

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Table of historical and theatrical events*

xiii

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Theatrical events</i>
	Premieres of <i>Phaedre</i> and <i>Giroflé–Girofla</i> at the Kamerny. Okhlopkov enters Meyerhold Workshop in Moscow. Premiere of Vakhtangov's production of <i>The Dybbuk</i> at the Habimah Studio and of <i>Princess Turandot</i> at the Third Studio. Meyerhold Theatre founded. First European tour of Kamerny Theatre. Lunacharsky coins slogan 'Back to Ostrovsky'. Eisenstein stages eccentric production of Ostrovsky's <i>Enough Stupidity in Every Wise Man</i> at the Proletkult Theatre. Premiere of <i>The Man Who Was Thursday</i> at the Kamerny. Censorship body, Glavrepertkom, established.
<b>1923</b>	
<b>1924</b> Death of Lenin. Britain establishes diplomatic relations with USSR	Stanislavsky's <i>My Life in Art</i> published in English translation. Art Theatre returns to Moscow. First Studio becomes MAT 2 (Second Moscow Art Theatre). Art Theatre Second Studio incorporated within main theatre. Moscow Theatre of Satire founded. Premiere of <i>St Joan</i> at the Kamerny. Premiere of <i>The Forest</i> at the Meyerhold theatre.
<b>1925</b> Tsaritsyn renamed Stalingrad. Association of Proletarian Writers (RAPP) formed.	Second Kamerny European tour. Premiere of Erdman's <i>The Mandate</i> at the Meyerhold Theatre. Premiere of Seifullina's <i>Virineya</i> at the Vakhtangov Studio (dir. Popov). Premiere of Bill-Belotserkovsky's <i>Storm</i> at the Mossviet Theatre (dir. Lyubimov-Lanskoï).
<b>1926</b>	Premiere of <i>The Government Inspector</i> at the Meyerhold Theatre. Soviet edition of <i>My Life in Art</i> published. Third Studio renamed Vakhtangov Theatre. Premiere of Stanislavsky/Sudakov productions of Ostrovsky's <i>Burning Heart</i> and Bulgakov's <i>Days of the Turbins</i> at the Art Theatre.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv

*Table of historical and theatrical events*

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Theatrical events</i>
	Premiere of Trenyov's <i>Lyubov Yarovaya</i> at the Maly Theatre, Moscow.
	Premieres of <i>The Hairy Ape</i> and <i>Desire Under The Elms</i> at the Kamerny.
	Meyerhold Theatre becomes State Meyerhold Theatre.
1927 Britain breaks off diplomatic relations with USSR. Trotsky and Zinoviev expelled from the party.	Fourth Studio renamed Realistic Theatre. Premiere of Stanislavsky's production of Beaumarchais's <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> and the Stanislavsky/Sudakov production of Ivanov's <i>Armoured Train 14-69</i> at the Art Theatre. Premiere of Hasenclever's <i>Antigone</i> at the Kamerny.
1928 First five-year plan implemented.	Okhlopkov directs and stars in the film <i>Mitya</i> . Stanislavsky's final appearance as an actor. Okhlopkov directs film <i>The Sold Appetite</i> . Premiere of Bulgakov's <i>The Crimson Island</i> at the Kamerny. Michael Chekhov emigrates. Meyerhold stars in Protozanov's film <i>The White Eagle</i> alongside Kachalov.
1929 Mass collectivisation decreed. Trotsky expelled from the USSR.	Premiere of <i>All God's Chillun</i> at the Kamerny. Premieres of <i>The Bedbug</i> and <i>Army Commander 2</i> at the Meyerhold theatre. Central Theatre of the Red Army founded.
1930 Death of Mayakovsky.	Premiere of Nemirovich-Danchenko's production of Tolstoy's novel <i>Resurrection</i> at the Art Theatre and Sudakov's production of <i>Othello</i> based on Stanislavsky's director's plan. Okhlopkov directs film <i>Way of the Enthusiasts</i> . Premiere of Brecht's <i>The Threepenny Opera</i> at the Kamerny. Third Kamerny European tour. Meyerhold's company perform in Paris.
1931 Gorky returns semi-permanently to USSR.	Premiere of <i>The Bathhouse</i> at the Meyerhold Theatre. Okhlopkov becomes artistic director of Realistic Theatre (renamed Krasnaya Presnaya Theatre).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Table of historical and theatrical events*

xv

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Theatrical events</i>
	Premiere of Afinogenev's <i>Fear</i> at the Art Theatre (dir. Sudakov). Premieres of Vishnevsky's <i>The Last Decisive</i> and Olesha's <i>A List of Benefits</i> at the Meyerhold Theatre.
<b>1932</b> End of first and beginning of second five-year plan. RAPP wound up.	Premiere of Bulgakov's dramatisation of <i>Dead Souls</i> (dir. Stanislavsky/Sakhnovsky) at the Art Theatre. Premiere of <i>Running Start</i> at the Krasnaya Presnaya Theatre. Premiere of Akimov's eccentric production of <i>Hamlet</i> at the Vakhtangov Theatre. Premiere of Zakhava's production of Gorky's <i>Yegor Bulychov</i> at the Vakhtangov theatre.
<b>1933</b> Diplomatic relations established between the USSR and the USA. Gorky settles permanently in the Soviet Union. Death of Lunacharsky.	Premiere of Sophie Treadwell's <i>Machinal</i> at the Kamerny. Premiere of <i>Optimistic Tragedy</i> at the Kamerny. Premiere of Gorky's <i>Mother</i> at the Krasnaya Presnaya Theatre. Premiere of Gorky's <i>Into the World</i> at the Art Theatre (dir. Kedrov). Okhlopkov rehearses Brecht's <i>St Joan of the Stockyards</i> . Moscow Theatre Festival.
<b>1934</b> USSR joins League of Nations. First Soviet Writers' Congress. Socialist realism promulgated. Leningrad party secretary, Kirov, assassinated.	Krasnaya Presnaya Theatre reverts to being called the Realistic Theatre. Premiere of <i>The Iron Flood</i> at the Realistic Theatre. Premiere of <i>Egyptian Nights</i> at the Kamerny. Premiere of <i>The Lady of the Camellias</i> at the Meyerhold Theatre. Premiere of <i>Yegor Bulychov</i> at the Art Theatre (dir. Nemirovich-Danchenko). Tairov attends International Congress of the Royal Italian Academy in Rome.
<b>1935</b> Franco-Soviet and Czecho-Soviet Mutual Aid Pacts signed. Stakhanov movement launched. Opening of Moscow metro.	Opening of Stanislavsky Opera-Dramatic Studio. Premiere of Gorky's <i>Enemies</i> at the Art Theatre (dir. Nemirovich-Danchenko). Premiere of <i>Aristocrats</i> at the Realistic. Premiere of <i>King Lear</i> at the State Jewish Theatre (dir. Radlov) with Solomon Mikhoels. Premiere of Meyerhold's production of Tchaikovsky's <i>The Queen of Spades</i> in Leningrad.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi

*Table of historical and theatrical events*

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Theatrical events</i>
<p><b>1936</b> New Stalin Constitution adopted. Beginning of Moscow Trials. Death of Gorky.</p>	<p>MAT 2 closed down. Attack in <i>Pravda</i> on Shostakovich's opera <i>Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk</i>. Premiere of Bulgakov's <i>Molière</i> at the Art Theatre (dir. Gorchakov). Meyerhold speaks out against 'Meyerholditis'. First mention by Stanislavsky of the 'method of physical actions'. <i>An Actor Prepares</i> published in English translation in the United States. Premiere of <i>Othello</i> at the Realistic. Premiere of Borodin's <i>The Epic Heroes</i> at the Kamerny. First issue of theatre journal <i>Teatr</i>. Kamerny and Realistic Theatre merged. Meyerhold's production of <i>One Life</i> prohibited. Premiere of <i>Anna Karenina</i> at the Art Theatre (dir. Nemirovich-Danchenko). Premiere of <i>Colas Breugnon</i> at the Realistic.</p>
<p><b>1937</b></p>	<p>Meyerhold Theatre closed down. Meyerhold takes up post at Stanislavsky Opera Theatre. Okhlopkov leaves Kamerny and joins Vakhtangov Theatre.</p>
<p><b>1938</b> Third five-year plan inaugurated. Death of Stanislavsky.</p>	<p>First Soviet Directors' Conference. Meyerhold arrested. Premiere of <i>Tartuffe</i> at the Art Theatre (dir. Stanislavsky, Kedrov, Toporkov).</p>
<p><b>1939</b> Molotov replaces Litvinov as Commissar for Foreign Affairs. Nazi-Soviet Pact signed. Mutual assistance pacts signed with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania. USSR invades Finland. USSR occupies Western Ukraine and Western Belo-Russia, formerly part of Poland</p>	<p>Premiere of <i>Madame Bovary</i> during Kamerny Far East Tour. Premiere of Nemirovich-Danchenko's revival of <i>Three Sisters</i> at the Art Theatre.</p>
<p><b>1940</b> Soviet-Finnish Peace Treaty signed. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania vote in general elections for union with USSR. Death of Meyerhold.</p>	<p>Theatre companies evacuated from Moscow.</p>
<p><b>1941</b> Germany invades USSR. Italy, Rumania, Finland and Hungary declare war on USSR.</p>	

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Table of historical and theatrical events*

xvii

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Theatrical events</i>
<p>French Vichy government breaks off diplomatic relations with Moscow. Anglo-Soviet agreement signed in Moscow: Churchill declares that 'Russian people are now our allies'. German forces occupy Kiev. Siege of Leningrad by German and Finnish forces begins.</p>	
<p><b>1942</b> First Moscow Conference – Stalin, Churchill, Harriman. Battle of Stalingrad commences.</p>	<p>Okhlopkov stages premiere of <i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i> in Omsk. The Art Theatre stages premieres of Pogodin's <i>Kremlin Chimes</i> and Korneichuk's <i>The Front</i>.</p>
<p><b>1943</b> German forces at Stalingrad capitulate. Leningrad siege raised. Third International (Comintern) dissolved. Teheran Conference – Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt.</p>	<p>Premiere of Leonov's <i>Invasion</i> at the Mossviet. Okhlopkov appointed artistic director of The Theatre of Drama (formerly the Theatre of the Revolution). Kamerny Theatre Company returns to Moscow.</p>
<p><b>1944</b> Leningrad blockade lifted. Soviet troops enter East Prussia</p>	<p>Premiere of <i>The Seagull</i> at the Kamerny.</p>
<p><b>1945</b> Yalta Conference – Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt. Berlin surrenders to First White Russian and First Ukrainian armies. Soviet troops enter Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria. Potsdam Conference. Soviet Union declares war on Japan.</p>	<p>Premiere of <i>An Inspector Calls</i> at the Kamerny. Tairov awarded the Order of Lenin.</p>
<p><b>1946</b> Fourth five-year plan.</p>	<p>Publication of party document 'On The Repertoire of the Dramatic Theatres and Measures for their Improvement'. Premiere of <i>The Young Guard</i> at the Theatre of Drama.</p>
<p><b>1947</b></p>	<p>Okhlopkov made a People's Artist.</p>
<p><b>1948</b> Soviet blockade of Berlin begins. Stalin breaks with Tito.</p>	
<p><b>1949</b> First Soviet atom bomb. Establishment of Comecon. Mao Tse-tung visits Moscow for Stalin's seventieth birthday celebrations.</p>	<p>Okhlopkov's theatre tours Poland and Czechoslovakia. Tairov transferred to Vakhtangov Theatre.</p>
<p><b>1950</b> Sino-Soviet Friendship Treaty. Death of Tairov.</p>	
<p><b>1953</b> Death of Stalin. Khrushchev becomes first secretary of the party. First Soviet hydrogen bomb.</p>	<p>Premiere of Ostrovsky's <i>The Storm</i> at the Theatre of Drama.</p>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10396-1 - Modernism to Realism on the Soviet Stage: Tairov - Vakhtangov - Okhlopkov

Nick Worrall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xviii

*Table of historical and theatrical events*

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Theatrical events</i>
1954 Okhlopkov designated deputy minister of culture (post held for a year). Beginning of 'thaw' in East–West relations. Warsaw Pact signed.	Theatre of Drama renamed the Mayakovsky Theatre. Series of Mayakovsky revivals at the Moscow Theatre of Satire begins with the Yutkevich/Pluchek production of <i>The Bathhouse</i> . Premiere of <i>Hamlet</i> at the Mayakovsky Theatre.
1955 Meyerhold officially rehabilitated by a military court of the USSR.	Okhlopkov participates in International Shakespeare Conference held at Stratford. Tovstonogov revives <i>Optimistic Tragedy</i> at the Pushkin Theatre, Leningrad.
1956 Twentieth Party Congress. Khrushchev's secret speech denouncing the 'cult of personality'. Soviet intervention in Hungary.	Founding of Sovremennik Theatre under Oleg Efremov. Tovstonogov becomes artistic director of the Leningrad Gorky Theatre. Premiere of <i>Hotel Astoria</i> at the Mayakovsky Theatre.
1957 First artificial satellite launched by Soviet Union.	
1958	Moscow Art Theatre pays first ever visit to Britain.
1960 Yuri Gagarin first man in space. U2 spy plane shot down. Eisenhower–Khrushchev summit abandoned.	Yuri Zavadsky directs <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> in New York.
1961 Twenty-second Party Congress. Stalin's body removed from Lenin Mausoleum. Stalingrad renamed Volgograd.	Premiere of <i>Medea</i> at Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.
1962 Cuban missile crisis.	
1963	Reuben Simonov revives Vakhtangov's production of <i>Princess Turandot</i> at the Vakhtangov Theatre.
1964 Khrushchev forced to resign. Brezhnev becomes first secretary, Kosygin prime minister.	Okhlopkov takes part in Shakespeare Quarter-century celebrations held in London and Stratford. Yuri Lyubimov and a group of Shchukin Acting School students take over the Theatre of Drama and Comedy on Taganka Square. Moscow Art Theatre performs at World Theatre Season in London.
1965	Soviet premiere of <i>Look Back in Anger</i> at the Sovremennik.
1967 Fiftieth anniversary of the revolution. Death of Okhlopkov.	