

Cultural Leaders Program: Writers Open World Leadership Center

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
February 3-17, 2005

New York, NY
February 17-21, 2005

The writers are visiting New York as part of the Open World Program after they spend two weeks in residency at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In New York, co-hosted by CEC ArtsLink and PEN American Center, they will meet with leading representatives of publishing world, share their work with New York audiences, and explore the life and culture of the city. Support for the cultural program is also provided through partnership and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

PARTICIPANT PROFILES

Dmitriy Bykov is the author of over 15 publications, including three novels, eight compilations of poetry, two collections of essays, a children's book written together with his wife, and a biography of Boris Pasternak.

Born in Moscow in 1967; graduated from Department of Journalism of Moscow State University; served in the army; has been working at or published by many weekly newspapers and magazines from 1989 until now. Hosts about ten television programs. Editor of a weekly newspaper and editor of the "Individual and Society" section of a magazine. Currently, he is finishing a major novel about Russian history with all its mysterious twists and crossroads and is tremendously enjoying the process.

He is married to a writer and translator with whom he has two children.

Ilya Kochergin is a writer and journalist. Winner of several literary awards for short stories and the novel "Chinese Man's Assistant." His works have been translated and published in France. Participated in the Forums for young Russian writers. Traveled to Germany and France as part of the groups representing young Russian literature.

Born in Moscow in 1970. After trying chemistry and geology, graduated from Moscow Literary Institute. Changed many jobs: street cleaner, librarian, a manual laborer in a geological expedition to Kamchatka, custodian in the main building of Moscow State University, night watchman, mailman, gum salesman in the subway, worker at the restoration of Danilov Monastery, distributor of small icons in churches, assistant to a Chinese businessman, environmental inspector at Altai nature preserve, etc. Traveled a lot and still tries to travel around Russia's Northern regions and Siberia. Has a wife and two children. Does writing, journalism, and photography.

Olga Slavnikova is a prosaist and literary critic. Her first novel was published in 1988 and her novel "Dragonfly the Size of Dog" was a 1997 Booker Prize finalist. Since then she is considered the biggest discovery of the Russian Booker. Won numerous literary awards. She is a member of the Union of Russian Writers, Russia's PEN, and Russia's Booker Committee. Her works have been translated into French and Italian. Part of her novel "Period" was translated into English and published in "Nine of Russia's Foremost Women Writers" (Glas New Russian Writing, 2003).

She was born in Sverdlovsk, now Yekaterinburg, in a family of aerospace engineers. As a child, demonstrated outstanding abilities in mathematics but ultimately chose literature. Graduated from Department of Journalism of the Ural University. Worked in literary magazine "Ural." During Perestroika, started her own publishing business. Later was head of the weekly newspaper "Book Club." Now is Director of "Literary Award *Debut*."