

BOOKS  
2004-10-12

VIKING

# The Mystery of Olga Chekhova

ANTONY BEEVOR

VIKING

Krupps  
German  
origin

Moscow Art Theatre  
What was like  
like under the Tsar  
What changed  
after revolution  
Food / Lodging

The Cherry Orchard  
The Seagull  
Uncle Vanya

Proletkult  
Cheka - Dzerzhinsky

- The Losses  
Oleg Chekhov's two  
post war volumes  
of memoirs

How?

- One family survived
- ① + the Russian Revolution
  - ② the civil war
  - ③ the rise of Hitler
  - ④ the Stalinist Terror
  - ⑤ The Nazi Invasion of the Soviet Union



1943 Moscow - The Cherry Orchard played  
by Olga Krupner-Chekhova - her 75th B-day  
in the audience was her niece Olga Chekhova her  
German cousin's star

July - 1904 Anton C. Dvořák

Konstantin Stanislavsky

1898 - met Chekhov - had been mistress P/O

Olga - studying at Moscow Academy of Art

Sept 1914 - Olga and Masha marry - she was 17  
Her relatives called it a scandal - were not happy

9 Sept 16 - baby girl born - marriage was a farce  
Masha didn't want to fight - no conscription  
Masha - close to madness - her mother semi-demented

Final downfall of Romanov dynasty Mar 3 1917

Art perf at Moscow Art T. - The Cherry Orchard - before  
Bolshevik

3 Dec 1917 - Volodya Chekhov. - Uses Masha's (his cousin)  
gun to shoot himself

Olga leaves Masha because of his drunkenness -  
became poor - lived with her in Krupner's apt.

Theatre became State controlled - Stanislavsky showed  
his loyalty

Civil War May 1919 -

Moscow Art Theatre to Ukraine for 3 weeks in  
Kharkov.

The Whites vs. The Reds

collapse of White armies in 1919

Kachalov group gets caught in Ukraine

126 ships of British/French/White Russian formed  
150,000 people across Black Sea to Turkey

Jan. 1921 - leaves Russia for Berlin -

dresses as peasant - puts diamond ring under her  
tongue  
leaves her daughter / husband left her



③ Olga played in 40 silent movies in 20's  
Her family goes to Berlin -  
she goes to Hollywood - not a big success - doesn't  
make the U.S. - no soul p 117 - this 30  
1928 - Moves to Berlin - Olga finds apt near her  
so both can see 11 yr. old ADA.

Jan 30, 1933 - Nazi begin assuming power

28 Feb - Reichstag fire  
Legislation gives Hitler total power  
Olga Chekhova meet H. fruit him at a  
reception in 33'

Goddard saw 1000 movies in dozen years of Nazi  
He fell in love with Czech actress Lida Baarova  
He wanted a divorce - Hitler thought lost his mind

Gorky is relationship to Lenin + Stalin

19 Dec 36 - Olga marries Belgian Marcel Robyns  
Day before wedding she went to a reception  
with Hitler - He told her she could retain German  
nationality  
moved to Brussels - stayed in Blue Foy  
Marcel - had my businessman -



Journey - Jan 1921 Moscow to Riga to

Berlin

smuggled a ring p 81

she had hardly ever seen a movie

claimed she had been trained by Stenopschuky

antone - silent film premieres Apr. 7 1921

Olga's story -  
no accounts  
she told his

The Mystery of  
Olga Chekhova

Aunt Olya and Lev and Kachalov group  
returned to Moscow May 1922

Levin - liked the group

Stalin went to see Days of the Turbins Bulgakov's  
15 times play

Olya and the new Russian - she'd been away 3 yrs  
lost a lot of friends

Olga's brother Lev - a former White Guard war  
spy for KGB - recruited his sister in Berlin

maintained regular communications in the 30's

Tolstoy - let back in Russia 1923 - never disappointed  
the the Kremlin

Moscow Art Theatre - 60 strong Lev with them  
toured Berlin end of Sept 1922

Moscow files are still closed on Lev.

Ranyevskaya - The Cherry Orchard

Tour of U.S. - surprised by what they saw  
advertising - bathroom in hotel room

Heater - Rachmaninov - 5 Mar. 23 during  
them - tiredness





BOOKNOTES  
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*By the Same Author*

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Crete: The Battle and the Resistance

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*(with Artemis Cooper)*

Stalingrad

Berlin: The Downfall 1945

792. Antony Beevor  
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Great Terror 37 and 38

~~Max~~ Mandelstam - poem about Stalin  
thrown into jail - died 27 Dec 1938 in route  
Wladivostok -

Event - rational for Stalin's purges  
took place on 1 Dec 1934 - Sergei Kirov  
was assassinated - all civil liberties suspended  
look for Trotskyist saboteurs  
1935-40 - 19 million people arrested - 7 mil. died  
Lew trying to convince himself of the rightness  
of Soviet purges p145

Lew to Aunt Olga p146

From White Guardist to Bolshevik  
& desire to be a true Bolshevik (He was 39)

Olga Krupper Chukhova divorced Marcel Polym  
in 1938 (Sept)

July 1934 - Olga sees a lot Goebbels / Hitler  
former Soviet Union overplays her role at this time  
her job was to stay in touch with German General  
who were against going to war with Russia

Olga's (43) new love Jep - 15 yrs. younger -  
a fighter pilot

Polotov comes to meet with Hitler 13 Nov 40

Olga at Soviet reception - Merkulov brought  
message from Lew that family is O.K.

That was received package from Hitler  
Was she Hitler hostess



Book Review 31 and 32

From the collection - given about 1945  
through into 1947 - book 21 the 1948 in 1948

Event material for 1945 - paper from  
top page on 11th 1944 - paper from

1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40

of 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40

to 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40

to 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40

Mail seemed to flow throughout war

1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40  
1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40  
1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40  
1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40 - 1942-40



June 22, 1941 Germany declares war on S. Union

30 Sept 41 Operations Typhoon -

169

German assault on Moscow -

12 mile column Ger. soldiers - 80 miles out

Panic in Kremlin

Lev operated in a battle group - 11 men - chief duty to assassinate Hitler if he came to Moscow Stalin decided to stay in the city

General Zhukov sprung his surprise

All the Siberian division and reserve tank units

Moscow was saved

Chap 18 Lev and new wife Mariya were to try to defect to Germany to assassinate Hitler via Iran or Turkey

Hitler didn't watch watch movie during war time - Gorbachev died

they wanted to use Olga to help but she had little knowledge of Hitler's whereabouts

Lev's mother dies 1943

Olga moves to dacha

Lev returns to Moscow 1943

Olga continued to film all through war

Gorbachev continued to invite Lev to dinner



Olga meets officer Albert Sumser

Walks 12 miles to bring food to Potsdam

P197

Russians begin Berlin onslaught on 16 April 45

3 generations of Chekhovs - couldn't hear bombing

Olga taken to Marshal Zhukov's headq. questioned and then put on plane to Moscow

Viktor Abakumov p204 - escort for

Olga - sex grayed like Boris (37)

no indication she slept with him

she returned to Berlin. Sweech's later

can't tell how seriously she was taken

by Stalin forces

Olga - ill - operations

on her 25th B-day received Order of Lenin

Kruppes not under any threat from NKVD

Back to Berlin -

given new House and plenty work

p 212

Olga never sees Lev again

Articles written about her in Britain

had all accusations p216

Was she a double agent?

She did not receive a medal from Britain



You seem to doubt a lot of Olga writes  
in her Memoirs

When did you find all the letters

Leo leaves Mariya - on day she takes  
exam at Institute of Foreign Language  
Were his symphonies - propaganda  
Olga moves again in 1949 to Charlottenburg

Mariya - thrown out of KGB - after Beria's  
death by Khrushchev. - She was  
brought back after poverty to be a  
translator - Had plastic surgery and  
died next day.

Olga moved to Munich in 1950 for the movie in  
cosmetic business - suspicion that money  
came from Soviet sources  
Granddaughter Vera and Elvis Presley  
Champagne at death from Leukaemia  
"Life is Beautiful"