

Meet the Cast of Garage



Sasha Luckau

(Elena Pavlovna Malayeva)

I am a second-year M.A. student in the MIRS-CREES program and received my B.A. from Vassar College in 2020. In college, I spent two semesters studying abroad at the Hermitage

Museum in St. Petersburg and at Moscow State University in Moscow, Russia. In my free time, I enjoy working out and traveling, especially to visit my grandparents in Tallinn, Estonia.



Tim Olson

(Sidorin, Head of the Cooperative)

Second-year MA student in the MIRS-CREES program. Suffers from a crippling addiction to the Russian language. Still has nightmares about his performance in the 2023

4th-year Russian play "Свадьба".



Priscilla Pitiak

(Lidia Vladimirovna Anikeyeva)

I am an undergraduate student studying Astrophysics and Astronomy in the College of LSA, with a minor in Russian Language, Literature, and Culture. After I graduate next Spring, I'll be

commissioning into the US Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant, where I hope to continue my Russian studies.



Fedor Zybin

(Wife of Guskov)

Wassup? My name is Fedor Zybin (21) and I am a senior student at LSA, studying Economics. I was born and raised in Moscow, Russia. I am a big fan of acting and I am more

than happy to talk about the play or Russian theatre arts.



Ivan Smychkovskiy

(Karpukhin)

Freshman at UM, studying Economics.



Mara Kuhne

(Alla Alekseyevna Kushakova, Director of the Market)

Mara is a dual M.A. student in the MIRS-CREES program and in the Ford School of Public Policy. Her research interests focus on the intersection of figure skating and Russian politics.



Max Hauffe

(The Groom)

Hi, I'm Max Hauffe, a political science student at U-M. Once I graduate, I hope to pursue a career in international security with a focus on Russia and Eastern Europe. My hobbies

include reading/watching Star Wars, playing tennis, and learning more about foreign affairs. If you're interested in any of these topics, please let me know as I would love to talk to you about them!



Misha Martin

(Vitaliy Kuzmich Fetisov)

Misha should probably be writing his dissertation right now, but can't resist a good bit. He's very proud of his and all other Russian students at the University of Michigan.



Drin Shapiro

(Semyon Aleksandrovich Khvostov)

My name is Drin Shapiro and I'm a junior at U-M studying history and Russian language. I am currently writing my thesis on the organized crime epidemic in Kazan.

More About Garage



SUMMARY



Cecilia Brisuda

(Semyon Aleksandrovich Khostov)

My name is Cecilia Brisuda. I am a law student and this performance is my last assignment. Please applaud.



Benjamin Paloff

(The Lucky Member of the Cooperative)

Benjamin Paloff is the current Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. This time of year he is very sleepy.



Nina Shkolnik

(Our Fearless Director)

Nina Shkolnik is a Lecturer in the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department. This year, she taught a combined section for the 4th and 5th year Russian classes. She

is very proud of her students' dedication, hard work, and artistic abilities!

A cooperative belonging to a zoological research institute is constructing a parking garage for its members, most of whom are research scientists at the institute.

Suddenly, the government appropriates a portion of the garage's site for the construction of a new highway. This means that some members' spots in the garage must be destroyed to make room for it. Predictably, the cooperative's Board of Directors summarily expels the four weakest shareholders, none of whom have any leverage in the institute's power structure.

Of course, the expelled kick and scream. Of course, the rest of the members hurriedly grab their coats to try to leave this ridiculous meeting ASAP. But one unexpected event happens: the meeting room's entrance has been locked by an unknown member. The key is nowhere to be found. What results is a delightful mix of powerful social tensions, envy, resentment, hysterics, horrendous accusations of non-conformism, unabashed intimidation, veiled threats, and petty personal attacks that won't stop until the matter is resolved. So, whose parking spots will be destroyed? Will corruption or Soviet democratic principles prevail?

Based on the film directed by Eldar Ryazanov in 1979, our stage adaptation shows the complex and uneasy balance of power in a small organization where much is at stake, as well as the weaknesses and pitfalls of collective governance.