Albany, N.Y.--The Russian Film Forum will be Feb. 12-13 at The Linda – WAMC’s Performing Art Studio, 339 Central Ave. in Albany. The Forum will showcase new cinema from Russia and include discussions with Russian film industry professionals. This year’s program presents a selection of Russian feature films and documentaries.

The Russian Film Forum is the latest in a series of events previewing the Russian Winter Festival 2011 on Saturday, Feb. 26, noon-6, at the Bulmer Telecommunications Center at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy NY.

Other events include:
- An exhibition of the Soviet Propaganda posters, Feb. 12-25 at the Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Ave. in Albany. There is an opening reception Feb. 12 at 11:30 a.m.
- The Tchaikovsky Piano Competition, Feb. 12-13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Linda – WAMC’s Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave. in Albany.
- The “Russian Winter”, Fine Art Show by Tatiana Rhinevault is currently on view through Feb. 13 at the Capital Repertory Theatre, Albany NY.

$8 features, $6 shorts, $15 Full Pass all films

Film Forum Schedule:

Saturday: Feature Films
3:00 pm – 4:11 pm - “First on the Moon” (2005)
4:15 pm – 6:18 pm - “The Tsar” (2009)
7:00 pm – 8:35 pm - “Giselle’s Mania” (1996)
8:40pm – 9:40pm - Q & A with Director of “Giselle’s Mania” Aleksey Uchitel

Sunday: Documentaries
3:00 pm – 3:26 pm - “Bread for bird” (2010)
3:30 pm – 3:51 pm - “Sarafan” (2006)
4:00 pm – 4:35pm - “Wedding of Silence” (2003)
7 pm – 8 pm - “Vasya” (2003)
8 pm – 9 pm - Q & A with Director of “Vasya” Andrey Zagdansky

“First on the Moon”
Think it was Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin? Well, think again, because as Alexei Fedorchenko’s unsettling debut film reveals, a Soviet cosmopilot, Ivan Kharlamov, actually went there and back in 1938, piloting his experimental, and highly secretive craft back to Chile, from where he undertook an arduous journey across the Pacific, through China and Mongolia and finally into Mother Russia itself. First on the
Moon is a touching expression of an unfettered utopian spirit - a sense of the limitless possibilities of human ingenuity and imagination - that characterized many people's vision of the Soviet experiment before its grim realities settled in.

"The Tsar"
In 16th-century Russia in the grip of chaos, Ivan the Terrible strongly believes he is vested with a holy mission. Believing he can understand and interpret the signs, he sees the Last Judgment approaching. He establishes absolute power, cruelly destroying anyone who gets in his way. During this reign of terror, Philip, the superior of the monastery on the Solovetsky Islands, a great scholar and Ivan's close friend, dares to oppose the sovereign's mystical tyranny. What follows is a clash between two completely opposite visions of the world, smashing morality and justice, God and men. A grand-scale film with excellent leading roles by Mamonov and Yankovsky. An allegory of Stalinist Russia.

"Giselle’s Mania"
The spectacular life and career of Russian ballerina Olga Spesivtseva, who died from dementia in New York in 1991 at the age of 96, is recounted in this film not as a biography but as a chronicle of her love affairs, particularly with the ballet *Giselle*. *Giselle* immortalized her life and *Giselle* destroyed her life. The mysterious relationships between talent and madness, between creativity and obsession, between freedom and fate are explored in a film that is part drama, part detective story and part elegy on the power of love.

"Bread for bird"
Much is heard in a desert village in autumn...

Participation in the festivals and awards:
Special prize at IFF "Massage to man", Saint-Petersburg, 2010

"Sarafan"
The eve of wedding in the Russian village in Pskov area. Black and white pictures and old women's stories from the one side and live traditions and ceremonies – from the other side have been mixed in this film. Outwardly this film devoted to Russian wedding but in fact it is about one moment and experience of waiting for happiness of a young girl. The author managed to create a raw of different images that are unique and traditional for Russian cinematography at the same time.

"Wedding of Silence"
Medvedev finds contrast in noise and silence. Filmed in sepia-toned black-and-white among a community of the deaf, the film allows viewers to slowly discover that the men happen to work in the high-decibel environs of a foundry, which is casting a magnificent bell to mark the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg. Medvedev presents the hearty clinking of glasses around a dinner table as deaf families animatedly converse in sign language before cutting to silence, back to sound and to silence again. *Wedding of Silence* follows the community through the rhythm of their lives, from the roaring floor of their Soviet-era factory to the hush of an Eastern Orthodox liturgy, where someone signs the words sung by the priest. In the end, the crane lifts up the giant bell before the proud faces of the workers as they gaze in wonder at a bell whose tolling they will never hear.

"Vasya"
Vasiliy Sitnikov – Vasya – officially insane, a man without a passport, in and out of mental institutions, key figure of the nonconformist art movement in the Soviet Union. Vasya left behind astonishing artworks, some of which found their way into the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Yet he remains a compelling, controversial mystery. Who was this incredible artist? Why does his legend still confound those who knew him? In this award winning meta-documentary, filmmaker blending documentary and animated footage, creates a portrait of a man, an artist and the society around him.

P.S.
The organizers of the Russian Winter Festival are looking someone coming from Moscow to Albany prior to February 10 to deliver 15 posters to the Soviet Propaganda Posters Exhibition at the Albany Institute of History and Arts. Please call Tanya Lichtenwalter at 518-382-9438.