

Title: Regaining Modernism: The Taganka Theater 2003-2005

Author: Nicholas Rzhevsky, Stony Brook University

The passage of postmodernism out of cultural history frequently has been accompanied by a return to the aesthetic concerns and principles of modernism. At the turn of the millennium, Yury Liubimov and the Taganka Theater of Drama and Comedy played out this cultural process by abandoning the political quotations for which it was famous to create new literary adaptations based on the authors of the Silver Age and early Soviet culture. In effect, the theater took a leap backward in history to move forward in aesthetic possibilities. Writers and painters the theater reclaimed include Malevich, Akhmatova, Khodasevich, Mayakovsky, Hippius, Kharms, Vvedensky, and Kruchenykh. The paper discusses two salient productions: *Before and After* (2003) and *Go and Stop Progress* (2004) whose strategies are marked by the subversion of postmodern sensibility and its disavowal of the author and the aesthetic self.