

The Red Russian Girl

Performance Packet

CONTACT INFORMATION

Author & Performer

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PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Title: The Red Russian Girl

Type: Monologue

Cast: Roger James Kuhns

Rating: PG-13

Genre: Performance monologue, dramatic/comedic play

Runtime: 1 hour 15 minutes

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Target Audience: Young adults/adults who are interested in adventures, history, storytelling, Russia/Soviet Union, fall of the USSR, communism, different cultures, economics, geology, mining, social injustice, political refugees, true accounts of how the new Russia affected the poor

Video Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbBfdyLsIVc>

Synopsis:

Roger James Kuhns takes the audience on a journey to the time when the Soviet Union was crumbling and the new Russia emerged (1990s). This true story begins with Roger and his friend and diamond expert, Hugo Dummett, as they ventured into Siberia investigating a business opportunity in the mineral fields of Noril'sk. Roger and Hugo are greeted by Andre and his beautiful daughter Dasha upon arrival and are constantly questioning their motives. Are they KGB, black mafia, or just adamant on the prospect investment and what it would mean for their lives?

In their travels, they encounter a battered post-gulag culture in Noril'sk where inhabitants have hope for a market economy future since the beginning of "perestroika", the restructuring, yet are worse now than they were with the communists in power. Questions about the mining operations and quality of the minerals were often met with resistance as Russians still transition from information being state secrets. Work and living conditions for those left in the gulag are far from humane. Roger and Hugo begin asking themselves if the potential investment would be successful and how much it would take to improve infrastructure and provide a safe workplace.

Will it be possible for Roger and Hugo's company to invest in the rich mineral deposits Russia possesses or is the cost too high for the market to enter?



Noril'sk Siberia; 100yr gulag survivor



The vast processing and smelting facilities



Roger performing a monologue

Booking Information

Required Equipment/Technology: 2 microphones, 1 stool, 1 chair, simple lighting requirements, one table, similar to 2x3 wooden table

Ideal Frequency of Shows: Flexible, preferred 2 shows

Ideal Start Date: Flexible

List of Past Shows:

2010 | Third Avenue Playhouse, Wisconsin (2 shows – 259 people)

2008 | St. Mary Church, Illinois (69 people)

2007 | The Clearing Folk School, Wisconsin (32 people)

2007 | Grace Episcopal Church, Wisconsin (62 people)

2006 | Third Avenue Playhouse, Wisconsin (2 shows – 167 people)

Reviews:

“A gifted writer and musician, Kuhns has used his life experiences to craft monologues that are as culturally and scientifically enlightening as they are emotionally moving...Like most good artists, Kuhns has a gift for finding what resonates with his audiences... In 'Red Russian Girl', Kuhns deftly weaves the stories of the people he encountered to form a powerful cultural-political-geological image of the Soviet Union struggling in the aftermath of Perestroika.”

- Judy M. Drew, Former Executive Director, Third Avenue Playhouse

“I had the privilege of seeing Roger perform one of the monologues in his book at The Clearing in Wisconsin. An absolute pleasure! Roger's adventures will take you to places you never imagined with a colorful cast of characters to guide the way. His attention to detail paints a vivid

Roger James Kuhns | “The Red Russian Girl” | 2

picture to spark your imagination, allowing you to travel to extreme and desolate ends of civilization without leaving the comfort of your favorite chair.”

- Sara A. Noe, Writer (2018)

“One of these days someone will write a book about the fascinating Roger Kuhns or maybe he’ll finally get around to doing one himself. In the meantime . . . Roger performs as a one-man show ala Spaulding Gray . . . His performance can certainly be compared to that of Mr. Gray’s . . . Roger’s performance is a favorable comparison. The key for the monologist is to keep the audience interested and wanting to hear more . . . Roger’s animation and energy along with really interesting transitions (keeps) the ball in the air and focuses the attention of the audience. Roger’s facial gestures and comic timing really aided in completing a sense of the characters that we meet and travel with throughout the experience. It was particularly fun when he would rapidly switch from one to the other. Roger is a true Renaissance man.”

- Sheila Sabrey-Saperstein, The Peninsula Pulse (April 8, 2005)

“In the way of a travelogue, Roger’s monologues take you there; in the way of a scientist he immerses you in the unique microcontext of what makes the place special . . . spell binding, fascinating, unbelievable hilarious, Roger delivers it all . . . no matter what the subject matter. Never miss an opportunity to “travel” with him.”

- Allin Walker, Lockwood Gallery & Theatre, Sturgeon Bay, WI (2018)