Week 6 (March 12-14)

The 1930s: Meyerhold, Stalin, Boris Godunov in the shadow of Ivan the Terrible (Eisenstein’s film and historical reality)

Midterm week is a critique holiday; but note important DAY 2 reading

Agenda:

- The rehabilitation of terrible tsars in the Stalinist 1930s, as a model for Stalin’s wars against foreign and domestic enemies (Kevin Platt)
- Meyerhold’s rehearsal notes for his Boris Godunov, 1936: which scenes seem to fascinate him, and for what reasons?
- Memoirs by assistants and participants in the Boris Godunov project

DAY 1: Mon. Mar. 12:

Ivan the Terrible rehabilitations in the 1930s:
Guest seminar leader: …….. Prof. Kevin Platt, University of Pennsylvania

READINGS:

Two entries from Epic Revisionism: Russian History as Stalinist Propaganda (2006)

- “Internal Debate Within the Party Hierarchy about the Rehabilitation of Ivan the Terrible” ……………………………………………………………… pp. 179-89

SLA 537 for Tues. March 13. The Meyerhold selections in READER (R pp. 141-89) + detailed solutions for specific scenes in:

- В. Громов, «Замысел постановки», Творческое наследие Вс. Э. Мейерхольда (1978), 353-401
- Meyerhold's notes during the tablework [читка]: «Борис Годунов» (неосуществленная постановка)», April through August 1936
- Леонид Козлов, «Борис Годунов и Иван Грозный» from his Произведения во времени (2005), pp. 98-114.
DAY 2: Wed. March 14:

Meyerhold in *Boris* rehearsal, 1936; Pushkin and *montage*

The favorite scenes; the dangers; the concept; the subtexts; how his colleagues saw the Master and how the Master, Meyerhold, saw himself.

READINGS:


- Meyerhold rehearsal notes on specific scenes ......................... pp. 173-75  R

- Fragments of Meyerhold’s rehearsal notes (177-192) and then Gladkov’s commentary from Alekandr Gladkov, *Meyerhold Speaks / Meyerhold Rehearses* .................................................. pp. 177-89  R

- Re-read Clayton, *Dimitry’s Shade*, discussion of Meyerhold’s *Boris* ........ pp. 73-75  R

Do you agree with Clayton’s reading, after having read Meyerhold on BG yourself?

The Eisenstein-Pushkin-cinematographic connection: Without knowing it, did Pushkin write his play for film?

- “Problems of Composition” from Sergei Eisenstein, *Film Essays and a Lecture* ................................................................. pp. 191-207