

Please, join the Society of Slavic Graduate Students for a talk by

Maria “Masha” Gessen

March 31 at 6:00 pm in Maury 209



Masha Gessen will speak about current LGBTQ activism in Russia

Masha Gessen’s talk will be the opening event for the 2017 University of Virginia Slavic Forum “RE:Constructions, Memory and Imagination.”

A Russian and American journalist, Masha Gessen, is the intrepid chronicler of Pussy Riot in *Words Will Break Cement*. An outspoken activist, Masha undergoes great risk to write truthfully about human rights violations, gender issues, and the current cultural and political climate in Russia. As a journalist living in Moscow, Gessen experienced the rise of Vladimir Putin firsthand. In her 2012 bestselling book *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*, she gave the chilling account of how a low-level, small-minded KGB operative ascended to the Russian presidency and, in an astonishingly short time, destroyed years of progress and made his country once more a threat to her own people and to the world. Gessen regularly contributes to *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *Harper’s*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Slate*, among other publications. For more information see speaker’s bio at www.prhspeakers.com.

Masha Gessen’s talk will be followed by a book signing

Masha Gessen’s talk is organized by the Society of Slavic Graduate Students and co-sponsored by CREEES, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (WGS), the Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation, the Department of English, the Corcoran Department of History, and the Department of Media Studies.