

A Multicultural Circus of Delight in English and Russian

Yucky the Bug...No-Tail, the elephant...a mailman kangaroo...a sailor frog...a good-natured Boogie Man. These are a few of the colorful characters children (and their parents) will meet in the pages of **A Great Time: Children's Poems in English and Russian** by Masha Shurin (©2007, \$19.95, www.publishersdesign.com).

Shurin, who grew up in Russia and worked in the Russian circus, affirms friendship, courtesy and sharing in these poems. They are playful yet wise, with just a touch of knowing humor, as in "Yucky the Bug"

Russian illustrator Valentin Ginukov adds stunning detail along with a bit of whimsy to each of the poems in this fun book.

Yucky The Bug

A bug sat beneath a shady leaf
She cried and cried with no relief
Felling so lonely and unlucky,
For she was the bug they called "Yucky."

...She might have been nicknamed something sweet,

If only she learned to wash her feet.
Of course, the reason the nickname stuck,
Was because of bad habits, not bad luck!..."

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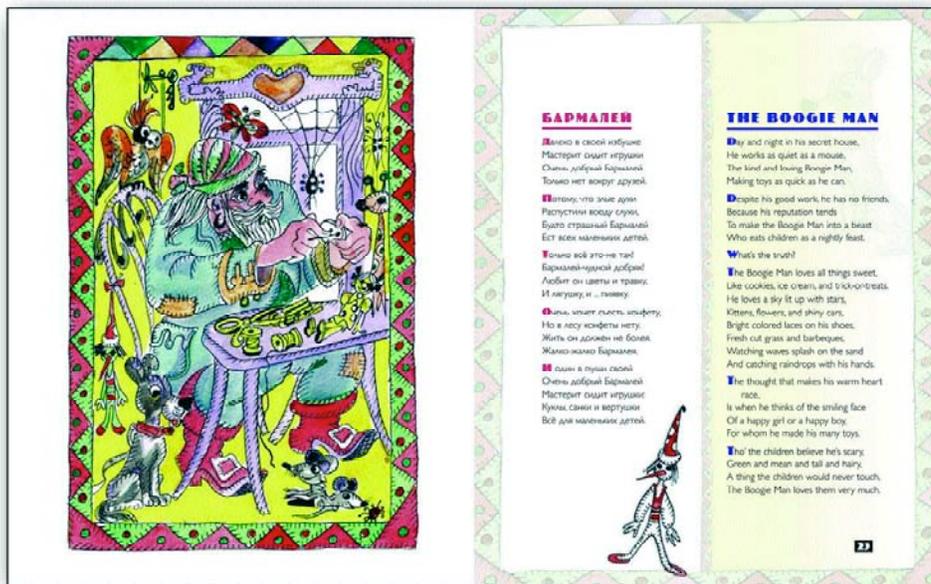
In today's multicultural world, **A Great Time** is a terrific way for children to experience

both English and Russian.

As children listen with bright-eyed attention, they will ask questions about the "strange" type on the page. This opens the way for discussions about different languages and cultures. Their favorite illustrations will need no translations.

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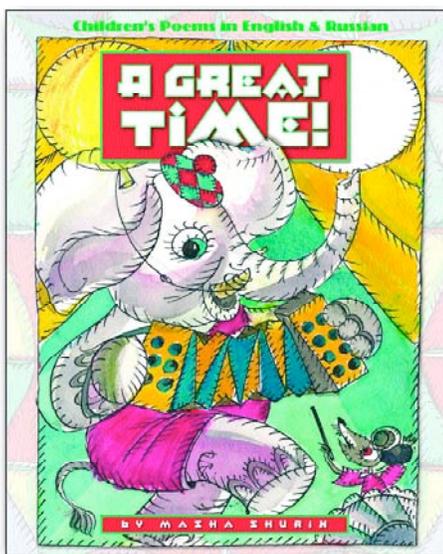
Masha Shurin, a native of Belarus, a republic of Russia, has written stories and poems that have been translated into English for children ages two to ten. **A Great Time** is the first of a four-book series that reflects the flavor, artistry, and

culture of her Russian homeland. From 1971 to 1980 (when she immigrated to the U.S.), Shurin worked in the Russian circus. She currently lives in San Francisco.

Valentin Ginukov worked for numerous Russian magazines, newspapers and publishing houses before immigrating to the U.S. in 1993. His cartoons, posters, and illustrations have appeared in international exhibits. Born in Russian in 1929, he graduated from the Moscow Academe for Artists in 1961. He currently lives in San Francisco.

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To request a review copy of **A Great Time**, to arrange an interview with Ms. Shurin and/or Mr. Ginukov, to receive art electronically, or for any additional information, please contact
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A Great Time: Children's Poems in English and Russian
by Masha Shurin

Illustrated by Valentin Ginukov

Full-color illustrations throughout

32 pages • 8" x 10" • For children ages 2 - 8

ISBN-13: 978-0-979258-32-9

\$19.95 laminated hardcover

Scheduled for publication: **October 2007**

Published by White Stag Press, a division of Publishers Design Group.

A Great Time is available at bookstores nationwide with distribution being handled by Biblio. It is also available at online book sites or at www.publishersdesign.com or by calling 800-587-6666.

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