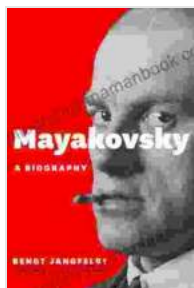


# Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Comprehensive Biography by Bengt Jangfeldt

Vladimir Mayakovsky, one of the most influential poets of the 20th century, left an indelible mark on the literary landscape with his revolutionary verse and flamboyant persona. Bengt Jangfeldt's comprehensive biography, "Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Biography," offers a detailed examination of the poet's life, work, and enduring legacy. This engaging and insightful account delves into Mayakovsky's formative years, his artistic evolution, and his tumultuous relationship with the Soviet state.

## Early Life and Influences

Vladimir Mayakovsky was born on July 19, 1893, in the village of Bagdati, Georgia, then part of the Russian Empire. His father's early death forced the family to relocate to Moscow, where young Mayakovsky was exposed to the burgeoning avant-garde art scene. He found inspiration in the works of the Futurists, particularly the poet Velimir Khlebnikov and the painter David Burliuk. These influences laid the foundation for Mayakovsky's own unique and provocative style.



## Mayakovsky: A Biography by Bengt Jangfeldt

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 31944 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 616 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## **Artistic Breakthrough and Futurism**

In 1912, Mayakovsky burst onto the literary scene with the publication of his poem "A Cloud in Trousers." This experimental work, infused with Futurism's rejection of traditional forms, caused a sensation and established Mayakovsky as a leading figure in the avant-garde movement. He became one of the founding members of the Russian Futurist group Hylaea, which advocated for bold and innovative art. Mayakovsky's poetry was characterized by its use of striking imagery, rhythmic innovation, and its provocative challenge to societal norms.

## **Revolutionary Poet and Propagandist**

With the outbreak of the Russian Revolution in 1917, Mayakovsky embraced the Bolshevik cause, believing that it offered a path towards a new and just society. He became a vocal supporter of the revolutionary government and used his poetry as a tool for propaganda and agitation. His works celebrated the heroism of the Red Army and denounced the excesses of the former regime. Mayakovsky's revolutionary fervor and ability to connect with the masses made him a highly influential figure during this tumultuous period.

## **Internal Conflict and Artistic Isolation**

Despite his initial enthusiasm for the Soviet regime, Mayakovsky's relationship with the state became increasingly strained. His independent spirit and artistic integrity often clashed with the bureaucratic demands and censorship of the Soviet authorities. As the 1920s progressed, Mayakovsky

faced growing isolation and criticism from the official literary establishment. His works were accused of being too avant-garde and his political views were deemed insufficiently orthodox.

### **Failed Love and Tragic Ending**

Mayakovsky's personal life was marked by a series of tragic love affairs. His unrequited love for Lilya Brik, a fellow Futurist poet and muse, haunted him for much of his life. His other relationships were also tumultuous and often ended in heartbreak. In 1930, at the age of 36, Mayakovsky took his own life, leaving behind a legacy of unforgettable poetry and a profound sense of loss in the literary world.

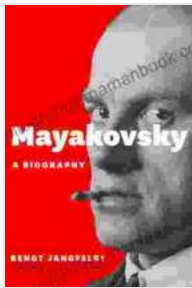
### **Jangfeldt's Comprehensive Account**

Bengt Jangfeldt's biography provides a multifaceted examination of Mayakovsky's life and work. Through extensive research and meticulous analysis, Jangfeldt constructs a compelling narrative that explores the poet's complex personality, his literary influences, and his relationship with the tumultuous events of his time. The book is richly illustrated with archival photographs and reproductions of Mayakovsky's original manuscripts.

### **Legacy and Literary Impact**

Vladimir Mayakovsky's legacy as a poet and cultural icon continues to resonate today. His innovative use of language and his ability to capture the essence of his time have made him a lasting figure in Russian and world literature. Mayakovsky's influence can be seen in countless artists, poets, and musicians who have followed in his footsteps. His work remains a testament to the power of creativity, the importance of artistic freedom, and the enduring human spirit.

Bengt Jangfeldt's "Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Biography" is a comprehensive and engaging account of the life and work of one of the most influential poets of the 20th century. Through a blend of historical detail, nuanced analysis, and insightful commentary, Jangfeldt illuminates the complexities of Mayakovsky's character, his artistic journey, and his enduring legacy. This meticulously researched and beautifully written biography is an essential resource for anyone interested in Russian literature, Futurism, or the enduring power of human creativity.



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