

Russia-Watching Internet Runs Wild With OpenAI's Studio Ghibli Image Generator

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OpenAI on Tuesday [released](#) its most advanced image generator to date, allowing users to create incredibly detailed and accurate images. Users, including OpenAI founder [Sam Altman](#) himself, were quick to notice that ChatGPT is very good at mimicking Studio Ghibli's iconic animation style.

As usual, the internet wasted no time in Ghiblifying some of the most famous — and infamous — moments in Russian and Soviet history.

For his part, Studio Ghibli co-founder Hayao Miyazaki has in the past [called](#) AI image generation “an insult to life itself.”

Here's a look at some of our favorite Ghiblified moments from Russia:

Here, we have the famous set of images of Stalin walking along the Volga Canal flanked by NKVD head [Nikolai Yezhov](#), who oversaw the Great Purge. The bottom image shows a

doctored version of the image created for Stalin's 70th birthday, in which Yezhov has been removed.

The now-infamous RT [interview](#) with Ruslan Boshirov and Alexander Petrov, who had returned to Russia after attempting to poison former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in Britain in March 2018.

In the interview, the two men claimed they wanted to visit the “wonderful town” of Salisbury and see its Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which they said is “famous not just in Europe, but in the whole world.”

The heavily memed March 2022 [clip](#) of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko telling Vladimir Putin: “And now I will show you where the attack on Belarus was prepared from.”

Wagner mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin's many disguises.

Russian Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina's signature brooch has also been reimagined into a Studio Ghibli-style gnome.

In February 2023, pro-war blogger and convicted war criminal Igor Strelkov had writer Yuri Mukhin on his show to [discuss](#) politics and the war in Ukraine. The discussion, which was filled with pessimism and disagreement, spawned several screenshots of the two men looking less than thrilled with each other.

Russian soldiers trapped in an elevator somewhere in Ukraine, March 2022.

Last, but certainly not least, the photo of the late Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky [in the pool](#) with a group of young activists — which only fueled the widespread rumors that he was gay despite his frequent deployment of homophobic rhetoric.

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