

Swiss Company Unveils Russian Pride Watch Commissioned by Depardieu

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The  **Moscow Times**

A Swiss luxury watchmaker has unveiled its new "Proud to be Russian" line after the wristwear was commissioned by French actor Gerard Depardieu, who became a Russian citizen last year.

The Geneva-based Cystos will produce a watch that features Russia's double-headed eagle symbol in gold on a black clock face, Itar-Tass reported, citing the Belgian radio station Contact.

Depardieu was given a Russian passport and met personally with President Vladimir Putin early last year when he renounced his French citizenship after complaining of high taxes on millionaires in his homeland.

The expatriate has immersed himself in a series of Russian cinematic adventures, starring in last year's Russian reproduction of "Rasputin," where he played the title role of the early 20th century Siberian mystic. While the Frenchman may be proud of his new homeland, his adopted countrymen were not fans of the film, which was largely panned by critics.

The 65-year old actor has also reportedly been filming an action movie in Grozny about a Chechen man seeking to revenge the death of his son.

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