



Yara Arts Group
from La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York

N O V A
P E R A



concept, libretto and stage direction
by Virlana Tkacz

music and libretto
by Roman Grygoriv and Illia Razumeiko



Opera GAZ

created by Yara Arts Group, resident company at La MaMa in New York and Nova Opera in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Workers prepare a futuristic gas, the only source of energy for the industrial world. Selfish concerns screen the looming problems, eventually unleashing their rage. Will there be anything left to reconstruct?

Opera-dystopia GAZ is an original work, drawing on a 1919 Expressionist play by Georg Kaiser about an explosion in a gas factory set 100 years in the future (that is – today). We are inspired by Les Kurbas, the Ukrainian avant-garde theatre director, who in 1923 created the explosion in this drama with his actors on stage.

NOVA OPERA

is a group of young Ukrainian artists that searches for new directions and the music theatre of the future. Nova Opera was founded by stage director Vlad Troitskiy in 2014, with opera-improvisation “Coriolanus.” In 2015, Ukrainian composers Roman Grygoriv and Illia Razumeiko, brought elements of “composed theatre” to the project, creating 8 new productions. Nova Opera’s 50 performances worldwide, at Prototype Festival in New York, Rotterdam Operadays, Gdansk Shakespeare Festival, Kyiv National Opera, Macedonian Opera and Vienna Musikverein, make it an important representative of Ukrainian modern music theatre today. In 2018, opera-requiem IYOV was listed in the TOP-10 modern musical-theatrical performances today by Music Theatre Now.

YARA ARTS GROUP

a resident company at the world renown La MaMa Experimental Theatre, creates visually stunning theatre pieces that explore contemporary and traditional cultures of the East. Each Yara production is created in rehearsal with international artists who perform in their own languages. Our designers and composers join our rehearsals and together we create original theatre productions in Yara’s signature style of multilingual dialogue and songs supported by evocative visuals, music and movement. Since its founding in 1990, Yara has created over 35 award-winning theatre pieces that have premiered at La MaMa and were performed in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Siberia, Buryat Republic, China, Japan and Hawaii.



ACT I



ACT I Prologue

And God created the heavens and the earth,
people, animals and plants
and all the elements
but we created from them
the energy for the entire industrial world
GAZ

by Virlana Tkacz (2018)



ACT I

Intermedia-machina

GAZ, GAZ, GAZ, GAZ, GAZ,
GAZ, GAZ, GAZ!

[What if] The white Cat bursts

The formula is correct

This is the formula for GAZ!

Million atmosphere pressure

The formula is correct – There'll
be no explosion!

Fragments from "Gas I"
by Georg Kaiser (1919)

Adapted by Virlana Tkacz (2018)





ACT II





ACT II

**Motette "ECHO
and NARCISSUS"**

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison



ACT II

Duetto

Spring awakes, spring awakes
Spring speaks
(my child!)
little green leaves,
dear blue eyes
(my child!)
why won't you sing fiery songs
why won't you sing with the collective?
.....
Then spring shares her secrets
Revealed in her green leaves.

by Pavlo Tychyna (1921)
translated from the Ukrainian
by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps

ACT III



ACT III

The Workers Hymn

We disrupt the stratosphere
The nucleus of the atom, its sphere –
O time of wonder!
Time unique!
Time eternal!
Who could be stronger?
In what corner of the earth?
We conceive grand ventures
One after the other
One after the other
All together as one
All together as one
Let them all go mad
And perish
We will do our job
Into one ditch all masters
All the masters all the masters
We will beat!
We will beat!

fragment from Pavlo Tychyna's
"The Party Leads the Way" (1934)
translated from the Ukrainian
by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps





ACT III

Techno-vocalise