

Yara Arts Group from La MaMa Experimental Theatre presents:

YARA'S THEATRE EVENTS:

FIRE WATER NIGHT



www.yaraartsgroup.net

March 2021

Yara Arts Group from La MaMa Experimental Theatre presents:

Yara's Theatre Projects

Fire Water Night

Entrance: "Ice Music" words by Ray A. Young Bear music Alla Zagaykevich

Introductions and on Yara's work with "Forest Song": Virlana Tkacz

La MaMa Space & Creating an Immersive Show: Waldemart Klyuzko & Zhenya Kopiov

On Movement & Costumes in *Fire Water Night*: Shigeko Sara Suga & Keiko Obremski

On Performing in *Fire Water Night*:

Akiko Hiroshima, Jenny Leona & Jeremy Tardy,

Video clip from *Fire Water Night*: "How Sweet it Plays"

Video clip from *Fire Water Night*: "Spring Songs"

Marina Celandier, Yarko Dobriansky J Moliere, Masha Pruss,

Act 2 Mariya Prus,

Video clip from *Fire Water Night*: "Field and Kylyna"

Video clip from *Fire Water Night*: "Harvest"

Tamar Ilana, Shigeko Sara Suga, Jeremy Tardy & Jenny Leona

Exit music: "Ice Music"

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz

graphic design: Waldemart Klyuzko, tech support: Chris Ignacio

premiere: March 25, 2021

LESIA UKRAINKA - Ukrainian literature has had three great writers, considered classics, the center of the canon. One was Lesia Ukrainka (born Larissa Kosach (1871-1913), who wrote fiery poems as a girl and later created poetic modernist dramas. Dmytro Czyzhevkiy, a literary scholar, wrote: "If any Ukrainian works can speak to humanity at large, they are certainly Lesia Ukrainka's poetic dramas." Lesia Ukrainka was the daughter of a judge and a writer, and grew up surrounded by major figures in Ukrainian arts and sciences. She was well-educated, and made numerous trips to Europe and the Middle East. Her earliest dramatic works reveal an affinity for Ibsen. Many of her poetic dramas drew their themes from the spiritual history of the world. They examined the historical process and how individual aspirations operate within societal constraints. Her later works, such as *Forest Song* reveal a unique voice and strong female-centered sense of drama.

Virlana Tkacz

MARINA CELANDER is a theatre artist, singer, dancer, living in NYC. She received the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre's Red Socks Award for her contribution to Asian American theatre 2014; and was nominated for the Innovation In Performance Award for her solo show at Stockholm Fringe Festival 2016, and nominated for the Young-Howze Theatre awards as movement artist 2021.

YARKO DOBRIANSKY (Spark/Sycamore/Field) studied voice under his father, Andrij Dobriansky and dance under Roma Pryma Bohachevska. He has been a dance soloist with multiple companies, including Syzokryli and New Paltz Ballet. He currently sings with the "Dobriansky Brothers", Andrei Sheptytskyi Choir and performed with The Mercury Opera Company.

TAMAR ILANA (Aspen/Kylyna) is a global music singer, flamenco dancer and presenter based in Toronto, Canada. Tamar has been nominated for 4 Canadian Folk Music Awards with her world fusion project Ventanas, and recently co-founded the presenting arts organization FabCollab.ca. Tamar also appeared as Time in Yara's *Midwinter Night*. tamarilana.com

AKIKO HIROSHIMA (Berry/Field) is excited to perform again with Yara. Previous shows with Yara include *Flight of the White Bird*, *Circle*, *Kupala* and *Winter Songs on Mars*. She also has played characters such as a Japanese war bride, Vietnamese virgin prostitute, Apostle, etc. Kewpie sings with happyfunsmile and Elena Moon Park with Friends. She'll be at Lincoln Center Out of Doors in her pink hair!!

JENNY LEONA (Sylph) is thrilled to be making her off-off-Broadway debut with Yara Arts Group here at La MaMa. Jenny is a recent graduate of The Juilliard School, and couldn't be happier about venturing out into the 'real world.'

J MOLIÈRE is a Brooklyn based actor and experimental theatre maker who has performed with Orlando Shakes, La MaMa, Target Margin Theatre, The Hippodrome, and on the floors of many punk rock bars. Look for her in the upcoming American Shakespeare Center season! MFA: University of Florida..

MASHA PRUSS (Wild Rose/Mother) graduated from Kyiv State Institute of Theatrical Arts and worked as an actress in Kyiv Drama and Comedy Theatre on the Left Bank. Her film roles include Galia in *How Steel was Tempered*, Feodosia in *Taras Shevchenko* and KGB agent Vera in "The Americans. She also appeared in Yara's winter shows with the Koliadnyky.

JEREMY TARDY (Luke) originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Jeremy is a recent graduate of The Juilliard School Drama Division. Recent credits include: Booth in *Topdog/Underdog*, Darius McReele in *McReele*, Tim Billy in *Bike America*, Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Hortensio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*, Ivanov in *Ivanov* and Jason in *Pecong*. Professional credits include work at First Stage in Wisconsin and the role of Dauphin in the Classical Theatre of Harlem's production of *Henry V*. Jeremy also trained at the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Center and the British American Dramatic Academy.

SHIGEKO SARA SUGA (Willow/Field/choreographer) has worked in over 140 theatrical productions local (NYC) as well as international tours. She has worked with Yara Arts Group since *Blind Sight* as a performer and choreographer, creating the

movement for the actors in the shows. Shigeko specializes in Flamenco and Butoh movement and chants. <http://www.shigekosuga.com>

KEIKO OBREMSKI (costume designer) is originally from Japan. She performed with Tokyo Kid Brothers at La Mama. She has worked with Yara Arts since *Scythian Stones*. Her recent design credits are: *Fire Water Night*, *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine*, *Winter Light*, *Hitting Bedrock*. 1917-2017 *Tychyna*, *Zhadan & the Dogs* and *Winter Songs on Mars*. She has worked as a dresser for Broadway shows and is also a Kimono dresser.

VIRLANA TKACZ (director/co-translator) heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed over thirty original shows at La MaMa Theatre in New York, as well as in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She received an NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her translations with Wanda Phipps.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO (projection design/graphics) is an artist from Kyiv who has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2010, most recently creating the set for *Opera GAZ*. He is a visual artist who has had exhibits at La MaMa Galleria, the Ukrainian Institute of America and the Bezpala Gallery in Toronto.

ZHENYA KOPIOV (set design) is a resident light designer at the Kurbas Theatre Center in KKyiv. He has worked with Yara since 2004, including the recent *Opera GAZ* at La MaMa December 2019.

CHRIS IGNACIO (tech support) works at La MaMa Experimental Theatre. He was in Yara's *Dream Bridge*, *Winter Songs on Mars* and *1917/2017: Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* at La MaMa.

YARA ARTS GROUP was established in 1990 and is a resident company at La MaMa, the acclaimed experimental theater in New York. Yara has created thirty-seven theatre pieces based on extensive research in Eastern Europe, Siberia and Asia, in Yara's signature style of multilingual dialogue and songs supported by evocative visuals.

Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 (212)475-6474 www.yaraartsgroup.net

Yara's Virtual Events were made possible with public funds from New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Self Reliance (NY) Foundation and contributions from the friends of Yara Arts Group.



Council on the Arts



NYC Cultural Affairs

You can watch all Yara's Virtual Events for free any time on www.yaraartsgroup.net