

Performance Spaces for the 21st Century
and Yara Arts Group from La MaMa Experimental Theatre present:

RADIO 477!



August 19 & 20, 2022
Performance Spaces for the 21st Century
Chatham, NY

Radio 477!

Text & lyrics by Serhiy Zhadan

inspired by a jazz musical from 1929 about Kharkiv, Ukraine
music by Anthony Coleman inspired by Yuliy Meitus's original score
Project conceived, developed and directed by Virlana Tkacz

performers:

George Drance, Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Susan Hwang, Petro Ninovskyi, Julian Kytasty and Lesya Verba

musicians:

Anthony Coleman (piano), Anna Abondolo (bass), Martin Ehrlich (clarinet),
Melissa Elledge (accordion), Ron Horton (trumpet), James Paul Nadien (drums.),
and Aliya Ultan (cello)

English translations: Virlana Tkacz, Wanda Phipps with Anthony Coleman
movement: Shigeko Suga, costumes: Keiko Obremski
light design: Margaret Peebles, sound & technical manager: Marek Soltis
projections & animation: Waldemart Klyuzko & Darien Fiorino,
stage manager: Yula Deglina. graphics: Waldemart Klyuzko

RADIO 477! is inspired by *Hello, This Is Radio 477!* a 1929 jazz musical revue performed in Kharkiv about Kharkiv. It envisioned a Ukrainian popular culture in step with the latest trends in Europe and America. Radio 477, Kharkiv's radio station, was one of the most powerful in the country; it represented new technology and the future. Long assumed to have been destroyed, Yuliy Meitus's score for this show was recently discovered in the archives. Only fragments of the script exist, but the programs include a detailed list of scenes. *Hello, This Is Radio 477!* was structured like a typical German revue of the time, with a satirical look at city life in the first act, popular dances in the second, and a longer dramatic scene as the final act. We follow the show's structure and are inspired by songs by Yuliy Meitus.

Yuliy Meitus, one of Ukraine's great 20th century composers, was born in 1903 to a Jewish family in Kropyvnytsky, Ukraine. In 1919 he graduated from the local music school and moved to Kharkiv, where he studied composition with Semen Bogatyryov at the Kharkiv Institute of Music and Drama, graduating in 1931. From 1923 to 1924 he was the concertmaster for the Kharkiv Opera Society and organized the first jazz band in Ukraine in 1925. From 1927 to 1933 Meitus created the music for 15 productions at the Berezil Theatre in Kharkiv, many directed by the Ukrainian director Les Kurbas. It was believed that all of Meitus's music for the Berezil shows was destroyed after Kurbas was arrested in 1933. But the recent find of the conductor's score for this show gives us hope more of his Berezil scores will be located. Today, Yuliy Meitus is best known for his 14 operas, numerous orchestral works and about 300 songs set to poetry.

Virlana Tkacz

Radio 477 Act 1

1.1 Radio

Fish - radio host: Susan Hwang, Porky- reporter: Julian Kytasty. Radio instrumental by Anthony Coleman

1.2 Theatre Posters

Passersby: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Petro Ninovskyi & Lesya Verba “Can-Can” by Yuliy Meitus, transformed by Anthony Coleman

1.3 Shopping Center

Mike - the thief: George Drance, Shoppers: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Petro Ninovskyi & Lesya Verba Fish: Susan Hwang, Porky: Julian Kytasty. “Gallop” by Yuliy Meitus, transformed by Anthony Coleman, “Chorale” by Anthony Coleman.

1.4 Central Park

Luba: Silvana Gonzalez, Mike: George Drance, Police: Akiko Hiroshima & Petro Ninovskyi “Park” originally “Osoviakhym” by Yuliy Meitus, transformed by Anthony Coleman

1.5 Theatre Stage

Director: Petro Ninovskyi. Actors: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, & Lesya Verba. Fish: Susan Hwang, & Mike: George Drance. “Dance” by Anthony Coleman

Act 2

2.1 Industrial Rehearsal

Director: Petro Ninovskyi. Actors: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima & Lesya Verba. Fish: Susan Hwang, & Mike: George Drance. “Industrial Rehearsal Music” & “If I Could Only” by Anthony Coleman

2.2 Dancing on Stage

Director: Petro Ninovskyi. Actors: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, & Lesya Verba. Fish: Susan Hwang & Mike: George Drance. “Song of the New & the Old” by Anthony Coleman

Act 3

3.1 News

Fish: Susan Hwang. News by Yara, music by Anthony Coleman.

3.2 When So Much Is Taken Away

Luba: Silvana Gonzalez, Mike: George Drance, Susan Hwang & Petro Ninovskyi Text from poems by Serhiy Zhadan, music by Anthony Coleman

3.3 Of All Literature

Valya: Lesya Verba, Fish: Susan Hwang, Mike: George Drance, Spirits: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Petro Ninovskyi.

“Of All Literature” text by Serhiy Zhadan, music by Anthony Coleman

3.4 Hello, This is Radio 477!

“Kharkiv Kharkiv” lyrics by Maik Iohansen, music by Yuliy Meitus

COMPANY

GEORGE DRANCE has performed and directed in over 25 countries on five continents. He is Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed Magis Theatre Company.

Theatre credits include: Metropolitan Opera, The Public, ImprovBoston, American Repertory Theatre, and La MaMa ETC - including “The Trojan Women Project” and as a close collaborator of Ellen Stewart. Television credits include: The Daily Show, and Blacklist. He is an Artist-in Residence at Fordham Lincoln Center.

SILVANA GONZALEZ is a Mexican actress and classical ballet dancer who graduated from NYU Tisch with a Founders Day Award and BFA in Theater. Her theater credits include Ondine in *A Thousand Suns* with Yara, Hera in *FauxBia! The Musical* at Carnegie Hall, Milenia at The Lucille Lortel, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Cynthia in *WarLovers* at Theater Row, and Louise Overbee in *Love/Sick*. Her film credits include Dr. Esperanza Haddid in *Call the Sandman*, Maria in *Disconnect* by Ryo Jaegger, and Irene in IL by Xupeng Feng. Silvana is a member of the NYC based theater company Something From Abroad and honored to be working with Yara again.

AKIKO HIROSHIMA This is her 9th show with Yara! Theatre: *Miss Saigon* (Kim); *Tea* (Teruko); *Fishing for Wives* (Ihara); *A Thousand Cranes* (Sadako); *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Peppermint Patty); *Warrior Sisters* (SiehKingKing); *Jesus Christ Superstar*; *Pippin*. Ads/VO: Intel, GE, Sprint, Amstel Beer, Audible, Ralph Lauren, MoMA, Chicago Tourism, and Japanese textbooks. Music: *Elena Moon Park and Friends* and *happyfunsmile* (ACL, Lincoln Center, 92nd St Y, BAM, Asia Society, Wolf Trap, BBG, DC Sakura Fest., Carnegie, and Midori & Friends).

SUSAN HWANG is a singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who has toured internationally performing music and theater. She is the founder and director of [The Bushwick Book Club](#) —an international musical/literary crossover event and podcast. Lusterlit is her musical duo with songwriter/producer Charlie Nieland, and they refuse to play anything but songs about books. Susan plays accordions because they are pretty and lighter than pianos (barely). She plays drums because it's healthy for a girl to hit things. [susanhwanglalala.com](#), [lusterlit.com](#), IG: @soozees, IG: @thebushwickbookclub

JULIAN KYTASTY is glad he could step into the part of the radio reporter in this show. He has worked frequently with Yara Arts Group creating and performing music for theatre pieces, poetry performances, and festivals. His work on Yara's *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* earned him a NY Innovative Theater award for best original score. He is a third generation bandurist and continues to teach bandura to a new generation.

PETRO NINOVSKYI is a 2nd year Juilliard acting student in the MFA program. He has graduated The Karpenko-Kary National Theatre, Cinema and Television University in Kyiv, Ukraine, where he participated in a numerous of theater productions, TV shows and movies.

LESYA VERBA is from Odesa, Ukraine and sings traditional music, jazz and her own compositions. She plays a traditional Ukrainian instrument called the bandura and has been involved in reviving the rituals of southern Ukraine for 30 years. Her visual art has been exhibited at international exhibitions and museums. She arrived in New York last year and has worked as an actress with the Anomalous Co. Last summer she worked with Yara last summer on *A Thousand Suns* at La Plaza Cultural and at several poetry events this spring.

MUSICIANS

ANNA ABONDOLO (bass) is a bassist, composer, and vocalist from Los Angeles, California. She recently graduated from the New England Conservatory where she studied double bass and completed a Music in Technology minor in which she wrote, directed, and produced an experimental sound theater play, entitled ORDER. She's currently living in Brooklyn, NY, developing an interdisciplinary arts collective entitled, "Rainbow Princess"

MARTY EHRLICH (clarinet) is a Distinguished Alumni of New England Conservatory, a Guggenheim Composition Fellow, Chief Curator of the Julius Hemphill Archive at NYU, and Professor Emeritus of Jazz and Contemporary Music at Hampshire College. Ehrlich has recorded and performed his music, and theirs, with a who's who of creative musicians, spanning diverse eras and styles. His conversation with Anthony Coleman on music and its endless tributaries started in 1973.

MELISSA ELLEDGE (accordion) has become widely known for busking in the NYC subway system since 2009. She was accepted into Music Under New York in 2012 and has since been featured on the cover of Crain's magazine, in the New York Post, and even on Monday Night Football in 2019.

RON HORTON (trumpet) was born in 1960 in Bethesda, Maryland, and has been frequently called on as a sideman to perform and/or record with such artists as Andrew Hill, Ben Allison, Frank Kimbrough, Jane Ira Bloom, Matt Wilson, Bill Mays, Peggy Stern, Ted Nash, and many others. Beginning in 1999, Horton has released 4 CDs under his own name. Horton has taught master classes and workshops at The New School (New York), New England Conservatory (Boston), Univ. North Carolina, Oxford University (UK), and since 2009, has been commissioned to write over 20 arrangements for the Howard University Jazz Ensemble (Wash, D.C.) under the direction of Fred Irby.

JAMES PAUL NADIEN (percussion) is a recent graduate of New England Conservatory with a BM in Jazz Studies. He has collaborated with such artists as Tony Malaby, Kris Davis, Joe Morris, Stephen Gauci, Adam Lane, Anna Webber, Caleb Duval, and many more. James's main two projects consist of two trios, a power trio called Toadal Package and a piano trio called Postmodern Miniatures. He is elated to be a part of *Radio 477!*

ALIYA ULTAN (cello) is a composer-improviser, cellist-vocalist, and video artist from Brooklyn, NY. Growing up homeless with her mother and sister, Ultan entered music as a means of escape and emergence from severe poverty. At thirteen years old, Ultan wrote and performed music with members of the New York Philharmonic in Alice Tully Hall later to become a From the Top, Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist. Existing as both a classically trained musician and free improviser, Ultan's sound is particularly unique as it presents juxtaposing sounds, ideas, and approaches to the instrument resulting in a kind of noise-based maximalism.

ARTISTS & STAFF

SERHIY ZHADAN was born in the Luhansk Region of Ukraine and educated in Kharkiv where he lives today. He is the author of twelve books of poetry. His prose works:

Voroshilovgrad, Mesopotamia and *The Orphanage* were awarded the Angelus Central European Literature Award, the BBC Ukrainian Book of the Year Award, and the Brücke Berlin Prize. He is the front man for the band Zhadan & the Dogs and has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2002. Yale University Press published his selected poems as *What We Live For/What We Die For* translated by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps in 2019.

ANTHONY COLEMAN (composer and pianist) is one of the key figures of the New York music scene. His work bridges the gap between Composition and Improvisation, Uptown and Downtown, and spanning Free Improvisation, Jazz, Jewish music, and Contemporary Chamber Music. After earning a MA in Composition from Yale School of Music, Coleman immersed himself in New York's Downtown Scene. Coleman has recorded 15 CDs and has played on more than 150. He's on the faculty of the New England Conservatory.

VIRLANA TKACZ (director & co-translator) heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed almost forty original shows at La MaMa in New York that also performed in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She received an NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her work with Wanda Phipps on Serhiy Zhadan's poetry. Her production of *1917-2017: Tychyna Zhadan & the Dogs* won the 2018 New York Innovative Theatre Awards for best musical. She is the author of *Three Wooden Trunks*, a book of poetry.

WANDA PHIPPS (co-translator) is a founding member of Yara and has been translating Ukrainian poetry with Virlana Tkacz since 1989. Together they have received the Agni Review Poetry Award and the National Theatre Translation Award for their translation of *The Forest Song*, as well as several grants from the New York State Council on the Arts.

SHIGEKO SARA SUGA (movement) has been with Yara Arts Group since "Blind Sight" 1993. She has served as an actor/movement coach/choreographer for numerous Yara Arts productions. Shigeko has worked with The Great Jones Rep of Ellen Stewart since 1988, Pan Asian Repertory of Tisa Chang since 1986 among other companies and films. Praying for our friends and the nation of Ukraine. <http://www.shigekosuga.com>

KEIKO OBREMSKI (costumes) 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*, *Winter Songs on Mars*, *Virtual Forest Songs*, *A Thousand Suns* and *Scythian Slap!* She works as a dresser for Broadway shows and is also a Kimono dresser.

MARGARET PEEBLES (lighting designer) is New York City based and loves collaborating on work for provocative audience experiences. Favorite past work includes Objectively/Reasonable with Playwrights Local and No Permission Needed Dance Concert with Artistic Director Gregory King. Her exhibition lighting is currently on display at Pen + Brush Gallery. Margaret is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO (projections & graphics) is an artist from Kyiv who has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2010, most recently creating the set for *Opera*

GAZ.. He co-curated the *Kurbas in Kyiv*, *Kurbas in Kharkiv* and the *Kurbas: New Worlds* exhibition at the Mystetsky Arsenal in Kyiv.

MAREK SOLTIS (sound & technical Manager) has worked as a sound engineer, and owner of Multiharmony Corp since 2000, which serves corporate and musical clients. Marek has been audio and video engineer in Bohemian National Haul since 2008 and sound engineer on Fox five Good Day New York show since 2016. He has worked as a technical director and engineer on multiple ethnic festivals throughout New Jersey and New York, featuring Estonian, Slovakian, Czech, and Ukrainian artists.

YULA DEGLINA (stage manager) has worked with Yara since 2018. She is a Ukrainian Jewish film director, screenwriter, and producer. She graduated from Kyiv National University of Theater & Film with MFA in film directing. Her latest short “HOMO DEUS. Divine human” was funded by the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation and won awards at: Tokyo International Film Festiva, Kyiv International Social Short Film Festival and New York International Film Festival.

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 is a resident theatre company of La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York.. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 USA (212)475-6474** www.yaraartsgroup.net: @yaraartsgroupinc instagram: @yara.arts

Show is dedicated to the artists who worked on “Hello, This Is Radio 477!” which opened at the Berezil Theatre in Kharkiv, Ukraine January 9, 1929.

The first workshop of *Radio 477* was in Kharkiv in November 2021 and included performers: Olena Bazhenova, Kateryna Kharpova, Artem Kochergin, Armen Kaloyan, Yaroslav Podshyvalov, Alina Pribytkova, Pavlo Saveliev and Olya Zubkova musicians: Serhiy Dikarev, Dima Faustov, Polina Faustova, Anatoli Komar, Vladislav Leonenko and Grygoriy Mishchenko. It was made possible by Tetiana Pylypiuk and the Slovo Building Residency at the Kharkiv Literary Museum, Yana Partola and the Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts in Kharkiv, Vira Lahutina and the Regional Centre of Culture and Arts of Kharkiv, Tanya Turko and the Theatre Museum at the Shevchenko Theatre and all the friends of Yara Arts Group. Performance of *Radio 477!* at the Rehearsal for Truth Festival at the Bohemian National Hall June 17, 2022 also included Darien Fiorino, Maksym Lozynskyj and Jeremy Vance and was made possible by New York State Council on the Arts, , the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Self Reliance Foundation and the Polish Institute. Thank you, Tomek Smolarsky of the Polish Institute and Diana Orłowski, Yara’s intern.

Yara Arts Group is a resident company of La MaMa Experimental Theatre and expresses special thanks to Mia Yoo, Kiku Sakai, Denise Gerber and Mark Tambella.

Special thanks to the staff of PS 21 especially Elena Sianko, Kelly Mackerer and Connor Martin.

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