

Celebrating La MaMa's 45th Anniversary

La MaMa e.t.c.

and Yara Arts Group

present

JANYL



an original world music theatre piece created
by the artists of Yara Arts Group and Sakhna Theatre of Bishkek
based on the Kyrgyz epic "Janyl Myrza" as told by Ibraim Abdyrakhmanov

UPCOMING EVENTS:

KYRGYZ TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND ART

New York Public Library — Tompkins Square Branch Library

Saturday March 17, 2007 at 2 PM

Exhibit of traditional Kyrgyz craft arranged by Dinara Chochunbaeva of Bishkek throughout the week with concert of traditional music by Sakhna artists from Kyrgyzstan on Saturday. Tompkins Square Library 331 East 10th St (between Avenue A & B) Free event.

KEREZ: THE TESTAMENT

La MaMa Experimental Theatre, New York

March 29-31, 2007

an original theatre piece in Kyrgyz created and directed by Nurlan Asanbekov with Sakhna Theatre of Bishkek. A hunter slaughters all the peacefully grazing goats despite the entreaties of Sur Echi, the mythical Mother Goat. La MaMa E.T.C. 74A East 4th St, New York

3/29 – 4/1 Fri-Sat at 8:00, Sun at 3:00 & 8:00

\$15/ (212) 475- 7710 or www.lamama.org

KYRGYZSTAN: CELESTIAL MOUNTAINS

cluster of events April 3-6, Saratoga Springs, NY

CELESTIAL CITIES at Gallery 110, April 4 6 -8 PM

Opening reception for the exhibition of Margaret Morton's photographs of Kyrgyzstan's extraordinary architectural legacy—ornate gumbes or mausoleums. There will also be an exhibit and sale of traditional crafts.

SAKHNA: MUSIC FROM THE CELESTIAL MOUNTAINS

Filene Hall, Skidmore College Thursday, April 5 8PM

In partnership with Skidmore College's Ethnomusicology Department Yara and Sakhna artists from Kyrgyzstan will perform epic songs or dastans, as well as traditional music.

THE MAKING OF JANYL Gallery 110 Friday, April 5, 6:00 PM

Director Virlana Tkacz and the performers offer selected music and stories on the making of the show.

The First Floor Theatre at La MaMa
74A East 4th Street, NYC 10003

March 9 thru March 11, 2007 Thursday thru Sunday @ 8PM and Sun Mat. at 3PM

March 15 thru 25 Thursday thru Saturday @ 9PM and Su at 3PM & 8PM

Janyl

an original world music theatre piece created
by the artists of Yara Arts Group and Sakhna Theatre of Bishkek
based on the Kyrgyz epic “Janyl Myrza” as told by Ibraim Abdyrakhmanov

Kenzhegul Satybaldieva and Susan Hyon.....Janyl
Baktykul Dzhanybekov.....Baytoro, Tooke, Kalmatay
Munarbek Alibaev.....Khan Tursun, Ulburchok, Uchuko, Shyrdak, Kochkorok
Ilgis Zhunusov.....Burguy, Tulku, Akochkor, Dzagalmay
Shigeko Sara Suga.....Tulku’s Mother, Sanchy and percussion
Asel Maamytova.....Derken, Lamerter
Omurzak Kaiypov.....Tulku’s Father

with the images of Tenti Jamanakov as Baytoro
as well as Kalkan ulu Keremaly who pointed out the lands of Janyl to us
and featuring Omurzak Kaiypov as the storyteller or *dastanchi*
and the musician Asylbek Nasirdinov

directed by Virlana Tkacz
set, costumes, and lights designed by Watoku Ueno
movement by Shigeko Sara Suga
music: traditional and composed by Asylbek Nasirdinov
English translation by Roza Mukasheva, Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps
photography by Margaret Morton
video by Andrea Odezynska
assistant director: Kim Miller
technical manager: Oleg Braude
stage manager: Olena Jennings

Yara is a resident company of La MaMa E.T.C.

This show is dedicated to all the people who have told this story through the ages.

This production of *Janyl* was made possible thanks to the support of the Nordlys Foundation, Alliance for Resident Theatre of New York, Yara’s individual contributors and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and New York City’s Department of Cultural Affairs. The production was also supported by grants from CEC ArtsLink, US Embassy in Bishkek, Swiss Agency for Development, and the Soros Foundation of Kyrgyzstan.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK: Toktobubu Isakova, Gulzat Smanalieva Kurmanbubu (Teti) Asankojueva and Kurmanbek Ismailov, Tenti Jamanakov and Baysaray, Botbay Kulunbaev, Shambet Mindebairov, Aldybek Kyiazov, Bermet Omurova, Janyl Aysyrakunova, Jildyz Abdygazieva, Temirbek and Aikumush Beshykeyv, Dair Iskenov, Gulmira Otorova, Shair Toktogulova, Elmira Otorova, and Almagul Abdyldebekova, and especially Kalkan Kerimalu ulu and Munduk Aronova **FOR SHARING THEIR SONGS, STORIES AND HOMES WITH US.**

OUR THANKS TO: Rafael Perez and Kamila Kojomatova of the US Embassy in Bishkek, Fritzie Brown of ArtsLink, Emilia Salieva and Kanike Mukhtarova of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, as well as Alexandra Tkacz and Bohdan Krawchenko **FOR MAKING OUR WORK IN KYRGYZSTAN POSSIBLE.** **WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK** Gulnara Kasimalieva and Muratbek Jumaliev of the Art East Social Organization of Artists for their technical support and Shaarbek Amankulov of City of Artists for presenting our show in Bishkek last summer. We would also like to thank: Eunice Wong, Myrambek Borgoev, Alymkan Abdykadyrova, Askar Jetigenov, Tilek Kasymaliev, and Ainura Temirova, as well as Aynura Asynbekova, Damir Nasybullin, Asel Nasbekova Ayjana Akmatova and most of all Altyn Kapalova, who took part in our workshop in Bishkek last summer.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK: Kyrgyz Ambassador Zamira Sydykova, Senator Hilary Clinton and Luz Mendez Aaron Luster, Rafael Perez and Kamila Kojomatova of the US Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic, for help with visa for the Kyrgyz artists. Our thanks to: Bohdan Krawchenko and Alexandra Tkacz for their support and help with travel arrangements, as well as Mia Woo, Denise Greber, Kiku Sakai, Brian Glover, Ruth Kreshka, Barbara Glaser, Mary Kalyna, Hanya Krill Marybeth Ward, Stefa Charczenko, and Roksolana Luchkan for their help.

OUR SHOW IN NEW YORK WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY Nordlys Foundation, Alliance for Resident Theatre of New York, Yara’s individual contributors and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and New York City’s Department of Cultural Affairs. The production was also supported by grants from CEC ArtsLink, US Embassy in Bishkek, Swiss Agency for Development, and the Soros Foundation of Kyrgyzstan.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS Ellen Stewart of La MaMa, and Nurlan Asanbekov of Sakhna Theatre **FOR THEIR BELIEF AND SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT.**



SAKHNA THEATER was founded under the direction of Nurlan Asanbekov in 2002 and came together around the “Revival of Small Kyrgyz Epics as Nomadic Theatre” Project. Their first show was “*Kerez*” (The Testament) (2003), based on an epic in which a hunter thoughtlessly slaughters a herd of wild goats and is then led to his death by the mythical Mother Goat. The Kyrgyz ancient art of the “dastanchi,” or epic teller helped propel the narrative while the actors immersed themselves in a meditative state in order connect with the ancient traditions. “*Kerez*” received critical acclaim and won the main prize in Bishkek’s “Art-Ordo” International Theatre Festival. “*Kurmanbek*” (2004) was the second Sakhna epic production. It told the story of a warrior who overthrows a tyrannical oppressor, but is eventually killed because his own father refuses to give him the horse on which he can ride to victory. Recently, the group created on a third piece, *Maktym Dastan*, based on a love story. Sakhna’s work on the three epic projects has been supported by the Swiss Agency for Development.

YARA ARTS GROUP brings together drama, poetry, song, myth and movement to create original pieces that explore timely issues rooted in the East. Since its founding in 1990, Yara has created seventeen original theatre pieces. Yara’s first show was about a Kiev theatre in 1919 and performed in Kyiv during the week Ukraine declared its independence in 1991. Since 1996 Yara has also worked on theatre pieces with Buryat artists from Siberia, Mongolia and China. Janyl is Yara’s first collaborative piece with Kyrgyz artists of Sakhna and was developed during a workshop in the Kyrgyz Republic last summer. In addition, Yara presents art, music and poetry events, conducts master classes and workshops. Yara Arts Group is a resident company of La MaMa E.T.C.

Yara Arts Group: 306 East 11th Street #3B, New York, NY 10003 phone/fax:212/475-6474
yara@prodigy.net visit our web site at: <http://www.brama.com/yara>

PRODUCTION CREW:

Set assistant.....Makoto Takeuchi
 Set crew.....Kenji Watanabe
 Costumes built byLuba Kierkosz
 Light board operator.....Juan Merchan
 Video projector operator.....Rashid Ramamun
 GraphicsChristhian C. Diaz
 Press representative.....Jonathan Slaff
 Video documentation.....Character Generators

TEXTS and SONGS used in the show

The scenes were created by the artists in rehearsal and incorporate the following:

- “Janyl Myrza” as told by Ibraim Abdyrakhmanov
- “Chiybuldyn Kyzynyn Koshogu” (The Lament of the Daughter of Chiybul), traditional
- “Night Music” music by Asylbek Nasirdinov
- “Kashgar” music by Asylbek Nasirdinov
- “Ukujuno sarala,” traditional
- “Kokoi Kesty” (On the komus), traditional
- “Top Jilke” (Herd of Horses), music by Said Bekmuratov
- “Jol” (Road), music by Asylbek Nasirdinov
- “Zhenysh Norgos” (Victory Horses)
- “Alma Alam” (I Will Take an Apple) words and music by Musa
- “Shyrdakbektin Boz Jorgo” (Shyrdakbek’s Magic Trotting Horse), traditional
- “Bee” (Dance), music by Asylbek Nasirdinov
- “Andijan,” music by Asylbek Nasirdinov
- “Wedding,” music by Asylbek Nasirdinov
- “Op Maida,” traditional
- “Uch Munak,” traditional

Notes on Janyl Myrza

Janyl Myrza tells the story of a woman who is a great marksman with skill in archery so refined that she never misses. This makes her very powerful, but also provokes neighboring tribesmen to challenge her skill and steal her horses. Although she is captured and forced to take on the traditional role of a wife, she manages to retain her respect until the precariousness of her position is revealed.

On the Making of Janyl

Yara Arts Group has created several projects based on traditional stories and music. Our interest in epic poems led us to Kyrgyzstan, where oral tradition was very rich. In addition to the “Manas,” one of the longest epics in the world, there are also over 40 *dastans* or short epics. In the spring of 2005 I was fortunate to meet the members of the Sakhna Theatre, who are committed to reviving Kyrgyz epics. Sakhna’s director Nurlan Asanbekov suggested that I direct a Kyrgyz epic in a production that would be a collaboration between our two companies. I chose “Janyl Myrza,” which I translated into English with Kyrgyz poet Roza Mukasheva and American poet Wanda Phipps. In the summer of 2006 I returned to Kyrgyzstan with Yara members: choreographer Shigeko Sara Suga, actress Eunice Wong and photographer Margaret Morton. We set out on a trip with Sakhna actors Kenzhegul Saltybadieva and Baktykul Dzanybekov to research the story of Janyl in the landscape where the events took place. We met with people who preserve the story and rare traditional skills from that era. For instance, we met an eagle hunter, Tenti Jamanakov, and had the incredible opportunity of working with his eagle Baysary. Since our story included scenes of death I wanted to include traditional *koshoks* or laments. We met a number of women who are renowned lamenters and record them. We also met several *dastanchi*, or epic singers and storytellers, including Kalkan Kerimaly ulu of Kyzyl Tuu, who is a direct descendant of one of the characters in the epic. This elderly man took us into the high valley of Arpa on the Chinese border and made the story of Janyl Myrza come alive for us by pointing out the specific sites where various episodes of the epic took place. Later that summer we developed the outline of the production of *Janyl* in workshop rehearsals and presented it as a work-in-progress at the City of Artists in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. The Sakhna artists came to New York in February and we created the bilingual theatre piece in our rehearsals at La MaMa with Yara artists who appear in the show. Next summer we hope to travel to Kyrgyzstan again and perform our show in Janyl’s homeland.

MUNARBEK ALIBAEV graduated from the St. Petersburg Institute of Theatre, Music and Film. He worked in theatres in Jalabad and Osh, as well as the Bishkek City Theatre, before becoming a founding member of the Sakhna Theatre. He worked on a co-production with a French Theatre and received the grand-prize at the Art-Ordo Bishkek International Festival.

BAKYT DZHANYBEKOV graduated from the St. Petersburg Institute of Theatre, Music and Film. He is one of the founding members of the Sakhna Theatre and created the part of the Shaman in *Kerez*, and the role of Dolon in *Kurmanbek*. He appears in Kyrgyz films and television.

SUSAN HYON Off-Broadway: *Tartuffe* (Classic Stage Company), *Scapin* (Classic Stage Company); Regional: *Bring Love* (Guthrie Lab), *Henry VI* (Shakespeare & Co.); International: *Metamorphoses* (Teatro Nacional, Lisbon, Portugal), *The Comedy of Errors* (Schauspiel Essen, Germany), *Scapin* (Arezzo Festival, Italy), *Snow* (Dublin Fringe, Ireland). Deep thanks to the exquisite Sakhna artists and musicians for allowing me “in.” Iskrennoe spasibo artistam i muzikantam Sakhny za to chto oni pustili menia v svoi krug. Training: Columbia University MFA 2006. www.columbiaactors.com

OMURZAK KAIYPOV is a *dastanchi*. He graduated from the Institute of Art in Bishkek and has participated in many international folk festivals. He often takes part in theatre shows.

ASEL MAAMYTOVA graduated from the Institute of Art in Bishkek. She works with Sakhna Theatre, appearing in the shows *Kurmanbek*, *Kerez*, *Golden Orange* and *Upside Down*.

ASYLBEK NASIRDINOV graduated from the Music Conservatory in Bishkek. He plays all Kyrgyz folk instruments and composes for folk ensembles, as well as theatre.

KENZHEGUL SATYBALDIEVA sings *dastan*, or traditional stories. She graduated from the St. Petersburg Institute of Theatre, Music and Film. She works in the Sakhna Theatre and has participated in many international festivals. She created the part of Medea in a Kyrgyz-French co-production which played in Paris. She received prizes for best debut in 1993, best female actress in 1997 and actress of the year in 2000.

ILGIS ZHUNUSOV graduated from the Kyrgyz Theatre School. He founded the Omatta Theatre and works with homeless children with whom he staged *Twelfth Night*. He created the leading part in *Kurmanbek* for Sakhna Theatre.

VIRLANA TKACZ (director/co-translator) is the founding director of the Yara Arts Group, and has created 16 original shows with the company which have performed in New York, Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Ulan Ude, and Ulan Bator as well as the villages of the Buryat Aga Region of Siberia and China. She would like to thank Ellen Stewart (La MaMa) Nurlan Asanbekov and Kenzhegul Satybaldieva (Sakhna) for their support.

WATOKU UENO (set, costumes, and lights) is a founding member of Yara and has designed and co-directed of Yara’s shows. Last spring he created and directed Yara’s *Sundown* at La MaMa. With Yara he traveled to Ukraine, Siberia, and Mongolia to create original theatre pieces and local arts including: *Koliada: Twelve Dishes*, *Obo: Our Shamanism*, *Circle*, *Virtual Souls*, *Yara’s Forest Song*, and *Light From the East*.

SHIGEKO SARA SUGA (movement) is from Japan and is honored to be working here with the Sakhna Theatre. She has worked at La MaMa ETC from 1986 and has choreographed, directed and performed in experimental theatre since. She also works as a flamenco dancer.

ROZA MUKASHEVA (co-translator) is a Kyrgyz poet currently working as a communications manager for arts organizations in Bishkek. She is the author of numerous articles on the folk arts and published eight collections of poetry.

WANDA PHIPPS (co-translator), a founding member of Yara, is a poet who was born in Washington, DC. She has been translating Ukrainian poetry with Virlana Tkacz since 1989 and Buryat traditional poetry since 1996. Together they have received numerous awards including the National Endowment for the Arts Translation Fellowship.

MARGARET MORTON (photographer) is a New York City artist whose photographs have been published in four books and exhibited internationally. She is a graduate of Yale University School of Art and currently Professor at The Cooper Union School of Art in New York City.

ANDREA ODEZYNSKA (video) has directed award winning short films, which have aired on Showtime and Bravo. She created the video for Yara’s *Koliada: Twelve Dishes*, *Circle*, *Obo: Our Shamanism*, *Howling* and *Swan*. Her documentary “The Whisperer” is based on a meeting with a village healer that changes her life.

KIM MILLER (assistant director) has worked with La MaMa, SLANT Theatre Project, The Tank, the Minetta Lane Theatre, the Orpheum Theater and The New Harmony Project. She is employed by Wind Dancer Films and is a graduate of the University of Evansville. Thanks to Yara and Virlana for their constant support.

OLENA JENNINGS (stage manager) recently completed her MFA at Columbia University in writing fiction. Her translations from Ukrainian have been published in *Poetry International Web*, *Chelsea*, and in Ukraine. She was happy to start working with Yara in November during the *Koliada* performance at the Ukrainian Museum.