

MARTHA PREVE is a Mexican multi-disciplinary theater and film artist. She is the co-founder of the theater company Something from Abroad. Her original play *Pastorela* was staged at the Lucille Lortel Tinsel Festival. Her monologue *The Hammock* received the Audience Choice Award at NBC's *Ya Tu Sabes Monologue Slam!* contest. Some of her recent credits include: Horacio in *Hamlet La Telenovela*, Dr. Cora in *With Bated Breath*, Ella in *La Tia Angustias viene de visita*. She is thrilled to join Yara Arts for this amazing production. IG: @martha_preve

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 in 2021 and has worked as an actress with Ping Chong + Company & Yara Arts Group.

VIRLANA TKACZ (director & co-translator) heads Yara and has directed forty original shows at La MaMa in New York, that also performed in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She received the NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her work with Wanda Phipps on Serhiy Zhadan's poetry. Yale University published their second book of Zhadan's selected poems *How Fire Descends*, last fall. Her production of *1917-2017: Tychyna Zhadan & the Dogs* won the 2018 New York Innovative Theatre Awards for best musical.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO (projections and graphics) is an artist from Kyiv, Ukraine, who has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2010, most recently creating the set for *Radio 477!* He was nominated twice for innovative theatre design for NYIT Awards. He co-curated the Kurbas in Kyiv, Kurbas in Kharkiv and the Kurbas: New Worlds exhibition at the Mystetsky Arsenal.

OLENKA TSYHANKOVA (stage manager) is a Ukrainian artist, writer and puppeteer. Olenka worked on the production of Yara's *The Magic of Light*. She recently returned from Chicago, where she assisted with the production of *The Left Hand of Darkness*. Olenka is also an author of the recently published research paper "Memory Threads."

YARA ARTS GROUP was established in 1990 as 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: @yaraartsgroupinc instagram: @yara.arts

This event was made possible by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the Self Reliance Foundation, and the friends of Yara Arts Group.



The Ukrainian Museum and Yara Arts Group present:

RESILIENCE

Bilingual performance of new poetry from Ukraine
featuring Yara's George Drance, Darien Fiorino, Bob Holman,
Svitlana Kosolapova, Stefka Nazarkewycz, Martha Preve,
Wanda Phipps, Lesya Verba & Julian Kytasty

Directed by Viriana Tkacz

February 21, 2026
Saturday at 3 PM

Ukrainian Museum
222 East 6th St New York City



Yara Arts Group's Resilience

Event directed by Virlana Tkacz
music by Julian Kytasty, projections by Darien Fiorino,
Graphics by Waldemart Klyuzko, stage manager: Olenka Tsyhankova
Poetry by Serhiy Zhadan translated into English by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps

“I wish I was born fifty years from now...”

performed by George Drance, Martha Preve and Svitlana Kosolapova

“Hospitals”

performed by George Drance and Svitlana Kosolapova

“Where the city ends....”

performed by Martha Preve and Svitlana Kosolapova

“Geography”

performed by Martha Preve, Svitlana Kosolapova and George Drance

“Building”

performed by Darien Fiorino, Svitlana Kosolapova and Stefka Nazarkewycz

“Lily Marlene”

performed by Svitlana Kosolapova and George Drance

“...there's not enough infantry”

performed by Svitlana Kosolapova and George Drance

“Polonaise No.13”

performed by George Drance and Svitlana Kosolapova

“Homeland”

performed by Bob Holman

“Go Down Moses”

performed by Wanda Phipps

“Light”

music by Julian Kytasty and sung with Lesya Verba, Lyrics based on poem by Serhiy Zhadan, translated by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps

SERHIY ZHADAN is Ukraine's most celebrated writer. In 2022 he received the Hannah Arendt Prize for Political Thought, the German Peace Prize and nine international literature prizes. His books that are available in English include: *The Orphanage*, as well as *Mesopotamia*, *What We Live for*, *What We Die For: Selected Poems* (2019) and *How Fire Descends: New and Selected Poems* (2022), published by Yale University Press. Serhiy was born in Luhansk, Ukraine's easternmost region and now lives in Kharkiv, where he is part of Khartia, the brigade of the National Guard that defends the city. He has worked with Yara Arts Group since 2002, including on the award-winning show *1917-2017: Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs* and *Radio 477!*

GEORGE DRANCE performed & 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 Ping Chong + Company, *The Trojan Women Project* and as a close collaborator of Ellen Stewart. Television credits include: *The Daily Show & Blacklist*. He is an Artist-in Residence at Fordham Lincoln Center.

DARIEN FIORINO (performer & projections) appeared in Yara's *A Thousand Suns, Koliada on Mars, Forest Song*, and *1917-2017: Tychyna .Zhadan & the Dogs* at La MaMa which garnered two New York Innovative Theatre Awards. He designed the projections for Yara's *SLAP!* and *ZHADAN & Friends: 2024*.

BOB HOLMAN is a poet often associated with the oral tradition, spoken word, poetry slams and digital poetry. Founder of the Bowery Poetry Club, his new book, *We Interrupt This Program: Video Poems*, is forthcoming from SubPress; *Life Poem*, his solo show with Mivos String Quartet, will premiere in spring 2026. He has worked with Yara for over twenty years, including playing Czar Nicholas II in *1917-2017*, John Smith in *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine*, and Futurist poet/painter David Burluk in *SLAP!*. He has read English translations with Zhadan numerous times and wrote the introduction to his collection *What We Live For, What We Die For*.

SVITLANA KOSOLAPOVA is a Ukrainian theater and film actress, and director. Svitlana was an actress at the Ivan Franko Theater and founded the Actors Studio BRAVE in New York. She is an organizer and director of the charity poetry evenings in NY “About Love. Whispering” and “Your Letters.”

JULIAN KYTASTY is a third-generation bandura player. He is both a keeper of traditions and an innovator who has opened new paths for his instrument. 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 continues to teach bandura to a new generation of students in North America and Ukraine, to record, to compose and arrange music for bandura, and to engage in collaborative projects.

STEFKA NAZARKEWYCZ started acting with the Ukrainian Dramatic Arts Studio with Lydia Krushelnytsky, performing in Ukrainian and traveling throughout the USA and Canada. In addition to commercial work and roles in daytime TV dramas, she appeared in several off-Broadway productions, favorites being Irene in *The Captive* by Édouard Bourdet and Julia in *The Philanderer* by Bernard Shaw. She is currently a member of Polaris North, a New York-based theater company.

WANDA PHIPPS (poet & co-translator) is a founding member of Yara and has been translating Ukrainian poetry with Virlana Tkacz since 1989. Together they have received the National Theatre Translation Award for their translation of *The Forest Song*, as well as numerous grants from New York State Council on the Arts. Her books include *Mind Honey* (Autonomedia), *Field of Wanting: Poems of Desire* (Blaze VOX), and *Wake-Up Calls: 66 Morning Poems* (Soft Skull Press).