

Yara Arts Group from La MaMa Experimental Theatre presents:

YARA'S WINTER FESTIVAL: WORLD EPIC SONGS

Kyrgyz dastan



November 2020
www.yaraartsgroup.net

Yara Arts Group from La MaMa Experimental Theatre presents:

Yara's World Epic Song Festival

Kyrgyz Dastan: Janyl Myrza

Entrance music: *Swan Song* on Kyl Kyak
performed by Nurbek Serkebaev

Introductions Virlana Tkacz

On the Kyrgyzstan and the Kyrgyz dastans - Virlana Tkacz

Introducing Kenjegal Satybaldieva and Nurbek Serkebaev

Music: Beginning of *Janyl Myrza*
Performed by Kenjegal Satybaldieva and Nurbek Serkebaev

Discussion on Kyrgyz Epics with Julian Kytasty

Music: performed by Nurbek Serkebaev

Exit Music performed by Nurbek Serkebaev

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz
bandurist and epic singer: Julian Kytasty
special guests: Kenjegal Satybaldieva and Nurbek Serkebaev
translation by Ainura Kachkybek kyzy
visual design: Waldemart Klyuzko
tech support: Chris Ignacio

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.

KENZHEGUL SATYBALDIEVA sings dastan, or traditional stories. She graduated from the St. Petersburg Institute of Theatre, Music and Film. Afterwards she worked 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. In 2005-7 she

worked with Yara on *Janyl Myrza* and performed the title part in Bishkek, Naryn and New York. In 2008 she worked with Virlana Tkacz to develop *Er Toshtuk* with a group of young actors in Bishkek. The show was a hit at La MaMa and toured all over Kyrgyzstan.

NURBEK SERKEBAEV is from the village of Kajisay near Issyk-Kul. He studied music from his parents, who are professional musicians. He has participated in numerous competitions and was awarded “Young Talent of the Year” from 1998-2003. He taught a music workshop at the Bulgarian Music Festival, and works with Ilgis Zhunusov and the Omatta Theatre. He worked with Yara on *Janyl Myrza* and *Er Torshuk* in Kyrgyzstan and New York.

VIRLANA TKACZ 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 has co-produced a series of concerts and recordings of Buryat Mongolian artists and of the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia from the Carpathian Mountains. She has also worked with Kyrgyz artists to create two theatre pieces based on Kyrgyz epics songs.

JULIAN KYTASTY grew up within a strong tradition of family music-making. He is a third generation bandurist following in the footsteps of his father Petro and grandfather Ivan Kytasty, and is recognized for his performance of Ukrainian epic songs. He works frequently with Yara Arts Group, most recently on a series of virtual events exploring the life and work of NY bandurist Zynoviy Shtokalko. His work on Yara’s *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* earned him a NY Innovative Theater Award for best original score.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO 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.

CHRIS IGNACIO 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.

STAFF: Folklorist: Iryna Voloshyna, Publicity: Zoriana Siokalo

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 and documentation. Yara has also created numerous traditional music events and the *Kurbas: New Worlds* exhibition for

the Art Arsenal in Kyiv. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 (212)475-6474 yara@prodigy.net www.yaraartsgroup.net**

Yara’s Virtual Events are made possible by public funds from New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department for Cultural Affairs, as well as the friends of Yara Arts Group.



OTHER YARA VIRTUAL EVENTS:

www.yaraartsgroup.net

Zinoviy Shtokalko:

Bandura Instrumentals,
Singer of Tales
Epic Modernist
and Ukrainian Epics

Ukrainian American Cultural Figures:

Pawlo Humeniuk -known as the “King of Ukrainian Music” in the 1920s.

Vasile Avramenko -who brought Ukrainian dance to New York in 1929.

Zinoviy Shtokalko Ukrainian epic singer in New York in the 1950-60s

Oleh Lysheha – Ukrainian poet who worked with Yara in the 1990s

Yara Winter World Epic Song Festival

Kyrgyz epic, or dastan

Finnish Kalevala

Buryat epic or uliger

African American Songs

Ukrainian epic or дума