

Mariupol: Diaries of War & the Tree of Life

Performance created by Yara Arts Group with “Diary of War” Project collected by Daria Kolomic, poems by Serhiy Zhadan, Victoria Amerlina Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps Music by Julian Kytasty, Sound landscape by Maksym Lozynskyj, Sound design by Marek Soltis, Production design by Tom Lee, with Waldemart Klyuzko, Costumes by Andreea Mincic, Choreography Oksana Horban, stage managers: Katerina Diumina & Anastasiia Panchenko, Directed by Virlana Tkacz.

Performing artists: Marina Celander, Hanna Datsko, George Drance, Darien Fiorino, Silvana Gonzalez, Susan Hwang, Daria Kolomic, Diana Kuzminova and Petro Ninovskyi

March 15-24, 2024, Howl Happening 6 E 1st St, New York
June 17, 2024, Bohemian National Hall, 321 E 73rd St, NY
June 18 Jersey City Theater Center, 165 Newark Ave, JC



Photos by Pavlo Terekhov

Press in New York:

"A multi-media performance recreating the stories of Ukrainians from the city of Mariupol, now destroyed and occupied by Russian forces, during the first months of the full-scale invasion, has a limited run this month in New York City. The heartbreaking accounts, based on real diaries of Ukrainian people, are recreated by English-speaking actors, bridging the gap between the awful realities of the war and western audiences. "Mariupol: Diary of War and the Tree of Life," created by Virlana Tkacz, is presented by the Yara Arts Group. The show is accompanied by photos taken by Evgeniy Maloletka and Mstyslav Chernov, Pulitzer Prize winning journalists, whose film, "20 Days in Mariupol" received the Oscar for best documentary in 2024. Remaining performances run March 22, 23, 24 at Howl Arts Gallery, 6 E. First St, NYC." ***Katya Soldak, Forbes, Culture Front, March 18, 2024***

"When I first read the script of "Mariupol: Diaries of War and the Tree of Life" I experienced so much pain. But I also saw that a future for this city, a future for Ukraine, is possible! When the Russian full-scale invasion began, I was Kyiv with my family. After a few months I had to leave my family and by myself move to New York, where I knew no one. I was hurt and confused. But after a while, when I joined Yara Arts Group and other large Ukrainian organizations in New York, I understood that I want to help promote our culture here and help Ukraine. "Mariupol: Diaries of War and the Tree of Life" gave me the gift of hope. In the diaries people shared their pain and their light, which made me believe in the future. The Tree of Life will blossom and share its fruits with me."

Anastasiia Panchenko, Meest Newspaper (New Jersey/Toronto), May 30, 2024

"Every American should see this show, I thought at the end of "Mariupol: Diaries of War and the Tree of Life," performed by the Yara Arts Group in New York City earlier this spring... Yara's performances features first-person accounts of the initial weeks of Russia's 2022 siege of Mariupol, together with music, poetry, movement and imagery. This exquisite composition moves the audiences to connect with Ukrainian who were surprised to find themselves under Russian attack and who managed to get out alive....Director Virlana Tkacz is a kind, sure guide, like Virgil, leading Dante through the inferno. She uses familiar Ukrainian art and poetry -- including the verse of Serhiy Zhadan and Victoria Amelina -- to ease the New York audience into and out of witnessing hell on earth. ***Larissa Babij, The Ukrainian Weekly, June 9, 2024***