

Yara Arts Group from La MaMa Experimental Theatre presents:

YARA'S VIRTUAL EVENTS: EXHIBITS ON LES KURBAS

KURBAS IN KYIV

at the Museum of Theatre, Music and Cinema in Kyiv

KURBAS IN KHARKIV

at Yermilov Center in Kharkiv

KURBAS: NEW WORLDS

at Mystetsky Arsenal in Kyiv

www.yaraartsgroup.net
WINTER-2022



NYC Cultural Affairs



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Yara's Virtual Events: *Exhibits on Les Kurbas*

KURBAS IN KYIV

Introductions – the co-curators:

Virlana Tkacz, New York theatre director and scholar, introduces her interest in Les Kurbas and his work

Tetiana Rudenko, head curator of The Museum of Theatre Music and Cinema in Kyiv, introduces her museum, its history and its Kurbas collection.

Waldemart Klyuzko, artist from Kyiv and theatre designer, relates how the curatorial narrative of Kurbas' work as a director and the archival material, developed into the visual design of the exhibit.

On creating *Kurbas in Kyiv*:

The curators tell about the process of creating the exhibit with photos of the archival material and the exhibit.

Nadia Sokolenko, theatre scholar, who worked on the texts, provides additional context, while showing the images from The Young Theatre (1917-1919) and The Berezil Artistic Association (1922-26), focusing on Kurbas's productions of "Gas" "Jimmie Higgins" "Macbeth."

The opening of *Kurbas in Kyiv* and the related events

at The Museum of Theatre Music and Cinema in Kyiv (2017)

Entrance and exit music: "Aeroplan" by Julian Kytasty

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz

graphic design: Waldemart Klyuzko,

image projection: Nadia Sokolenko, tech support: Martin Nikolov

premiere: February 10, 2022

LES KURBAS was an innovative director who staged experimental theatre pieces in Kyiv and Kharkiv during the 1920s, transforming the idea of what theatre could be. He created new worlds on stage that invited his audiences to clearly look through various layers of the present, review the past and imagine a new future. **Virlana Tkacz**

VIRLANA TKACZ (co-curator & event director) heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed almost forty original shows at La MaMa Theatre in New York, as well as in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She received an NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her translations with Wanda Phipps.

TETIANA RUDENKO (co-curator & Head Curator of the Museum of Theatre Music and Cinema in Kyiv. She has written on the work of Kurbas's designer Vadym Meller.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO (co-curator & event graphics) 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.

ZHENYA KOPIOV (set design) is a resident light designer at the Kurbas Theatre Center in Kyiv. He has worked with Yara since 2004, including the recent *Opera GAZ* at La MaMa December 2019.

MARTIN NIKOLOV (tech support) works at La MaMa Experimental Theatre. He was in Yara's *Virtual Forest Song and A Thousand Suns* at La Plaza Cultural.

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 almost forty 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.

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