

Rehearsal for Truth Festival, Yara Arts Group from La MaMa Experimental Theatre and the Polish Cultural Institute present:

Radio 477! – In Concert

Text & lyrics by Serhiy Zhadan

inspired by Berezil production of “Hello, This Is Radio 477”
Music by Anthony Coleman inspired by Yuliy Meitus’s original score
Project conceived, developed and directed by Virlana Tkacz

performers:

George Drance, Darien Fiorino, Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Susan Hwang, Maksym Lozynskyj, Jeremy Vance and Lesya Verba

musicians:

Anthony Coleman (piano) Hannah Dunton (bass), Frank London (trumpet), Erica Mancini (accordionist), Satoshi Takeishi (drums, percussion), Francesca Ter-Berg (cello), Doug Wieselmann (clarinet)

English translations: Virlana Tkacz, Wanda Phipps with Anthony Coleman

Movement: Shigeko Suga, costumes: Keiko Obremski

Projections: Darien Fiorino, stage manager: Yula Deglina

Design, & graphics: Waldemart Klyuzko



Bohemia National Hall
321 East 73rd St
New York NY 10021

HELLO, THIS IS RADIO 477! Berezil’s 1929 musical revue envisioned a Ukrainian popular culture in step with the latest trends in Europe and America. Radio 477, Kharkiv’s radio station, was one of the most powerful in the country, it represented new technology and the future. Long assumed to have been destroyed, Yuliy Meitus’s score for this show was recently discovered in the archives. Only fragments of the script exist, but the programs include a detailed list of scenes. *Hello, This Is Radio 477!* was structured like a typical German revue of the time, with a satirical look at city life in the first act, wild dances in the second, and a longer dramatic scene as the final act. We follow the show’s structure and are inspired by songs by Yuliy Meitus.

Yuliy Meitus, one of Ukraine’s greatest 20th century composers, was born in 1903 to a Jewish family in Korpyvnytsky, Ukraine. In 1919 he graduated from the local music school and moved to Kharkiv, where he studied composition with Semen Bogatyryov at the Kharkiv Institute of Music and Drama, graduating in 1931. From 1923 to 1924 he was the concertmaster for the Kharkiv Opera Society, headed the musical section of the Proletcult and organized the first jazz band. From 1927 to 1933 Meitus created the music for 15 productions at the Berezil Theatre in Kharkiv, many directed by the Ukrainian director Les Kurbas. It was believed that Meitus’s music for the Berezil shows was destroyed after Kurbas was arrested in 1933. Today, Yuliy Meitus is best known for his 14 operas, numerous orchestral works and about 300 songs set to poetry.

Virlana Tkacz

Radio 477 Act 1

1.1 Radio

Fish, the radio host: Susan Hwang Porky, the reporter: Jeremy Vance. Radio instrumental by Anthony Coleman

1.2 Theatre Posters

Passersby's: Darien Fiorino, Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Maksym Lozynskyj & Lesya Verba "Can-Can" by Yuliy Meitus, transformed by Anthony Coleman

1.3 Shopping Center

Mike the thief: George Drance Shoppers: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Susan Hwang, Maksym Lozynskyj, Lesya Verba & Jeremy Vance "Gallop" by Yuliy Meitus, transformed by Anthony Coleman, "Chorale" by Anthony Coleman

1.4 Central Park

Liuba: Silvana Gonzalez, Mike: George Drance, Police: Akiko Hiroshima, and Maksym Lozynskyj, "Park" originally "Osoviakhym by Yuliy Meitus, transformed by Anthony Coleman

1.5 Theatre Stage

Director: Maksym Lozynskyj Actors: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Jeremy Vance & Lesya Verba, Fish: Susan Hwang, & Mike: George Drance. "Dance" by Anthony Coleman

Act 2

2.1 Not Dancing

Director: Maksym Lozynskyj Actors: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Jeremy Vance & Lesya Verba, Fish: Susan Hwang, & Mike: George Drance.

"If I Could Only" by Anthony Coleman

2.2 Dancing on Stage

Director: Maksym Lozynskyj Actors: Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Jeremy Vance, Darien Fiorino and Lesya Verba, Fish: Susan Hwang, & Mike: George Drance, "Song of the New & the Old" by Anthony Coleman

Act 3

3.1 Talking to the Dead

Valya: Lesya Verba, Fish: Susan Hwang, Mike: George Drance, Dead: Darien Fiorino, Silvana Gonzalez, Akiko Hiroshima, Maksym Lozynskyj, Jeremy Vance.

"Words to Address the Dead" by Anthony Coleman

3.2 Hello, This is Radio 477!

"Kharkiv Kharkiv" lyrics by Maik Iohansen, music by Yuliy Meitus

COMPANY

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

DARIEN FIORINO is an actor and a recent graduate of Harvard University. He was in Yara's *Winter Songs on Mars* and *1917/2017: Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* at La MaMa. *Virtual Forest Song* and *A Thousand Suns*. Other notable roles include Hank Williams in Leigh Fondakowski's *Spill* and Iachimo in Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*.

SILVANA GONZALEZ is a Mexican actress and classical ballet dancer who graduated from NYU Tisch with a Founders Day Award and BFA in Theater. Her theater credits include Ondine in *A Thousand Suns* with Yara, Hera in *FauxBia! The Musical* at Carnegie Hall, Milenia at The Lucille Lortel, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Cynthia in *WarLovers* at Theater Row, and Louise Overbee in *Love/Sick*. Her film credits include Dr. Esperanza Haddid in *Call the Sandman*, Maria in *Disconnect* by Ryo Jaegger, and Irene in IL by Xupeng Feng. Silvana is a member of the NYC based theater company Something From Abroad and honored to be working with Yara again.

AKIKO HIROSHIMA This is her 9th show with Yara! Theatre: *Miss Saigon* (Kim); *Tea* (Teruko); *Fishing for Wives* (Ihara); *A Thousand Cranes* (Sadako); *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Peppermint Patty); *Warrior Sisters* (SiehKingKing); *Jesus Christ Superstar*; *Pippin*. Ads/VO: Intel, GE, Sprint, Amstel Beer, Audible, Ralph Lauren, MoMA, Chicago Tourism, and Japanese textbooks. Music: *Elena Moon Park and Friends* and *happyfunsmile* (ACL, Lincoln Center, 92nd St Y, BAM, Asia Society, Wolf Trap, BBG, DC Sakura Fest., Carnegie, and Midori & Friends).

SUSAN HWANG is a singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who has toured internationally performing music and theater. She is the founder and director of [The Bushwick Book Club](#) —an international musical/literary crossover event and podcast. Lusterlit is her musical duo with songwriter/producer Charlie Nieland, and they refuse to play anything but songs about books. Susan plays accordions because they are pretty and lighter than pianos (barely). She plays drums because it's healthy for a girl to hit things. susanhwanglalala.com, lusterlit.com, IG: @shwangsong, IG: @thebushwickbookclub

MAKSYM LOZYSKYJ is a singer, songwriter, producer, and actor. His music is available on iTunes and Spotify under the name, Maksym Loz. He starred in the Ukrainian major motion picture musical romantic comedy, "Hutsulka Ksenia." He is set to graduate from Berklee College of Music with a Master Degree in music production.

JEREMY VANCE is a singer, actor, dancer and a recent grad from AMDA-NY. His most recent stage credits include Young Ben in *Follies* by Stephen Sondheim, Laurie Lawrence in *My Jo* by Rob Lauer, and u/s Melchior & Moritz in *Spring Awakening* by Frank Wedenkind. This is Jeremy's first production with La MaMa and he is very grateful to be working and be surrounded by such an incredible group of artists! www.jeremykievance.com

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 last year and has worked as an actress with the Anomalous Co. Last summer she worked with Yara last summer on *A Thousand Suns* at La Plaza Cultural and at several poetry events this spring.

MUSICIANS

HANNAH DUNTON (bass) is an up-and-coming instrumentalist, vocalist, composer, and educator based in New York and Boston. She is currently a student at New England Conservatory and is an alumnus of New York Youth Symphony Jazz. Hannah's creative works incorporate aspects of free improvisation, songwriting, and straight-ahead jazz, and current projects include boundary-pushing piano trio Postmodern Miniatures.

Sir FRANK LONDON (trumpet) is a Grammy Award winning co-founder of The Klezmatics. His compositions include the Cuban-Yiddish opera, *Hatuey Memory of Fire*; the symphonic oratorio *1001 Voices - A Symphony for A New America*; the folk opera *A Night in the Old Marketplace*; *Salome: Woman of Valor*; and *Ich Bin Eine Hexe/ I Am A Witch*. His current projects include *Ghetto Songs*, and brass trio *¡No Pasarán!* He has worked with Iggy Pop, Itzhak Perlman, Celia Cruz, Lester Bowie, Vít Hořejš, and LL Cool J; and is featured on over 500 recordings.

ERICA MANCINI (accordion) is an accordionist/vocalist/multi-instrumentalist based in New York City. Her eclectic repertoire explores folk music from around the world, as well as Americana, jazz, experimental rock, and more. She has performed at Lincoln Center, Park Ave Armory, and on film and television. Mancini's original projects include La Banda Chuska and Ghost Pony.

SATOSHI TAKEISHI (drums, percussion) has been living in New York since 1991 and he has performed and recorded in vast variety of genre, from world music, jazz, contemporary classical music to experimental electronic music. He continues to explore multi-cultural, electronics and improvisational music with local musicians and composers in New York.

FRANCESCA TER-BERG (cello) is a cellist and producer from London (UK), with an in-depth improvisation and collaborative practice. Known for her specialism in Eastern European traditional music (specifically Klezmer and Roma). She is one half of the critically acclaimed duo Fran & Flora whose debut album, *Unfurl* (2019) was BBC Radio 3 Music Planet's 'Album Of The Year' and they appeared live on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour.

DOUG WIESELMAN (clarinet) has worked and played with a variety of artists in different fields including John Lurie, Anohni, Laurie Anderson, Coco Rosie, Hal Willner and Robert Wilson. He has co-led Kamikaze Ground Crew for over 30 years, leads his trio - Trio S, with 'cellist Jane Scarpantoni and drummer Kenny Wollesen, and has released a solo clarinet record - "From Water".

ARTISTS

SERHIY ZHADAN was born in the Luhansk Region of Ukraine and educated in Kharkiv where he lives today. He is the author of twelve books of poetry. His prose works: *Voroshilovgrad*, *Mesopotamia* and *The Orphanage* were awarded the Angelus Central European Literature Award, the BBC Ukrainian Book of the Year Award, and the Brücke Berlin Prize. He is the front man for the band Zhadan & the Dogs and has collaborated with

Yara Arts Group since 2002. Yale University Press published his selected poems as *What We Live For/What We Die For* translated by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps in 2019.

ANTHONY COLEMAN (composer and pianist) is one of the key figures of the New York music scene. His work bridges the gap between Composition and Improvisation, Uptown and Downtown, and spanning Free Improvisation, Jazz, Jewish music, and Contemporary Chamber Music. After earning a MA in Composition from Yale School of Music, Coleman immersed himself in New York's Downtown Scene. Coleman has recorded 15 CDs and has played on more than 150. He's on the faculty of the New England Conservatory.

VIRLANA TKACZ (director & co-translator) heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed almost forty original shows at La MaMa in New York that also performed in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She received an NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her work with Wanda Phipps on Serhiy Zhadan's poetry. Her production of *1917-2017: Tychyna Zhadan & the Dogs* won the 2018 New York Innovative Theatre Awards for best musical. She is the author of *Three Wooden Trunks*, a book of poetry.

WANDA PHIPPS (co-translator) is a founding member of Yara and has been translating Ukrainian poetry with Virlana Tkacz since 1989. Together they have received the Agni Review Poetry Award and the National Theatre Translation Award for their translation of *The Forest Song*, as well as several grants from the New York State Council on the Arts.

SHIGEKO SARA SUGA (movement) has been with Yara Arts Group since "Blind Sight" 1993. She has served as an actor/movement coach/choreographer for numerous Yara Arts productions. Shigeko has worked with The Great Jones Rep of Ellen Stewart since 1988, Pan Asian Repertory of Tisa Chang since 1986 among other companies and films. Praying for our friends and the nation of Ukraine. <http://www.shigekosuga.com>

KEIKO OBREMSKI (costumes) is originally from Japan. She performed with Tokyo Kid Brothers at La Mama. She has worked with Yara Arts since *Scythian Stones*. Her recent design credits are: *Fire Water Night*, *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine*, *Winter Light*, *Hitting Bedrock*. *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs*, *Winter Songs on Mars*, *Virtual Forest Songs*, *A Thousand Suns* and *Scythian Slap!* She works as a dresser for Broadway shows and is also a Kimono dresser.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO (design/graphics) is an artist from Kyiv who has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2010, most recently creating the set for *Opera GAZ*. He co-curated the *Kurbas in Kyiv*, *Kurbas in Kharkiv* and the *Kurbas: New Worlds* exhibition at the Mystetsky Arsenal in Kyiv.

YULA DEGLINA (stage manager) has worked with Yara since 2018. She is a Ukrainian Jewish film director, screenwriter, and producer. She graduated from Kyiv National University of Theater & Film with MFA in film directing. Her latest short "HOMO DEUS. Divine human" was funded by the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation and won awards at: Tokyo International Film Festiva, Kyiv International Social Short Film Festival and New York International Film Festival.

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. Yara Arts Group is a resident theatre company of La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York. Special thanks to Mia Yoo, Kiku Sakai and Mark Tambella. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 USA (212)475-6474 www.yaraartsgroup.net**
@yaraartsgroupinc instagram: @yara.arts

Show is dedicated to the artists who worked on "Hello, This Is Radio 477!" which opened at the Berezil Theatre in Kharkiv, Ukraine January 9, 1929.

The first workshop of *Radio 477* was in Kharkiv in November 2021 and included performers: Olena Bazhenova, Kateryna Kharпова, Artem Kochergin, Armen Kaloyan, Yaroslav Podshyvalov, Alina Pribytkova, Pavlo Saveliev and Olya Zubkova musicians: Serhiy Dikarev, Dima Faustov, Polina Faustova, Anatoli Komar, Vladislav Leonenko and Grygoriy Mishchenko. It was made possible by Tetiana Pylypiuk and the Slovo Building Residency at the Kharkiv Literary Museum, Yana Partola and the Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts in Kharkiv, Vira Lahutina and the Regional Centre of Culture and Arts of Kharkiv, Tanya Turko and the Theatre Museum at the Shevchenko Theatre and all the friends of Yara Arts Group.

Yara Arts Group is a resident company of La MaMa Experimental Theatre and expresses special thanks to Mia Yoo, Kiku Sakai and Mark Tambella.

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THE 2022 REHEARSAL FOR TRUTH THEATER FESTIVAL

The 2022 Rehearsal for Truth Theater Festival: Under Pressure is organized by the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation and the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association in partnership with the Polish Cultural Institute New York, GOH Productions, Czech National Trust, Terezin Music Foundation, Trap Door Theatre, and Yara Arts Group.

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FESTIVAL TEAM

Pavla Niklova, Executive Director | Katerina Kyselica, Marketing & Communications |
Bonnie Sue Stein, Production Manager | Marek Soltis, Technical Manager & Sound
| Katerina Kyselica, Graphic Design | Toby Nikl, Front of House



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