

The Yara Arts Group from La Mama Experimental Theatre in New York
and the Les Kurbas Young Theatre from Lviv present:

YARA'S FOREST SONG

exploring the shifting boundaries between wilderness and civilization



First St Workshop/La MaMa in NY Dec 3-5, 1993
Kurbas Young Theatre in Lviv May 14-22, 1994
La MaMa Theatre June 10-26, 1994

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and the Les Kurbas Young Theatre from Lviv present:

YARA'S FOREST SONG

exploring the shifting boundaries between wilderness and civilization

created by Virlana Tkacz with Yara Arts Group
based on *The Forest Song* by Lesia Ukrainka
translated by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps

directed by Virlana Tkacz
designed by Watoku Ueno
music by Genji Ito
movement by Shigeko Suga
Ukrainian co-translators: Oksana Batiuk,
Victor Neborak and Virlana Tkacz
production coordinator: Julie-Anne Franko
asst director: Jude Domski
stage manager: Miyan Levenson
sound: Michael Hnatyshyn
slide projection: Oleh Tsona
slides: Watoku Ueno & Ole Hein Pedersen
graphics: Carmen Pujols
director of Lviv Theatre: Volodymyr Kuchinsky
Lviv literary manager: Kateryna Slipchenko

CAST

SPRING FLOOD..... Ian Wen
WATER BRAT..... Jude Domski
ONDINE..... Natalka Korpan
BIRCH..... Natalka Polovynka
WILLOW..... Shigeko Suga
SYLPH..... Karen-Angela Bishop
LUKE..... Oleh Drach
SPARK..... Andrei Vodichev
MOTHER..... Tetiana Kasparuk
KYLYNA..... Lesia Kachor
KEEPER OF THE SHADOWS..... Andrew Colteaux

TEXTS

from "The Forest Song" by Lesia Ukrainka, 1911
translated by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps

from "The Reason Why I am Afraid Even Though I am a Fisherman"
by Ray A. Young Bear, 1984
from "Moved" by Uvavnuk, Iglulik Eskimo Woman, 1920
from "Lost" by David Wagoner
from "Spring Night" by SuTung Po, translated by Kenneth Rexroth
"No answer..." by Taniguchi Buson, (1715-83)
from "I Go from the Woods" by Wendell Berry (1934-)
from "Hymn to the Night" by Novalis, 1800 translated by Robert Bly
"The Oak" by Virlana Tkacz, 1993
"Run" by Oksana Batiuk, 1993 translated by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps
"The Grasshoppers Flee Stripping All Vegetation" by Barbara Henning
from "Inanna's Hymn: The Huluppu Tree", Sumerian 2000BC
translated by Diane Wolenstein & Samuel Noah Kramer
from "Last Days" by Mary Oliver, 1979
from "Rain" by Mary Oliver, 1992
from "The Return" by Thomas McGrath
Ukrainian Incantations
Anonymous Japanese poem and its translation by Kenneth Rexroth
from "Sleeping in the Forest" by Mary Oliver, 1978

Ukrainian translations of poetry are by Oksana Batiuk & Virlana Tkacz
Ukrainian translation of Act 3 are by Vicotr Neborak & Virlana Tkacz

THE COMPANY

OKSANA BATIUK (co-translator) was born in Kiev in 1972. She worked in Kiev's "Slovo" newspaper and is the author of "Other Times", a book of poetry. Her poems have been translated into English and published in London. In the winter of 1994 she worked with the Yara Arts Group in New York.

KAREN-ANGELA BISHOP (Slyph) Graduate of the Yale School of Drama (1993), and has performed in classical and contemporary productions in New York and Regional Theaters in the U.S. Karen is also an accomplished classical pianist. She hails from Baltimore, MD, USA, and is pleased to be making her Ukrainian debut. Peace.

ANDREW COLTEAUX (Keeper) was born in San Francisco and studied acting at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. He has appeared in productions of Shakespeare and new American plays. He created the part of Vasyl Yeroshenko in Yara's *Blind Sight* and performed it in Kiev, Kharkiv and New York. Currently, he is working on a new piece, *Time in Between*.

JUDE DOMSKI (Water Brat/Asst. Director) is from Vermont where there are "so many trees." She came to Ukraine for the bread and the poetry. She writes and is interested in creating experimental theater.

OLEH DRACH (Luke) was born near Lviv. He graduated from the Karpenko-Karyi Theatre Institute in Kiev. He worked at the Zankovetska National Theatre in Lviv before becoming one of the founding members of the Kurbas Young Theatre.

GENJI ITO (composer) has performed extensively both in the U.S. and abroad. Since 1982 he has been a member of the Great Jones Repertory and composed music for 15 production at La Mama. Last year he composed and performed the music for YUNUS directed by Ellen Stewart. Previously he composed the music for THREE MOONS, which Virlana Tkacz directed at La Mama with the Native American Theatre Ensemble.

MICHAEL HNATYSHYN (sound) born and bred in New York, but his heart lies in Ukraine. He loves writing both music and prose; hopes to be published one day in both English and Ukrainian.

LESIA KACHOR (Kylyna) was born near Lviv. She is a student at the Lviv University and a studio member at the Kurbas Young Theatre in Lviv.

TETIANA KASPRUK (Mother) was born near Lviv and studied at the theatre studio of Lviv University. She worked at the Zankovetska National Theatre in Lviv and then became one of the founding members of the Kurbas Young Theatre.

NATALKA KORPAN (Ondine) is a student at the Karpenko-Karyi Theatre Institute in Kiev. She took part in theatre workshops Virlana Tkacz conducted at the Institute in 1993 and 1994.

NANCY KRAMER (company manager) is currently working on Ubu Rep's production of THE ORPHANAGE. This is her third production with Yara. She is proud to have worked with the company on BLIND SIGHT in Ukraine last spring.

VOLODYMYR KUCHINSKY (director of Kurbas Young Theatre) was born near Lviv. He worked as an actor at the Zankovetska National Theatre in Lviv and studied directing with Anatoli Vassiliev in Moscow. He founded and is the artistic director of the Kurbas Young Theatre of Lviv.

MIYAN LEVENSON (stage manager) is happy to be back in the New York theater scene, after spending four years in the town of Telluride Colorado, where he learned how to wear a badge and gun, and still look cool. Miyan graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a B.A in theater. He is very pleased to be working with the Yara Arts Group.

VICTOR NEBORAK (co-translator) was born near Lviv and attended Lviv University. He works at the Literary Institute of the Academy of Sciences. His collections of poetry include: AMBER TIME (1987) and FLYING HEAD (1990). He is a member of the BuBaBu Poetry Collective.

WANDA PHIPPS (co-translator) was born and raised in Washington DC & studied literature at Columbia University in New York, acting in San Francisco & poetry in Colorado. She is the coordinator of the Monday Night Series at St. Mark's Poetry Project and was a recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Poetry Fellowship.

NATALKA POLOVYNKA (Birch) was born in Vinnychena. She graduated from the Lviv music conservatory. She joined the Kurbas Young Theatre in 1988 and has been working there ever since. She also took part in Jerzy Grotowski project "Slavic Pilgrims" in 1990.

KATERINA SLIPCHENKO (literary manager) was born Kiev and graduated from the Moscow University with a degree in art history. She is the literary manager of the Kurbas Young Theatre and has published numerous articles on theatre and visual arts.

SHIGEKO SUGA (Willow) is in her second season with the Yara Arts Group. She is a member of the Great Jones Rep directed by Ms. Ellen Stewart, Pan Asian Rep., Los Danzantes Spanish Dance Company. Shigeko is originally from Japan. She is a Flamenco dancer.

VIRLANA TKACZ (director/ co-translator) was born in Newark & studied theatre in Bennington College & Columbia University. She is the founding director Yara and created *Blind Sight*, *Explosions* and *Light from the East* with the group. She also directed *Return of the Native* with video artist Kit Fitzgerald which played in New York, Rio de Janeiro and Amsterdam. Together with Wanda Phipps, she received the AGNI Translation Prize.

OLEH TSONA (projectionist) was born near Lviv. He was a studio member at the Kurbas Young Theatre and joined the group in 1990.

WATOKU UENO (designer) was born in Japan and studied painting at the Sokei Fine Arts Academy in Tokyo. He came to New York twelve years ago and has been working in theatre since, mostly at La Mama, where he designed many performances. He also designed set & lights for theatre workshops at the Ukrainian Summer Institute at Harvard. He is a recipient of the NEA/TCG Design Fellowship.

ANDREI VODICHEV (Spark) was born in Crimea and studied at Kharkiv University. He has been working at the Kurbas Young Theatre since 1990.

IAN WEN (Spring Flood) is an actor from NYC. He played Ujaku in Yara Arts' last production, *Blind Sight*. He loves blowing his saxophone and listening to jazz, will play basketball even without shoes, and loves the theater that DARES. He is grateful for the opportunity to visit Ukraine and her people a second beautiful time.

Actors who rehearsed YARA'S FOREST SONG in New York:

OKSANA BABIY (Birch) is from Ivano-Frankivsk where she studied economics. Currently she lives in New York and spends most of her free time working in theatre.

RAY CULLOM (Luke) is a director who has lately turned to design because of his interest in visual theatre. This summer Ray will be scenic designer and production manager for 12 shows presented in repertory at Sunflight Theatre.

IRINA SOTO (Rose) was born in Kherson and graduated from the Kiev Institute of Culture with a degree in Theatre Direction. She worked as an actress for two seasons at the Ukrainian Theatre of Music and Drama in Luhansk.

VICTORIA LINCHON (Kylyna) was born in New York. She was a member of Theater for the New City's Summer Street Theater for five years and has also performed in Italy. She recently appeared in an independent film.

YARA ARTS GROUP, founded in 1990, creates original theatre pieces that explore timely topics through the diverse cultural perspectives of the group's members. Yara artists are Americans of Asian, African, Eastern and Western European ethnic origin. They bring together drama, poetry, song, historical materials and scientific texts, primarily from the East, to form what one critic described as "extended meditation on an idea." Yara's theatre pieces include: *Light from the East* (1990)/ *In the Light* (1991), *Explosions* (1992) and *Blind Sight* (1993). Yara traveled to Ukraine in 1991 and 1993 to create joint bilingual versions of its work with local artists. Yara has presented its work at festivals in Kiev and Kharkiv and at universities such as Harvard, NYU, Yale, Bucknell, Penn State, Manitoba and the theatre institutes in Kiev and Kharkiv. Yara is a resident company of La Mama E.T.C., the internationally acclaimed experimental theatre in New York.

LES KURBAS YOUNG THEATRE of LVIV, the recipient of the Vasyl Stus Award, was founded in 1988. Most of the theatre's productions are original compositions (*Dreams and Entertainment for Faust*, both based on Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*) or first stagings of long-ignored works (*Grateful Erody* by Skovoroda, *Law and Between Two Powers* by Vynnychenko). In the process of developing its own theatrical method, the troupe has been researching various theatrical techniques from throughout the world. The theatre has taken part in a number of international theatre projects: Grotowski's Slavic Pilgrims (1991), Anatoly Vassiliev's Russian-Ukrainian project (1990), joint works with the Gardzienice Center for Theatre Practice in Poland (1991, 1992, 1993). Members of the theatre also took part in projects created by the Yara Art Group from New York in Ukraine: *In the Light* (1991) and *Blind Sight* (1993). The Kurbas Theatre has presented work at a number of festivals: St Petersburg (1990), Moscow (1990), Gdansk (1991), Kiev (1992), Kharkiv (1993), Lublin (1993). In October 1993 the theatre co-organized an international laboratory festival "Creative Work: Methods and Practice."

Participants in the summer workshop: Shona Tucker, Shigeko, Victoria Linchon, Ian Wen, Dawn Saito, Ernest Abuba and Nadia Maryniak. Richarda Abrams, Yunjin Kim, Tim Reynolds, Sean Runnette, Katy Selverstone and Irina Soto took part in the workshop of *Yara's Forest Song* last December.

SPECIAL THANKS to: Alexandra and Jaroslaw Tkacz, Sam Glazer, Halyna Efremov, Oksana Radysh, Tamara Borysiuk, Natalia Kononeko, Michael Naydan, Tania Keis, Roman Veretelnik, Michele McKee of the Kristine Mann Library, Lya Kotys, Melanie Joseph, Liz Diamond, Susana Tubert, Mia Katigbak, Diana Son, Bruce Allardice, Nadia Maryniak, Daria Dorosh, Areta Pawlynsky, Tanya Lysynecky, Lida Mykytyn, Yuri Shevchuk, Cathy Zadoretzky, Irka Demchyshyn, Stefka Nazarkewicz, Adrian Hewryk and Keyann Belden. This piece was inspired by Ms India and Susanna from the Mars.

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