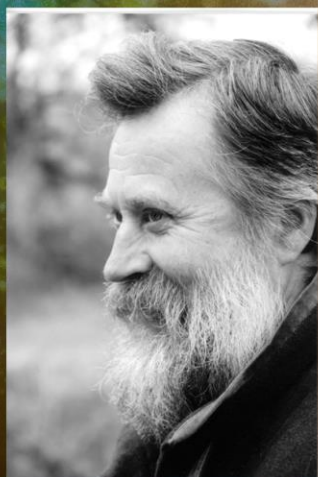


Yara Arts Group from La MaMa Experimental Theatre presents:

YARA'S THEATRE PROJECTS

POETRY AS THEATRE:

Oleh Lysheha's "Raven"



October 2020

www.yaraartsgroup.net

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Yara's Theatre Projects

Poetry as Theatre: Oleh Lysheha's *Raven*

Entrance video: wall painting scene with Andrew & Victoria

Introductions and on Oleh Lysheha: Virlana Tkacz

On Lviv, Oleh Lysheha and Translation: Wanda Phipps

Creating Characters Out of Poetry: workshop at Pasika in Kyiv
Andrew Colteaux, Larysa Rusnak, Mykola Shkaraban and Victoria Shupikova

Video: apple scene with Andrew and Larysa

Video bird appears with Mykola and Andrew

Design and *Raven* Waldemart Klyuzko

Yara's *Raven* (2011) at La MaMa:

Andrew Colteaux, Sean Eden and Kat Yew

Video: lake scene

Video wilderness

Music to Read *Raven*: Julian Kytasty

Exit video: Oleh Lysheha talks about Virlana after seeing "Raven"

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz

visual design: Waldemart Klyuzko, tech support: Darien Fiorino,

premiere: October 29, 2020

OLEH LYSHEHA was born in 1949 near the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine and studied English at the University of Lviv, where he began translating American poetry. Expelled from school during the purges in 1972 for contributing to journal *Skrynia* (The Chest), he was sent to do military duty in Siberia in the Buryat Republic. Returning, Lysheha settled in Kyiv and worked on his poetry, while holding menial jobs. His first collection, *The Great Bridge* (1989), was truly different from everything published in Soviet Ukraine. In 1994 Lysheha published the poem "Swan" and Yara incorporated the poem into its Harvard Theatre Workshop the following summer. Then fragments of the poem were in Yara's shows *Virtual Souls* (1997) and *Flight of the White Bird* (1999) at La MaMa and the Buryat National Theatre in Ulan Ude. In 1999 the poem was published in a bilingual collection *The Selected Poems of Oleh Lysheha* (Harvard University), in translations by the author and James Brasfield. The book was awarded the PEN Translation Prize. Lysheha's other collections of poetry included *Winter in Tysmenytsia* and *To Snow and Fire*. Lysheha died in 2014 at the age of 65 in Kyiv.

Virlana Tkacz

ANDREW COLTEAUX (performer) created the part of Vasyl Yeroshenko in Yara Arts Group's *Blind Sight* and performed it in Kharkiv, Kyiv and in New York at La MaMa. He also appeared in *Yara's Forest Song*, *Swan*, *The Warrior's Sister*, *Koliada*, *Raven* and *Dream Bridge*. which performed in Lviv, Kyiv, Bishkek and at La MaMa. A native of northern California, he is glad to be back in Marin County.

LARYSA RUSNAK (Kyiv performer) appeared in numerous theatre productions, films and TV projects. She works at the Franko National Theatre in Kyiv. She has worked with Yara Arts group since 2011 appearing in *Raven*, *Dream Bridge*, *Underground Dream* and *1917-2017: Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs*.

MYKOLA SHKARABAN (Kyiv performer) is an actor, director and translator. He appeared in the first Yara production, *A Light from the East*, as well as *Blind Sight*, *Koliada*, *Raven*, *Underground Dreams*, *Winter Light*, *Hitting Bedrock*, *Dark Night Bright Stars* and *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan and the Dogs*.

VICTORIA SHUPIKOVA (Kyiv performer) worked on Yara's *Raven* and currently, lives in Cyprus, where she runs a children's theatre group.

SEAN EDEN (New York performer) is a musician, composer, producer, and actor. He appeared in the first Yara production, *A Light from the East*, as well as *Explosions*, *Raven*, *Winter Light*, *Hitting Bedrock*, *Dark Night Bright Stars* and *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan and the Dogs*. He also has participated in a number of Yara poetry events over the years. He was a member of the acclaimed band Luna, who released seven studio albums over their career and created music for the scores of several feature films.

KAT YEW (New York performer) worked on numerous shows at La MaMa and Theatre for New City. With Yara Arts Group she worked on the productions of *Raven*, *Dream Bridge* and *Winter Sun*.

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. 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.

OLGA SHUHAN (Ukrainian voice) has worked with Yara on the shows *A Light from the East* and *Explosions*, as well as numerous poetry readings. She was in the original New York cast of Ping Chong's *Undesirable Elements*.

VIRLANA TKACZ (director/co-translator) 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 received an NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her translations with Wanda Phipps.

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, as well as several grants from the New York State Council on the Arts.

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.

DARIEN FIORINO is at Cornell University studying environmental science and performing arts. He was in Yara's *Winter Songs on Mars* and *1917/2017: Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* at La MaMa.

WATOKU UENO (designer) came to La MaMa in 1982 and worked on projects with Ping Chong, Ubu Rep and David Rousseve. He has also worked in New York theatres and internationally in Asia, Siberia and Eastern Europe. He is a founding member of the Yara Arts Group and has worked on almost every Yara show from its conception to its final production

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 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 (212)475-6474 www.yaraartsgroup.net

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