

Yara Arts Group presents:

Slap!

*David Burliuk, Ukrainian artist, is slapped by a Scythian Ice Princess.
The obvious result: Futurism in Siberia, Japan and New York*

Yara's new theatre piece
with **Bob Holman,**
Susan Hwang
and **Julian Kytasty**
directed by **Virlana Tkacz**

Jan 23 - Feb 9
Th-Sat 7:30 PM, Sun 2

2025

East Village Basement
321 East 9th St, New York, NY

Tickets: www.YARAARTSGROUP.net



SLAP!

*David Burliuk is slapped by a Scythian Viper Woman.
The obvious result: Futurism in Siberia, Japan and New York.*

with Bob Holman, Susan Hwang and Julian Kytasty

director: Virlana Tkacz

set & light design: Watoku Ueno

projections & props: Darien Fiorino

costumes: Keiko Obremski, graphics: Waldemart Klyuzko

stage manager: Anastasia Panchenko & Chrystina Deychakiwsky

director's assistant: Olenka Tsygankova, scrolls Sono Kuwayama

David Burliuk was a painter, poet and the energetic organizer of Futurism. He was born in 1882 near Kharkiv area in eastern Ukraine. His father managed the largest estate with horse in the Kherson area, called Hylaea by the ancient Greeks. He studied in Odesa, Kazan, Munich and Paris. Burliuk's early paintings show Fauvist and Cubist influences, as well as a fascination with Scythian culture. He took part in many excavations of the Scythian burial mounds that dot the Kherson area where he spent his formative years. He founded the artistic group Hylaea. Burliuk's favorite character was Mamai, who embodied for him a vision of self-sufficiency. Burliuk was an active participant in important avant-garde exhibitions in Kyiv, Moscow, St. Petersburg and Munich. With the Futurists, Burliuk toured 17 cities. They drew packed houses, scandalizing some, but also winning converts. During the revolutionary years, he traveled to Siberia, giving Futurist performances. From 1920 to 1922 he spent time in Japan. In 1922, Burliuk arrived in New York. He died on Long Island in 1967.

SLAP! was created by **Bob Holman, Susan Hwang, Julian Kytasty and Virlana Tkacz** and includes the following:

"Meet Mamai" & "Pushchu konia" Ukrainian traditional song deformed by Julian Kytasty.

"Viper Woman Song" Susan Hwang, 2019

From "Khortysia Island" by David Burliuk, translated by V. Tkacz, J. Kytasty & B. Holman.

from "Old Triangle Face Sees Everything" by Bob Holman

from "Squares" and "Hylea" by Bob Holman, music by Julian Kytasty

"We Are the Scythians" words by Bob Holman, music by Julian Kytasty

"The Second Ukrainian and Russian Futurist Manifesto" by Bob Holman

"Siberia Song" by Susan Hwang

"The Third Russian and Ukrainian Futurist Manifesto" by Bob Holman

from "Zangezi" by Velimer Khlebnikov

"Viper Too" by Susan Hwang

"Tatlin Music" by Julian Kytasty

from “I have one last thing” by Mykola Burliuk, translated by Virlana Tkacz & Julian Kytasty
“Vladivostok” words by Bob Holman, music by Susan Hwang
“Bi Ba Bo” song by Susan Hwang
“Burluiuk’s Entrance” words by Bob Holman
“Japan (36 Views of Mt Fuji/Hokusai)” by David Burliuk, trans: V. Tkacz & Bob Holman
“Listen to Me” song by Susan Hwang
From “Mt Mihara” in the book “Oshima” by David Burliuk, translated by Julian Kytasty
“A stone thrown from the top” by David Burliuk, translation and music by Julian Kytasty
from “A Radio Manifesto from a Futurist to the Future” by David Burliuk, 1926

BOB HOLMAN is a poet most often connected with the oral tradition, spoken word, poetry slams and digital poetry. His most recent books include: *India Journals*, to accompany the film he wrote and hosts, *Ginsberg’s Karma*; and *Life Poem* and *The Unspoken*, two books of poetry written 50 years apart. As an actor, he originated and toured in *Stories Left to Tell: Spalding Gray* and created the part of Captain John Smith in Yara’s *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine*. He also performed in *1917-2017: Tychyna Zhadan & the Dogs* at La MaMa and “*Radio477!*” He created two award-winning PBS series, *The United States of Poetry*, and *Language Matters*, a documentary on endangered languages. www.bobholman.com

SUSAN HWANG tells stories and makes collapsible things like songs and times. She plays accordion, janggu (Korean drum) and piano, but physical objects she can’t play, wear or eat intimidate her. She’s the founder/producer of international, literature-inspired arts non-profit, [The Bushwick Book Club](http://TheBushwickBookClub.com). Not a great vacationer, she leaves NYC for theater and with bands like The Debutante Hour, [Lusterlit](http://Lusterlit.com) and Soozee Hwang and The Relastics. You can read her first illustrated story in “Coinky Dink” a zine produced by artist Yoko Oji Kikuchi. Susan plays accordions because they’re lighter than pianos (barely) and drums because it’s healthy for a girl to hit things. susanhwanglalala.com lusterlit.com

JULIAN KYTASTY is a third-generation bandura player. He is both a keeper of traditions and an innovator who has opened new paths for his instrument. He has worked frequently with Yara Arts Group creating and performing music for theatre pieces, poetry performances, and festivals. His work on Yara’s *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* earned him a NY Innovative Theater award for best original score. He continues to teach bandura to a new generation of students in North America and Ukraine, to record, to compose and arrange music for bandura, and to engage in collaborative projects.

VIRLANA TKACZ (director) heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed 40 original shows at La MaMa Theatre in New York, as well as in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. Favorite productions include *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine*, *Dark Night Bright Stars*, *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* and *Radio 477!* She received a NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her translations with Wanda Phipps of Serhiy Zhadan’s poetry, the second volume of which was published by Yale University Press as *How Fire Descends* (2023).

WATOKU UENO (set & lights) began his journey at La MaMa ETC, where he discovered his passion for avant-garde theatre. His creative adventures have taken him

from Ukraine to Kyrgyzstan and Siberia, forming deep collaborations with local artists. Known for his poetic shadow puppet shows, often exploring the theme of trees, Ueno’s artistry earned him grants from the Jim Henson Foundation for *Tall Keyaki Tree* and the Bronx Council on the Arts for *Silent Green*. With two American Theatre Wing nominations and an NEA/TCG Fellowship. As a founding member of the Yara Arts Group, a resident company at La MaMa, Ueno continues to contribute significantly to the vibrant world of theatre. www.watokuueno.com

DARIEN FIORINO (projection & props) appeared in Yara’s *A Thousand Suns, Koliada on Mars, Forest Song*, and *1917-2017: Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs* at La MaMa which garnered two New York Innovative Theatre Awards. He has been working on *SLAP!* with Yara since 2019.

KEIKO OBREMSKI (costumes) 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* and *1917-2017: Tychyna, Zhadan and the Dogs*, and *Radio:477!* Currently she works as a dresser for Broadway shows. She is also a Kimono dresser.

ELIAS HUSIAK (production coordinator) is a NYC born-and-raised actor, singer, director and co-founder of East Village Basement. This winter, he’s acting in the new production of *AIDA* at The Metropolitan Opera. Graduate of The Neighborhood Playhouse and Ithaca College (BFA Musical Theatre) IG: @elihusiak - www.eliahusiak.com.

ANASTASIA PANCHENKO (stage manager) worked with Yara Arts Group on the reading of *Blind Sight* summer 2023 and on *Mariupol: Diaries of War and the Tree of Life* at Howl Happening and the festivals last spring. She also appeared in a documentary performance *Are We There Yet?* with nine other teenagers from Ukraine at the New York Theatre Workshop. She volunteers for Razom.

CHRISTINA DEYCHAKIWSKY (stage manager) moved to New York from Michigan and worked with Yara Arts Group on *SLAP!* this fall.

OLENKA TSYHANKOVA (director’s assistant) is a curator and artist from Lviv, who graduated from Bard College.

aide de camp: **Brendan Schweda**

YARA ARTS GROUP was established in 1990 and is a resident company at La MaMa, the acclaimed experimental theatre in New York. Yara has created over 40 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. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 USA (212) 475-6474** www.yaraartsgroup.net: @yaraartsgroupinc Instagram: @yara.arts

EAST VILLAGE BASEMENT is a multipurpose theatre/arts space located in the historically artistic neighborhood of New York City. The space is designed like a cozy living room, providing an intimate and creative atmosphere for small-scale shows, readings, rehearsals, film shoots, art exhibitions, and more. **321 E 9th Street NYC, NY 10003. IG: @eastvillagebasement --** www.eastvillagebasement.com.