

La Mama E.T.C. & the Yara Arts Group
present a workshop production of:

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
asst director: Jude Domski
stage manager: Nancy Kramer

CAST

SPRING FLOOD.....	Ian Wen
WATER BRATS.....	Jude Domski
.....	& Richarda Abrams
ONDINE.....	Katy Selverstone
WILLOW MOTHER.....	Shigeko
SYLPH.....	Yunjin Kim
LUKE.....	Timothy Reynolds
UKRAINIAN TEXTS.....	Irina Soto
KYLYNA.....	Victoria Linchon
KEEPER OF THE SHADOWS.....	Sean Runnette

slides: Watoku Ueno & Ole Hein Pedersen
projectionist: Roman Bidiak
graphics: Carmen Pujols
taped voices: Andrew Colteaux & Virlana Tkacz

December 3 - 5, 1993
La Mama's First Street Workshop Space

TEXTS

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

from "Moved" by Uvavnuuk, Iglulik Eskimo Woman, 1920
from "Autmn" by Pavlo Tychyna, 1921
"Hymn to the Night" by Novalis, 1800 translated by Robert Bly
from "Last Days" by Mary Oliver, 1979
"The Oak" by Virlana Tkacz, 1993
from "A Bus Along St Clair: December" by Margaret Atwood, 1970
"The Grasshoppers Flee Stripping All Vegetation" by Barbara Henning, 1993
from "Rain" by Mary Oliver, 1992
Ukrainian Incantations and Spells
Anonymous Japanese poem translated by Kenneth Rexroth
from "Sleeping in the Forest" by Mary Oliver, 1978
from "The Reason Why I am Afraid Even Though I am a Fisherman"
by Ray A. Young Bear, 1984

LESIA UKRAINKA 1871-1913 was born Larysa Kosach. She was the daughter of Ukrainian writer, Olena Pchilka and grew up surrounded by major figures in theatre, arts and sciences in Kiev. She spoke a several European languages and often traveled to the spas of Europe and the Middle East because of her health. Her lyrical poems were at first influenced by her own translations of Heine. Her poetic dramas are symbolic works which often draw their themes from the spiritual history of the world. They examine the historical process and how human aspirations operate within it. **THE FOREST SONG** is her most popular work. It is based on the legends and songs of the Polissia, the wetlands of northern Ukraine. **THE FOREST SONG** has been the inspirations for several operas, movies and ballets.

THE COMPANY

RICHARDA ABRAMS (Water Brat) received her B.F.A. and M.A. from New York University. Her most recent credits include Celeste in **BROWN GAL'S RISING** at Under One Roof, and **ROOTS OF RAP...POETRY** at Henry Street Settlement. Richarda was Mother in Yara's **EXPLOSIONS** and Anna Sharapova in Yara's **BLIND SIGHT** at La Mama E.T.C. and in Ukraine.

JUDE DOMSKI (Water Brat/ asst director) has written and directed experimental theatre pieces, including adaptations of Kafka's **THE HUNGER ARTST** and Salinger's **A PERFECT DAY FOR BANANAFISH**. She worked on Yara's production of **BLIND SIGHT**,

GENJI ITO (composer) has performed extensively both in the U.S. and abroad, including **THE COUCH WITH THE SIX INSIDE** and **WATERMILL** for the New York City Ballet and **PACIFIC OVERTURES** directed by Harold Prince on Broadway. Since 1982 he has been a member of the Great Jones Repertory and composed music for 15 production at La Mama, for which he received an OBIE Award. Most recently he composed and performed the music for **IPHIGENIA IN TAURUS** directed by Yannis Houvardus, **YUNUS** directed by Ellen Stewart and **GHOSTS LIVE FROM GALILEE** directed by George Ferencz. Previously he composed the music for **THREE MOONS**, which Virlana Tkacz directed at La Mama with the Native American Theatre Ensemble

YUNJIN KIM (Sylph) last appeared in **HAMLET** as Ophelia at NADA. Her New York credits include **THE CHERRY ORCHARD** as Anya at NATCO and **HEY MAMA** as Ching Lee. She received a B.F.A in Acting from Boston University appearing as Charlotte Corday in **MARAT/SADE**, Varya in **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**, Angel, Seuritate, Patient, and Girl Student in **MAD FOREST**, and Lee in **MARVIN'S ROOM**.

NANCY KRAMER (stage manager) has recently stage managed the River Ensemble's production of **ROAD**. This is her third production with Yara. She is proud to have worked with the company in Ukraine last spring.

VICTORIA LINCHON (Kylyna) was a member of Theater for the New City's Summer Street Theater for five years. She performed in Italy with Crystal Field in **ONE DIRECTOR AGAINST HIS CAST**, played Hecate in **ACADEMEDEA**, Baby Doll in a scene from **TIGER TAIL** at Stella Adler Conservatory, and was featured as Mary Lois in Jeff Weiss' Obie Award winning **HOT KEYS** at Naked Angels. She is currently assisting Theater for the New City's Arts in Education program. Victoria was trained by Sanford Meisner and John Ueder.

WANDA PHIPPS (co-translator) was a recipient of the 1991 New York Foundation for the Arts Poetry Fellowship. Her poems have appeared in over 30 literary magazines and she can be heard on a compilation CD, "The State of the Union," released by Arrest Records. She is the coordinator for the Monday Night Reading/Performance Series at the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church. With Virlana she created **A LIGHT FROM THE EAST**, **EXPLOSIONS**, **BLIND SIGHT** and **PANDORA: A RECONSIDERED MASQUE**. Together they have received the AGNI Translation Prize awarded by Boston University, a NYSCA Translation grant and The National Theatre Translation Fund Award.

TIMOTHY REYNOLDS (Luke) received a B.F.A. from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where he studied at the Classical Studio and with Ryszard Ciesiak at the Experimental Theatre Wing. Most recently he performed in Noah Fleishner's **DIRT AN' BONES** from TeleoTheater; at the Divadelni Ostrov in Prague in **RED NOSES** for the Prague Project, and in **ROMEO** and **JULIET** for the Shakespeare

Project at various locations in Manhattan. He is a certified actor-combatant with S.A.F.D. Television is evil.

SEAN RUNNETTE (Keeper of the Shadows) is a graduate of the A.R.T. Institute, where he appeared in **CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE** directed by Slobodan Unkovski, **THE LABYRINTH**, **SUBURBIA**, written and directed by Eric Bogosian and **LIFE IS A DREAM**. He was in Andrei Serban's **KING STAG** at the Mitsui Festival and appeared in Robert Auletta's **TOBAGGANIST**. He played the Billionaire in Yara Arts Group's **EXPLOSIONS**.

KATY SELVERSTONE (Ondine) played Raina in **ARMS AND THE MAN** at the Huntington Theatre, Petra in **AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE** at Baltimore Center Stage, and Alais in **LION IN WINTER** at Virginia Stage Co. She was The Boy in Rena Yerushalmi's **SIX CHARACTERS** and Aase: The Button Moulder in Yossi Ysraeli's **PEER GYNT**. New York Theatre credits include New York Theatre Workshop, Theatre Off Park, Alice's 4th Floor, NADA, and The Judith Anderson. Her film credits include **RAIN WITHOUT THUNDER** with Betty Buckley and Austin Pendleton, and the title role in The London International film **ZAIL**. She is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon.

SHIGEKO (Willow Mother) is a member of Yara Arts Group, Great Jones Repertory, Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, Theatre Dionysus, and Los Danzantes Spanish Dance Company. She has recently adapted and directed **SOTOKOMACHI**, **TEATRO FLAMENCO Y BUTOH** in Mexico City. She sends much love and respect to Ms Ellen Stewart.

IRINA SOTO (Ukrainian texts) was born in Kherson in southern Ukraine on the Black Sea. She 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 appearing in classical and contemporary Ukrainian plays.

VIRLANA TKACZ (director/co-translator) is the founding director of Yara Arts Group and created **BLIND SIGHT**, **EXPLOSIONS**, **A LIGHT FROM THE EAST**. In 1991 she created the bilingual **IN THE LIGHT**, which performed in Kiev, Kharkiv and Lviv. In 1993 she directed the multilingual **BLIND SIGHT**, which performed at the Berezil International Theatre Festival in Kharkiv and the Festival of Experimental Theatres in Kiev. She has also worked with video artist Kit Fitzgerald, directing **RETURN OF THE NATIVE**, which played in BAM's Next Wave Festival, in Rio de Janeiro and in Amsterdam. Together with Wanda Phipps she received the AGNI Translation Prize awarded by Boston University, a NYSCA Translation grant and The National Theatre Translation Fund Award.

WATOKU UENO (designer) was the recipient of a NEA/TCG Design Fellowship. At La Mama he designed **BLIND SIGHT**, **EXPLOSIONS**, **A LIGHT**

FROM THE EAST, AN ALTAR TO HIMSELF and THREE MOONS, directed by Virlana Tkacz, HYPOTHESIS directed by Liz Diamond, MANA GOES TO THE MOON choreographed by David Rousseve, DESHIMA by Ping Chong and Company. He has also designed a number of shows for UBU Rep Theatre. He is a founding member of the Yara Arts Group and has designed the set and lights for all the Harvard Summer Theatre Workshops. Watoku was born in Japan and was educated at the Sokei Art School in Tokyo.

IEN WEN (Spring Flood) recently played Skin Lad in the River Ensemble's production of ROAD. He also performed in Yara's production of BLIND SIGHT as Ujaku in New York and Ukraine. He is very pleased to be working with Yara Arts Group once again.

YARA ARTS GROUP creates theatre that explores the ideas and cultures of the East. Yara artists are of Asian, African Eastern and Western European ethnic origin and create original theatre pieces using poetry, historical documents, drama and song to form what one critic described as "extended meditation on an idea." Yara's most recent theatre piece, BLIND SIGHT opened at the Berezil International Theatre Festival in Kharkiv and played in Kiev and New York. It was about the blind poet Vasyl Yeroshenko who traveled to Japan in 1914 and became a Japanese writer. Yara's first project, A LIGHT FROM THE EAST, about Les Kurbas, performed in New York, Kiev, Kharkiv and Lviv. Poetry included in Yara's EXPLOSIONS, commemorating Chernobyl, was awarded the AGNI Translation Prize. Currently the group is working on YARA'S FOREST SONG will be a co-production with the Lviv Young Theatre. Yara Arts Group has also staged numerous evenings of poetry performed bilingually, produced five workshop productions of works-in-progress and conducted workshops and presentations at Harvard, New York University, University of Manitoba, Wayne State, Penn State University, as well as Theatre Institutes in Kiev and Kharkiv. Yara is a resident at La Mama E.T.C., the internationally acclaimed experimental theatre in New York.

Participants in Yara's summer workshop on the FOREST SONG: Shona Tucker, Shigeko, Victoria Linchon, Ian Wen, Dawn Saito, Ernest Abuba and Nadia Maryniak.

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