

The Ukrainian Museum and Yara Arts Group present:



April 24, 2020  
Virtually

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**ZHADAN & FRIENDS 2020: POETRY**

Serhiy Zhadan reads poems from books  
*What We Live For*, *What We Die For* and *Antenna*  
and American poets respond

***What We Live For/ What We Die For***  
“Needle”

Serhiy Zhadan reads  
Dzvinia Orlovsky responds to the book  
with three Cento Poems

“New York Fucking City”  
Serhiy Zhadan reads  
Wanda Phipps reads translation

“...not to wake her up”  
Serhiy Zhadan  
Virlana Tkacz reads translation

***Antenna***

“How are poems written”  
Serhiy Zhadan reads  
Isaac Stackhouse Wheeler reads translation  
and responds with “After Zhadan”  
Olena Jennings responds with “Foyer”

“And after two years of silence...”  
Serhiy Zhadan reads  
Olena Jennings reads translation  
and responds with “Unpacking”

“Summer begins”  
Serhiy Zhadan reads  
Wanda Phipps reads translation  
and responds with “when we paused”

Translations from the Ukrainian by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps  
Music by Julian Kytasty on bandura  
Director: Virlana Tkacz Tech Support: Darien Fiorino

**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 include *Voroshilovgrad*, *Mesopotamia* and *Orphanage*. He is the front man for the band Zhadan and the Dogs, and has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2002. Last spring Yale University Press published his selected poems as *What We Live For/What We Die For* translated by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps and it was nominated for the PEN Translation Award.

**DZVINIA ORLOWSKY** is a Pushcart prize poet, translator, and a founding editor of Four Way Books. She has authored six poetry collections published by Carnegie Mellon University Press including *Bad Harvest*, named a 2019 Massachusetts Book Awards “Must Read” in Poetry. Her poem sequence “The (Dis)enchanted Desna” was selected by Robert Pinsky as the 2019 co-winner of the New England Poetry Club Samuel Washington Allen Prize.

**WANDA PHIPPS**, a founding member of Yara Arts Group, is a writer/translator and author of the books *Field of Wanting: Poems of Desire* and *Wake-Up Calls: 66 Morning Poems* among others. Her poetry has been published over 100 times and translated into Ukrainian, Hungarian, Arabic, Galician and Bangla. She has received awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Agni Journal, the National Theater Translation Fund, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

**ISAAC STACKHOUSE WHEELER** is a poet and literary translator from New Hampshire, best known for his work on English renderings of Serhiy Zhadan's novels with co-translator Reilly Costigan-Humes, published by Deep Vellum and Yale University Press and positively reviewed by publications including the Los Angeles Review of Books, the New Yorker, and the Times Literary Supplement. His work has also appeared in numerous journals.

**OLENA JENNINGS** was awarded a grant by the Queens Council on the Arts for her forthcoming poetry collection *Memory Project*. Her translations of Iryna Shuvalova's poetry were published by Lost Horse Press in 2019. She has an MFA from Columbia University

**VIRLANA TKACZ** heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed 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 of Serhiy Zhadan's poetry and was nominated for the PEN Translation Award this spring.

**JULIAN KYTASTY** is a bandurist, singer, and composer whose work moves freely between the deep tradition of Ukrainian epic song and contemporary free improvisation. He has been creating music for Yara events for over twenty years. His work with Yara Arts Group and Zhadan and the Dogs on *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* earned Innovative Theatre Awards for Best Musical Score and Best Musical.

**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. Other notable roles include Hank Williams in L. Fondakowski's *Spill* and Iachimo in Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*.

**THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM** was founded in 1976 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America as a showcase for Ukrainian culture. The Museum has amassed extensive collections of folk art, fine art, and archival material. It mounts several exhibitions annually; publishes accompanying bilingual catalogues; organizes courses, workshops, and other educational programs; and hosts a variety of public events. In April 2005 the Museum moved into a new, state-of-the-art facility in New York's East Village, funded entirely by the Ukrainian American community.

**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 and documentation. Yara has also created numerous events and the exhibition *Kurbas: New Worlds* for the Art Arsenal in Kyiv in 2019. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 (212) 475-6474 yara@prodigy.net [www.yaraartsgroup.net](http://www.yaraartsgroup.net)**

Yara's Spring Poetry Events were made possible by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts and the Self Reliance Foundation. Since 2015 they have been hosted by the Ukrainian Museum of New York.



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[www.yaraartsgroup.net](http://www.yaraartsgroup.net)