

JULIAN KYTASTY Master bandura player performing trational & new work

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 almost forty original shows at La MaMa in New York, that also performed in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. Her production of 1917-2017: Tychyna Zhadan & the Dogs" won the 2018 New York Innovative Theatre Awards for best musical.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO (graphics) is an artist from Kyiv, Ukraine, who has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2010.

CHRYSTINA DEYCHAKIWSKY (stage manager) moved to New York from Michigan, and this is her first show with Yara Arts Group.

ANASTASIA PANCHENKO (stage manager) worked with Yara Arts Group since summer 2023 on Blind Sight, Mariupol: Diaries of War and the Tree of Life at Howl Happening and the festivals, as well as *SLAP!* and ZHADAN & Friends 2024 this fall.

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 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 (212)475-6474 www.varaartsgroup.net: @yaraartsgroupinc instagram: @yara.arts

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