

March 2024

Number 91

Yara arts group Newsletter

If you missed:

Mariupol: Diaries of War and the Tree of Life

in March, it is coming

uptown to the Bohemian National Hall on E 73rd St

June 17, 2024

For updates & details see:

www.yaraartsgroup.net

Yara's Mariupol Art Project

captures the resilience of Ukrainians in an exhibit of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs and a multi-media performance about Russia's full-scale invasion of the city.

An exhibit of photographs documenting the siege of Mariupol by acclaimed Pulitzer Prize winners Evgeniy Maloletka and Mstyslav Chernov envelops a stage production by Yara Arts Group. The result is the multi-media event, *Mariupol*, featuring a powerful photography exhibit and a compelling performance piece titled *Mariupol: Diary of War and the Tree of Life*. To create the latter, **Virlana Tkacz** interwove four diaries from Mariupol collected by **Daria Kolomic** in her "Diary of War" podcast together with songs, video and poetry by **Serhiy Zhadan**, Ukraine's best-known poet.

Presented by Howl Arts & Yara Arts Group, the *Mariupol Exhibit* runs March 7 to 24, 2024, Wed--Sundays 1-5 PM, at Howl 6 East 1st Street in Manhattan.

The performance piece, *Mariupol: Diary of War and the Tree of Life*, plays in the same space on March 15-17, & 22-24

at 6 PM.

The *Mariupol Exhibition* photographs are by **Evgeniy Maloletka** and **Mstyslav Chernov**, the only Ukrainian journalists with international connections reporting from the besieged city. Their work earned them the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for public service. Evgeniy Maloletka received a second Pulitzer for breaking news photography and the prestigious Press Photo of the Year Award. Mstyslav Chernov's documentary film, "20 Days in Mariupol," has earned numerous awards, including the British Academy Film Award, and the Oscar for best documentary film

Mariupol: Diary of War and the Tree of Life performance is directed by Virlana Tkacz and features four diaries collected by Daria Kolomic. The Mariupol diaries are by Yaroslav Semenenko, a member of the Ukrainian National Paralympic swim team; Yevhenia Ivanchenko, a captain in the Mariupol Police; Olena Nikulina, from an old Mariupol family, whose husband defended Azovstal and is currently a Russian captive; and Valeria Mykhailovska, was working in the Czech Republic and decided to return home to Mariupol to rescue her mother.

Virlana interwove the diaries from Mariupol, adding several poems by Serhiy Zhadan, which she translated with **Wanda Phipps**. Yara's **Julian**

Kytasty created the music and **Maksym Lozynskyj** designed the sound. **Tom Lee** designed the production with **Waldemart Klyuzko**. Yara performers include **Hanna Datsko**, **George Drance**, **Silvana Gonzalez**, **Oksana Horban**, **Susan Hwang**, **Daria Kolomic**, **Diana Kuzminova**, **Maksym Lozynskyj** and **Petro Ninovskyi**.

Performances coming to the **Ha-vel Festival at Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73rd St, Manhattan** updates www.yaraartsgroup.net

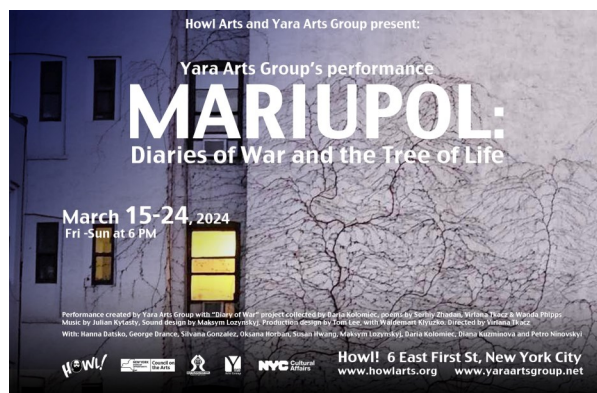
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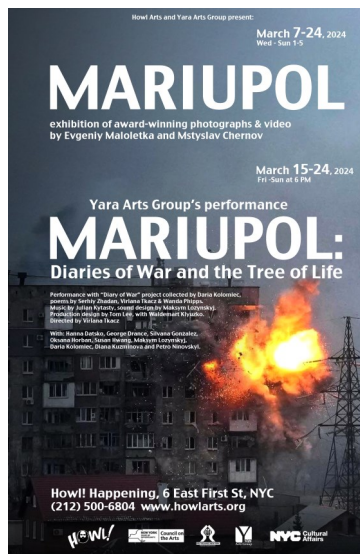
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Petro Ninovskiy in Mariupol photo by Pavlo Terekhov (above) and Waldemart Klyuzko's poster for the Mariupol exhibit and performance (below)



Press on Yara's Mariupol Arts Project

Here is some press on Yara's Mariupol Art Project at Howl Happening Gallery this March:

"A multi-media performance recreating the stories of Ukrainians from the city of Mariupol, now destroyed and occupied by Russian forces, during the first months of the full-scale invasion, has a limited run this month in New York City. The heartbreaking accounts, based on real diaries of Ukrainian people, are recreated by English-speaking actors, bridging the gap between the awful realities of the war and western audiences.

Mariupol: Diary of War and the Tree of Life, created by Virlana Tkacz, is presented by the Yara Arts Group. The show is accompanied by photos taken by Evgeniy Maloletka and Mstyslav Chernov, Pulitzer Prize winning journalists, whose film, *20 Days in Mariupol* received the Oscar as best feature documentary.

Remaining performances run March 22, 23, 24 at Howl Arts Gallery, 6 E. First St. **Katya Soldak, Forbes, Culture Front, March 18, 2024,**

Press in Ukrainian

До 24 березня у Нью-Йорку триватиме виставка "Маріуполь" — мультимедійний проєкт, присвячений тимчасово окупованому місту з нагадуванням для американської публіки про воєнні злочини росія. Про це Суспільне Культура дізналося з пресрелізу.

Проєкт "Маріуполь" складається з двох частин:
1) виставки фотографій від Євгена

Малолетки і Мстислава Чернова. Фотограф Євген Малолетка разом із відеожурналістом Мстиславом Черновим та продюсеркою Васи-Лісою Степаненко були єдиними представниками міжнародних медіа, які понад два тижні працювали в Маріуполі під російською окупацією.

Команда документалистувала руйнування, ро-боту медиків у лікар-нях, жертви серед ци-вільного населення. Найбільший резонанс спричинили кадри, зняті 9 березня біля зруйнованого через російські обстріли пологового будинку. Ці та інші матеріали стали основою для фільму "20 днів у Маріуполі", що здобув для України першого "Оскара" в історії.

2) документального театрального перформансу **Mariupol: Diary of War and the Tree of Life**. Перформанс створила організація Howl Arts та мистецька група Yara Arts Group. Його сюжет побудовано на чотирьох історіях українців, які на початку вторгнення опинилися в Маріуполі: **Ярослав Семененко** — член паралімпійської збірної України з плавання; **Євгенія Іванченко** капітанка поліції Маріуполя; **Олена Нікуліна** дружина азовця Максима Нікуліна, який зараз перебуває в російському полоні; **Валерія Михайловська**, яка на момент 24 лютого 2022 року працювала у Чехії та вирішила повернутися додому в Маріуполь, щоб врятувати матір.

Перформанс поєднує документальні матеріали з проєкту активістки **Дар'ї Коломієць** *Diary of War*, поезію, пісні та хорео-

графію. Режисеркою проєкту стала американська мисткиня українського походження **Вірляна Ткач**. У виставі використали поезію Сергія Жадана в перекладі Вірляни та Ванди Фіпс. Над музикою працював бандурист **Джуліан Китастий**, декорації створив художник **Том Лі**, а митець **Вальдемар Ключко** розробив візуальну концепцію та графіку.

Виставка "Маріуполь" працюватиме до 24 березня, із середи по неділю з 13:00 до 17:00, за адресою Howl 6 East 1st Street на Мангеттені. **Виставу Mariupol: Diary of War and the Tree of Life** можна буде побачити в цьому ж приміщенні з 22 до 24 березня о 18:00.

Mariupol at Yale

Evgeniy Maloletka spoke on "Documenting War Crimes in Ukraine" at Yale University's Jackson School of Global Affairs. He was in conversation with Yale's professor Marci Shore at an event on November 16, 2023 that was co-sponsored by Ukraine House at Yale. and Poynter. Evgeniy showed his own photographs from Mariupol as he spoke about what he witnessed.
Photo by Pavlo Terekhov



Yara's Koliada 2023



Last December I visited Kryvorivnia in the Carpathians and had long discussions with our Koliadnyky. We decided to film their answers to questions that I had always wanted to ask them.

I asked Pan **Ivan Zelenchuk** how he first heard about the Koliada. I had heard about how his father kept a notebook with the old words, but had not heard many of the other stories and hadn't seen any of the old photographs.

We decided that this year Yara's Koliada zoom would include these interviews, as well the story of how my own interest in the Koliada arose and changed over the years.

In the zoom, I outlined what is the Hutsul Koliada and how I first put together our bilingual book *Still the River Flows: Winter Solstice and Christmas Rituals in a Carpathian Village*.

We collected the material for the book during our first visit to Kryvorivnia in 2003 with photographer **Alexander Khan-taev** and a lot of help from pani **Lesia Turianska**. This book includes a basic outline and the words and translations I did with **Wanda Phipps** to our favorite winter songs, including the oldest Koliada ever written down.

Mykola Zelenchuk, Ivan's son who worked with us on

many Koliada performances, was asked to tell us about his *trembita*. In New York, he always used one of the pair that old man **Tafyichuk** had made for us. At home he had a very old *trembita*. He told its story and played it for us.

Next, I visited **Mykola Il-yuk's** Museum in Verkhovyna and talked to him about his violin. Mykola is a multi-instrumentalist and can play just about anything, even an old shotgun as he proved. Mykola also told me about his father and how he took part in the iconic film *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*.

Many of the best Koliadas are the ones dedicated to young women and the man with a house full of young ladies is **Vasyl Tymchuk**. He has five daughters and is also known as the best *tsymbaly* player in the Carpathians. He showed us his prowess and



Vasyl's daughters shared with us a new Koliada – one about Russia's war on Ukraine today.

Ostap Kostiuk sent us a video with his wishes for all of us. How appropriate, since each visit by the Koliadnyky ends with their wishes for us in the coming year.

We hope your holidays were wonderful! Even though spring is here—you can still watch these fascinating stories on our Facebook and YouTube channels. The links are on our website www.yaraartsgroup.net.

See you soon

Virlana Tkacz

Hutsul Honey video

Ivan Zelenchuk of Kryvorivnia, a legendary village in the Carpathians, is a traditional beekeeper. He shares his secrets with us in a beautiful documentary that was shot by his daughter, **Maria Dosiak**, throughout an entire year. It was edited by **Waldemart Klyuzko**.

Watch this fascinating and enjoyable video for free on Yara Arts Group's Youtube Channel

@yaraartsgroup9801



Oksana Horban
& Susan Hwang
in Mariupol
Below

Susan Hwang in Mariupol
both photos by
Pavlo Terekhov



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Check out
Yara's website
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Yara at New York University

To commemorate the second year of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine **Julian Kytasty, Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps** presented an evening of Ukrainian poetry in translations they had done for Yara performances over the years.

The poetry Yara presented included works by **Hryhoriy Skovoroda, Taras Shevchenko, Pavlo Tychyna and Serhiy Zhadan**. The evening culminated with new Zhadan poems from the recently published book *How Fire Descends*: New and Selected Poems by Serhiy Zhadan and a song by **Susan Hwang** based on a Zhadan poem.

Photo by Evgeniy Maloletka, poster by Waldemart Klzyuko

1990s.



Extracurricular Activities

Katya Diumina, Yara's stage manager and office administrator, is now studying economics at Hunter College in New York.

George Drance, who recently appeared in Yara's *Radio 477!* and *Mariupol* shows, is currently in the Great Jones production of *Media* at La MaMa April 11-21, 2024.

Susan Hwang, who appeared in Yara's *Scythian Stones*, *Capt. John Smith*, *Slap*, *Radio 477!* and *Mariupol*, is up to many things soon.

On Friday, 3/29, 8pm she is playing a new original song for the *On The Verge Festival* - feminist art and literature festival at Wild Project Room 195 E. 3rd St., NYC.

On Thursday 4/4, 8pm-11pm she has a birthday show and tribute to rock/pop band Sparks at Baker Falls at 101 Ave. A, in NYC.

On Thursday, 4/25, 6pm-7:15pm Bushwick Book Club celebrates *ALoud: Voices From The Nuyorican Poets Café* at Tompkins Square Library; with Bob Holman hosting the event.

Oksana Horban as the Tree of Life in Yara's *Mariupol: Diaries of War* and the *Tree of Life at Howl Happening*.
Photo by Pavlo Terekhov

Julian Kytasty Yara's resident bandurist and composer, is part of an early music concert series in the West Village on April 7th. His solo concert will feature Ukrainian music from the 17th & 18th centuries.

Evgeniy Maloletka, photographer who has worked documenting Yara's shows in Ukraine since 2015, won Press Photo of the Year for his photograph from Mariupol. He was also part of the AP Team that made *20 Days in Mariupol*, the documentary feature for which director **Mstyslav Chernov** won an Oscar this March. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Yara thanks **Evgeniy Maloletka** for his help with our Mariupol show.

Serhiy Zhadan, Ukrainian poet who has worked with Yara since 2002, has joined Khartia, the brigade defending his home town of Kharkiv.

