

NEW YORK'S BOWERY POETRY CLUB LIVE IN KYIV

BOWERY ARTS + SCIENCE



Yara Arts Group
The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv



National University Kyiv Mohyla Academy
Sept 20, 17:00 Auditorium 217, NaUKMA Building 1,
Kontraktova Ploshva (square).

*Language of Performance and Readings: English
and Ukrainian*

Ukrainian and American poets and performers who have appeared at the legendary Bowery Poetry Club in New York will perform their work in Ukraine. Bob Holman, the founder and proprietor of the Bowery Poetry Club, will kick off the evening by reading his own poems, which also will be read in Ukrainian translations by Kateryna Babkina. The event will also feature readings of Babkina's own work and a reading of renowned contemporary Ukrainian writer Serhiy Zhadan by Ukrainian actor Mykola Shkaraban. Both Zhadan and Babkina have read at the Bowery Poetry Club. New York's Yara Arts Group will read English translations of their work by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps. The event will also feature bandurist Julian Kytasty and singer Susan Hwang who accompanies herself on the accordion.

FEATURED ARTISTS

VIRLANA TKACZ (director) is the artistic director of Yara Arts Group, a resident theatre company at La MaMa. She has created 24 original theatre pieces with Yara that have premiered at La MaMa and performed in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulan Ude, and Ulan Bator, as well as the villages of the Buryat Aga Region of Siberia and China. Last December she created *Midwinter Night* with the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, Yara artists and Lemon Bucket Orchestra. This June she staged *Fire Water Night* based on Lesia Ukrainka's verse play *Forest Song*.

KATERYNA BABKINA (poet) born in 1985, is a writer and journalist who lives in Kyiv. Her books of poetry include: "St. Elmo's Fire," (2002) and "Mustard" (2012), while her collection of short stories "Leloo After You" was published in 2008. Kateryna studied journalism at Taras Shevchenko Kyiv State University, and works as a freelance journalist. Recently, her work has appeared in *Le Monde* and *Focus* magazine. Kateryna is the co-author of numerous anthologies and almanacs. Her poems have been

translated and published in journals in Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Germany and Sweden. In 2006 Kateryna co-founded the Videopoetry/Videoprose Project. Videos based on Ukrainian and European poetry directed by Kateryna were screened in Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Spain and Ukraine.

SERHIY ZHADAN is the most popular poet of the post-independence generation in Ukraine. His work speaks to the disillusionment, difficulties and ironies that the collapse of the Soviet Union has brought. His readings fill large auditoriums and he publishes regularly. Originally, the *enfant terrible* of Ukrainian letters, now at the age of 29 he is considered the most important poet of the decade and even one of the leading voices of the last century. For instance, the magisterial anthology of *A Hundred Hears of Youth: Bilingual Anthology of 20th Century Ukrainian Poetry* concludes with a selection of his work. He is the vice-president of the Association of Ukrainian Writers. Zhadan was born on August 23, 1974 in the village of Starobilsk in the Luhansk Region of eastern Ukraine. He graduated from the Kharkiv Teacher's College where he wrote a thesis on the work of Mykhail Semenko and the Ukrainian Futurist writers from the 1920s. He currently lives in Kharkiv. A member of the Association of Ukrainian Writers, he writes poetry, prose and essays and also translates from German, Byelorussian and Russian. He is the author of the collections of poetry: *Rose Degenerate* (1993) *Quotations* (Kyiv, 1995) *General Judas* (Kyiv, 1995), *Pepsi* (Kharkiv, 1998), *the very, very best poems, psychedelic stories of fighting and other bullshit* (selected works 1992-2000, Donetsk, 2000), *Ballads about War and Reconstruction* (Lviv, 2001) and *History of Culture at the Turn of This Century* (Kyiv, 2003). Last year he also published his first book of short stories: *Big Mac* (Kyiv, 2003). His work has been translated into German, English, Polish, Serbian, Croatian, Lithuanian.

BOB HOLMAN is the founder and artistic director of the Bowery Poetry Club, and the poet most often connected with the oral tradition, poetry in digital media, spoken word, performance, hiphop, slams, poetry films and endangered languages. He studied poetry at Columbia University where he now teaches. He has published sixteen books of poetry, most recently *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something*, a collaboration with Chuck Close from Aperture. He produced the award-winning Public Broadcasting System series, *The United States of Poetry* and is currently working on Endangered Language Projects.

SUSAN HWANG is a performance artist, musician and song writer, who has appeared at Joe's Pub and Bowery Poetry Club. She tours internationally with Debutante Hour, and curates the Hip Hop Book Club. She worked with Yara Arts Group on *Scythian Stones* and performed at Yara's *Re-Imagine: Ourselves* Festival.

JULIAN KYTASTY is a third-generation *bandurist*. His music combines a mastery of traditional styles with a distinctly contemporary sensibility. He lives in New York City, and has performed at venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to the steps of a village church in Brazil. His collaborators include artists as diverse as Chinese pipa virtuoso Wu Man, Mongolian master musician Battuvshin, performance poet Bob Holman, pioneering klezmer revivalist Michael Alpert, composer/saxophonist John Zorn and electronic composer Alla Zagaykevych. He has worked with Yara Arts Group since 1998 performing in such productions as *Scythian Stones*, *Raven* and *Midwinter Night*.

MYKOLA SHKARABAN is an actor, director of international theater, television and film projects. He has served as the director for Ukrainian TV programs on the channels NTKU, M1, and TV1. In 1993, he founded the *Nascentes* Theatre Laboratory, an experimental theatre studio. From 1998 to 2008 Shkaraban was professor for acting and directing at Kiev National University of Culture and Arts. Shkaraban also initiated the publishing series "Manual for Performers", an Ukrainian translation of texts of famous European theatre directors, never before translated and published, including works by Jerzy Grotowski, Emile Jaques-Dalcroze, François Delsarte, Eugenio Barba, Yoshi Oida, Peter Brook, Kazuo Ohno, Tatsumi Hijikata, Min Tanaka, and Filippo Marinetti.