

Opera GAZ created by Yara Arts Group, resident company at La MaMa in New York and Nova Opera in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Workers prepare a futuristic gas, the only source of energy or the industrial world. Selfish concerns screen the looming problems, eventually unleashing their rage. Will there be anything else to reconstruct?

Opera-dystopia GAZ is an original artwork, drawing on a 1919 Expressionist play by Georg Kaiser about an explosion in a gas factory set 100 in the future (that is – today). We are inspired by Les Kurbas, the Ukrainian avant-garde theatre director, who in 1923 created an explosion in this drama with his actors on the stage.

NOVA OPERA is a group of Ukrainian artists that searches for new directions and the music theatre of the future. Nova Opera was founded by stage director Vlad Troitskiy in 2014, with opera-improvisation “Coriolanus”. In 2015, Ukrainian composers Roman Grygohiv and Illia Razumeiko, brought elements of “composed theatre” to the project, crating 8 new productions. Nova Opera’s 50 performances worldwide, at Prototype Festival in New York, Rotterdam Operadays, Gdansk Shakespeare Festival, Macedonian Opera and Vienna Musikverein, make it an important representative of Ukrainian modern music theatre today. In 2018, opera requiem IYOV was listed in the TOP-10 modern musical-theatrical performances today by Music Theatre Now.

YARA ARTS GROUP (director Virlana Tkacz), a resident company at La MaMa Experimental Theatre, creates visually stunning theatre pieces that explore contemporary and traditional cultures of the East. Each Yara production is created in rehearsal with international artists who perform in their own languages. Our designers and composers join our rehearsals and together we create original theatre productions in Yara’s signature style of multilingual dialogue and songs supported by evocative visuals, music and movement. Since its founding in 1990, Yara has created over 35 award-winning theatre pieces that have premiered at La MaMa and were performed in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Siberia, Buryat Republic, China, Japan and Hawaii.

**Yara is a resident company of
La MaMa Experimental Theatre**

Creative team:

Virlana Tkacz / stage director, concept and libretto
Roman Grygoriv / composer and libretto
Illia Razumeiko / composer and libretto
Simon Mayer / choreographer
Waldemart Klyuzko / set designer
Yevhen Kopyov/design associate
Jeff Nash / lights
Tetiana Sherstiuk / costumes
Georgiy Potopalskiy / live-electronics
Nadia Tatchyn/ production stage manager
Julia Deglina / director’s assistant
Iryna Voloshyna/ assistant stage manager

Performing artists:

Andrey Koshman (baritone)
Maryana Golovko (soprano)
Anna Kirsh (soprano)
Oleksandra Mailliet (mezzo-soprano)
Ruslan Kirsh (baritone)
Yevgen Rakhmanin (bass)
Zhanna Marchynska (violoncello)
Oleh Nedashkivskiy (French horn)
Nazarii Stets (contrabass)
Ihor Boichuk (trumpet)
Andrey Nadolskiy (drum set)
Danylo Pertsov / live-electronics
Sergii Shchava (tuba)
Aik Yehiiian (percussion)
Fima Chupakhin & Pavel Gintov / keyboards
Roman Grygoriv / conductor
Illia Razumeiko / piano, voice

“And God created the heavens and the earth,
people, animals and plants,
and all the elements
but we created for them
the energy for the entire industrial world
GAZ”

Upcoming events details www.yaraartsgroup.net

Dec 21, Saturday 7 PM – Koliada: Winter Songs on Mars
with Koliadnyky, Nova Opera & Yara Arts Group at La MaMa
Experimental Theatre, 66 East 4th St, New York, NY

This event is made possible by public funds from New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Council member Carolina Rivera, private funds from the Self-Reliance (NY) FCU, MEEEST Company and Yara Arts Group’s numerous friends and donors. Nova Opera found a home in NY thanks to Yara’s best friends and hosts Maria and Dimitri Genkin, Oksana and Andriy Felunchuk, Andrea Odezynska, Maxim Lozynskyj, Cathy Zadoretzky, Shigeko Suga and Mia Yoo and all our friends at La MaMa Experimental Theatre.

Full list of donors will be posted on our website by December 31.
www.yaraartsgroup.net



La MaMa in association with
Yara Arts Group and Nova Opera presents

Opera GAZ



December 19, 20 & 22
La MaMa Experimental Theatre
66 East 4th Street, New York City

Act I Prologue

And God created the heavens and the earth,
people, animals and plants,
and all the elements
but we created for them
the energy for the entire industrial world
GAZ

Intermedia-machina

GAZ, GAZ, GAZ, GAZ, GAZ,
GAZ, GAZ, GAZ!

[What if] white Cat bursts
The formula is correct
This is the formula of GAZ!
Million atmosphere pressure
The formula is correct –
There'll be no explosion!

Che Bello, Gaz!

Che Bello, GAZ!
Invisible, onnipotente GAZ!
GAZ, GAZ, GAZ, GAZ, GAZ,
GAZ, GAZ, GAZ!

Act II Motette “Echo and Narcissus”

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Duetto

Spring awakes, spring awakes,
Spring awakes (my child!)
Little green leaves
Dear blue eyes (my child!)
Why won't they sing fiery songs
Why won't you sing with the collective?
.....
Then spring shares her secrets
Revealed in her green leaves

Manifesto

Engineer:
“Is this reality?
This combination of texts and images? ...
What we need is:
Re-construction
Re-collectivization
Re-visualization
Re-manipulation
Re-...”

Chorus:

Die Formel ist klar!
The formula is correct!
Die Formel für GAZ!
The formula for GAZ!
Mein Kopf ist kalt.
My head is cold.
Totenstille.
Dead silence.
Die Erde wankte.
The earth trembles.
Mein Kopf ist kalt.
My head is cold.

Act III The Workers Hymn

We disrupt the stratosphere
The nuclear of the atom, it's sphere –
O time of wonder!
Time unique!
Time eternal!
Who could be stronger?
In what corner of the earth?
We conceive grand ventures
One after the other
One after the other
All together as one
All together as one
Let them all go mad
And perish
We will do our job
Into one ditch all the masters
All the masters all the masters
We will beat!
We will beat!

Epilogue

... üben ... inten... örfen stehn
Ein Leierman ... u ..it ..arr.. en.. ingern...
Drehet... er..as..er..an..
Keiner mag ihn.. oren,
...einer ...ieht ihn an,
Und die ... unde.. knu... en,
Um den al...en ann

Text contains fragments from Georg Keiser's “Gas I”, poetry by Pavlo Tychyna (in translation by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps), Virlana Tkacz and Wilhelm Müller.