

La MaMa

Experimental Theatre Club

in association with En Garde Arts presents
A work in progress showing of

Seagull F*cker (working title)

Directed by Aleksandr Molochnikov

Story by Aleksandr Molochnikov

Written by Eli Rarey

Presented in partnership with Under the Radar



Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
Jan 17-19, 2025

Moscow, 2022. Colliding with the outbreak of the Ukrainian war, a theater director's staging of *The Seagull* is irrevocably compromised... but that's just the beginning. *Seagull F*cker* is a highly imaginative theatrical production that centers on an artist's struggle to survive censorship and the personal cost of resistance. Produced by En Garde Arts, written by Eli Rarey, and inspired by the life of Creator/Director Sasha Molochnikov, *Seagull F*cker* contemplates the realities of creating both art and a life far from one's home and acknowledges that the fight to preserve artistic intent is, in fact, a universal struggle. It is a poignant story of freedom and destruction and people trying to hold on to who they are.

CREATIVE

Aleksandr Molochnikov: Director

Eli Rarey: Writer

Sandro Gurdzhua: Sound Operator

Alina Kozlova: Scenic & Props Coordinator / Wardrobe Supervisor

Kristina K.: Costume Design

Dan Safer: Choreographer / Sorry

Matthew Zwiebel: Music Director

Noize MC: Lyrics & poetry

Stephanie Klaper | Klapper Casting: Casting

Liliia Dzyhivska GWT @godina.worldwide.team: Make Up & Hair

Olga Akueva: Associate Producer

Maria Kovalenko: Assistant Director

Erica Zippel Schnitzer: Line Producer/ Production Manager

Emma Battle: Assistant Stage Manager

Olivia Fletcher: Production Stage Manager

CAST

Stella Baker: Nico*

Andrey Burkovskiy: MC/Barry*

Paten Hughes: Pickle/Masha*

Quentin Lee Moore: Ivan/Jack*

Zuzanna Szadkowski: Olga*

Eric Tabach: Kon*

Elan Zafir: Anton*

DANCERS

Ilan Bachrach: Dancer

John Maria Gutierrez: Dancer

Rebecca Sandlin: Dancer

Kim Savarino: Dancer

*Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association



Actors' Equity Association, founded in 1913, represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers nationwide. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

A word from Aleksandr Molochnikov, director

*Seagull F*cker* (working title) is a project my team and I have passionately developed over the past two years. It's a personal story tied to my experiences following the onset of the war in Ukraine in 2022. Like many Russian artists, including theater directors, I had to leave Moscow, where I had spent a decade working as a director. The plays we staged, which continue to be performed in repertory theaters, are now labeled "Directed by director" in response to our anti-war stance.

As time goes on and the world evolves, the resilience of theater remains undeniable. Presenting this workshop at the Under the Radar Festival at La MaMa with En Garde Arts is a testament to the idea that theater is such a powerful miracle, it can survive through regimes and wars.

Now, as I'm lucky to direct in various countries, I recognize that censorship and restrictions on freedom of expression are not confined to Russia; they are a universal issue.

It's incredibly challenging to pursue what you love and believe in, yet I firmly believe that this struggle is our purpose, and that's the essence of our play.

A word from Eli Rarey, writer

Someone steps on stage and says, "We are in Russia." Suddenly we are no longer where we thought we were. Someone shivers; someone else throws bits of paper. Now there is snow. A cardboard box becomes a tower in Red Square. This is theater! But is any of it so different from the daily theater we do when we wake up and say, "We are in New York." When a white house becomes the White House. What are the stories we tell ourselves in order to play our parts to great applause? Who is the audience we please? I call on the spirit of Trickster (the word play implies a trick) so that this devil might fool ourselves once more into thinking that we could be free.

Many thanks to Sasha Molochnikov for inviting me into this ridiculous, awesome endeavor. I will not be a dead bird in a dead play.

A word from Anne Hamburger, Executive Artistic Director, En Garde Arts

En Garde Arts likes beginnings. New projects. New ideas. New stories to tell. But we also like to be there for artists who are beginning their careers here in New York City. Artists who may not be accepted by more mainstream institutions. We open our arms to these artists and Sasha is one of them.

I met Sasha as a newcomer to New York, forced to leave Russia due to his anti-war views. I heard his story, saw an early workshop and met his collaborator Eli Rarey, recognized their talent, and I was sold.

The workshop you are seeing is a step along our journey. and we can't wait to have you join us for the world premiere in May.

Thank you for being with us.

Special thanks to:

Murat Akuyev, Noize MC, La MaMa ETC, Michelle & Dan @ Daredevil Tattoo, Cooper Musser, Jake Stepansky, Eli Gutierrez and Sam Klebanov.

Aleksandr Molochnikov is a film and theater director. He launched his career at the Moscow Art Theater of Chekhov, then moved on to opera and ballet at the Bolshoi Theatre, and film. In 2021, he was awarded Russia's highest theatrical honor, the "Golden Mask" for best ballet, for his production of "The Seagull" at the Bolshoi Theatre. In 2020, he participated in the SIFF Film Festival with his autobiographical film TELL her was critically acclaimed and widely released. By the age of 30, he had directed seven shows on the best stages in Moscow, as well as two feature films and a TV series "Monastery", which was the number 1 show of the year on Russia's Netflix streaming platform. He publicly opposed the Russian invasion of Ukraine and now creates film and theater in New York.

An American citizen and Columbia University MFA candidate in Film, Molochnikov pursues his passion for the performing arts by making New York City his stage, set, and scene. He is currently working on two major theater productions: "Directed by Director" at La MaMa Theatre (Off-Broadway) and "Crime and Punishment" at the Gesher Theatre in Tel Aviv.

Eli Rarey is an independent filmmaker, performance artist, playwright and poet. His feature film The Famous Joe Project premiered at Outfest in 2012. His short films have appeared in festivals world-wide. The short documentary project Two Faiths One Prayer has been viewed over 300,000 times on YouTube. Rarey was a founding member of SCIENCE PROJECT performance collective and a contributor to EMERGENCY theater gazette. He holds a bachelor's degree from Columbia University in Theater Arts and an MFA degree from USC School of Cinematic Arts, where he later taught in the Interactive Media Division. In addition to his work as a writer and director, he has worked in visual effects on both independent and major studio films. Rarey splits his time between Detroit, New York City, and the rest of the world.

Sandro Gurdzhua is a multidisciplinary artist and arts administrator working in theatre and film. Although this project has allowed him to go back to the music aspect of his life and strengthen those skills, Sandro is mainly a stage and film actor. Staying connected to the theatre and the craft of so many wonderful creators of art is one of his goals for this project and the future. IG: @sandro.gurdzhua

Alina Ankukhina is a passionate theater professional currently contributing her skills as a Props and Wardrobe Assistant. Her background as a Stage Manager provides her with a unique understanding of the collaborative effort and meticulous attention to detail required to bring a production to life. With a keen eye for detail and a love for the creative process, Alina excels at sourcing, organizing, and maintaining props and wardrobe elements that enhance storytelling and create immersive theatrical experiences. She is eager to continue learning and growing within the world of theater.

Kristina K (Kharlashkina) is an accomplished fashion and costume designer with over a decade of expertise in design and concept development , textile innovation and embroidery. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, she has designed for iconic brands such as Carolina Herrera, Valentino, Monique Lhuillier, Tom Ford and more. Kristina's designs have graced red carpets and global stages,

Tom Ford and more. Kristina's designs have graced red carpets and global stages, including custom creations for Kamala Harris, Jill Biden, and Maye Musk. As the founder of her brand Kristina K and runner-up on Project Runway Season 19, she combines visionary artistry with technical mastery, with her work featured in ELLE, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, and L'Officiel.

Dan Safer is the Artistic Director of dance/theater company Witness Relocation and has directed/ choreographed their shows all over the place, from the back rooms of bars in NYC to Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris to a giant leaky warehouse in Poland where a light fell off the grid halfway thru a show and almost killed him. WR is a resident company at La MaMa. Dan's recent choreography includes Hoi Polloi's production of "Family" by Celine Song; "Jedermann" starring Lars Eidinger at the Salzburg Festival; direction/ choreography for Chuck Mee's "Aristotle Thinks Again" with Great Jones Rep. He got kicked out of high school for a year, used to be a go-go dancer, and once choreographed the Queen of Thailand's Birthday Party. Dan is a Senior Lecturer and Director of Dance Programs at MIT.

Olga Akueva is passionate about supporting young talents by giving them a platform for development and helping them maintain their creative practice. Her broad experience within the legal industry and foreign service, her organizational talents and dedication to high standards of execution positioned her ideally within Alexander Molochnikov's team as the key production professional and the COO of Molochlandya Inc. Olga brings a unique combination of business acumen, creative sensibility and empathy.

Mariia Kovalenko worked as an Assistant Director for the workshops of Seagull Fucker over the two years of its development under the direction of Alexander Molochnikov. Her dedication and collaborative spirit played a vital role in the project's evolution, contributing to the workshops' creative atmosphere and the production's overall success. Maria's passion for theater made her an invaluable part of the team throughout this journey.

Olivia Fletcher (Production Stage Manager) is a freelance AEA stage manager based in NYC. Recent credits include: *AZAD the rabbit and the wolf* (PSM), *Room 1214* (PSM), *The Wind and The Rain* (PSM), *Brits Off Broadway* (PSM), and *Greatest Hits Down Route 66* (ASM). She is a former apprentice of The Juilliard School and a member of the New Light Theater Project Collective. This is her second show working with En Garde Arts and hopes for more in the future!

Erica Zippel Schnitzer (she/her) is a Brooklyn-based Theater Maker. Select recent credits include *TERCE* (PROTOTYPE), *Summerworks 2024* (Clubbed Thumb), *Sonic Sphere* (The Shed), *Preparedness* (The Bushwick Starr), *The Collision* by Nadja Leonhard-Hooper (Two Headed Rep @59E59), *Plastic Bag Store* by Robin Frohardt (Pomegranate Arts), *Fandango for Butterflies and Coyotes* by Andrea Thome (EnGarde Arts), *The Great Hunger* by Kallan Dana (The Tank), and *The Recipe* By Kristin Worrall (The Momentary). Erica is a resident stage manager at Mercury Store in Gowanus and a 2024-2025 member of TAG, The Tank's writer/director cohort. For upcoming projects and additional credits go to ericaschnitzer.com.

Emma Battle is thrilled to be a part of the Seagull Fucker team. She has stage managed with venues including Walnut Street Theatre, The Juilliard School, The Vineyard Theatre, En Garde Arts, Atlantic Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, NYC Pride, Gala Events and the Tribeca Film Festival. She also recently completed the stage management internship with *Wicked* on Broadway. Much love to my family and friends - none of this is possible without you. Enjoy the show! @Emmab1668

CAST

Stella Baker - Marina Litvinenko in "Patriots" on Broadway. Starred as the title role of Sarah in the series "The Republic of Sarah." Additional TV credits include: "Tell Me Your Secrets," "The Good Fight," "Walker: Independence." Regional Theatre: As You Like It (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival). Graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

Andrey Burkovskiy grew up in Russia and immigrated to the US in 2022. He graduated from the Moscow Art Theater school. He quickly made a name for himself by starring in major productions of the famous Moscow Art Theater and built a solid career in film and television. He continues to perform across Europe and the U.S. He is also the co-producer and artistic director of the acting studio "SeagullNYC". Theater: Khonen/Dybbuk in *The Dybbuk* (Arlekin Players theater); Menachem in *Our Class* (BAM); Verner in *Solar Line* (Meyerhold Theater); Golubkov in *The Flight*, Benua in *Fishman*, Howard in *350 Central Park West*, Leo in *Leading Ladies* at the Moscow Art Theater. FILM: "Doctor Lisa" (Netflix), "Limonov: The Ballad of Eddie," "The Conquest of Siberia" (Amazon Prime), "The Sober Cab," "I'm on Rewind". TV: "Call DiCaprio!," "Mediator," "Amore More," "Kitchen."

Paten Hughes is the star and co-creator of the hit Vimeo series *Heirloom*. Film: *What Breaks the Ice*, *Long Nights Short Mornings*, *Coach of the Year*, *Beauty Mark*. Recent theatre: Catherine in *A View from the Bridge* (Long Wharf Theatre Company), Irina in *Three Sisters* (directed by Eve Best), *Addressless* (Rattlestick Theatre Company), *Virtue* (directed by Valentina Fratti). Training: Washington and Lee University, RADA. Old Vic New Voices Network. T.S. Eliot US/UK Exchange Program. Upcoming: *Stolen Girl* with Kate Beckinsale; *Interview* – a new play by Teunkie van Der Sluijs. Treasurer of the Paris-based nonprofit The Arts Arena International. @trespay

Quentin Lee Moore is excited to get an opportunity to perform on the La MaMa Theatre stage! He is incredibly grateful for all the support of his loved ones. And most importantly, he is grateful for the opportunity to play with these incredible actors. He hopes you enjoy the show as much as he enjoys playing in it.

Zuzanna Szadkowski is known for playing “Dorota” on *Gossip Girl*. She can be seen in the upcoming Amazon series, *Étoile*. Other television and film credits include HBO’s *The Gilded Age*, *Three Women*, *Worth*, *Bull*, *Search Party*, *The Knick*, *The Good Wife* and *Girls*. Theater credits include queens at LCT3, *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, *Arcadia* and *Uncle Romeo Vanya Juliet* (WSJ Performance of the Year 2018) with Bedlam, *The Comedy of Errors* at the Public Theater, *Coach Coach* and *King Philip’s Head...* with Clubbed Thumb and regional work at Bristol Riverside Theatre, The Actors Theater of Louisville, Two River Theater and Bucks County Playhouse. M.F.A. from A.R.T./MXAT Institute at Harvard.

Eric Tabach grew up in Moscow, Russia and attended The Juilliard School in New York. He has appeared in films including *Love Is Strange* and *Dashcam*, as well as TV shows such as *Law & Order: SVU* (NBC), *High Maintenance* (HBO), *Blue Bloods* (CBS), and *Wu-Tang: An American Saga* (Hulu). Theater credits include *Days of Rage* (Second Stage) and *The Jungle* (St. Ann’s Warehouse). Born to an immigrant family and having lived in Russia for 12 years, Eric is grateful to be involved in this show and wants to thank his family, team, and fiancé for their unwavering love and support.

Elan Zafir graduated from STC Academy at The George Washington University, and The Dome Theatre at Dawson College. He has written plays, screenplays, solo shows, and sketch comedy. He has appeared in over fifty regional and international productions. He is a Company Member of Bedlam, an award-winning off-Broadway theatre company. He is a Helen Hayes nominated actor and has received numerous awards and critical acclaim. THEATER: “Henry IV” (TFANA), “Our Class” (CSC), “The Seagull Experience” (En Garde Arts), “Arcadia” “The Winter’s Tale” “Hedda Gabler”(Bedlam); “Everybody” “Salomé” “Othello” (STC), “God of Carnage” (Milwaukee Rep), “There’s Always the Hudson” (Woolly Mammoth), “Junk” (Arena Stage), “Twelve Angry Men” “Ragtime” (Ford’s Theatre), “King John” “The Way of the World” (Folger Theatre). FILM/TV: “Triumph of the Will” “Hired Hands,” “Good Boy,” (Recurring) “Your Friends & Neighbors” “House of Cards,” “Blue Bloods,” “The Blacklist,” “East New York,” “FBI: International,” and “Law & Order(s).”

DANCERS

Ilan Bachrach is a performer and creator known for his work in experimental theater and contemporary dance. His career spans over two decades of international touring, with performances at Festival d’Avignon, Théâtre de la Ville, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Melbourne Playhouse, and Kaaitheater. He has collaborated with artists such as Jérôme Bel, Dan Safer, Jim Findlay, and Tina Satter. For over 15 years, Ilan has been a core member of Nature Theater of Oklahoma, performing in and creating works like *Life and Times* at The Public Theater, which earned an Obie Award in 2013, and *No President* at NYU Skirball in 2024. He is also a frequent collaborator with Radiohole, performing in *Myth or Meth*, which was nominated for a Bessie Award in 2014. In addition to his artistic career, Ilan serves as a firefighter with the High Falls Fire Department in High Falls, NY.

John Maria Gutierrez is a first generation Dominican American actor, educator, and multidisciplinary artist born and based in NYC. Graduate of NYU Tisch (BFA Drama), John later trained in Meisner at the Terry Knickerbocker Studio, where they're now an Associate Acting Teacher. A proud member of the Great Jones Rep Company of La MaMa and Intar's UNIT 52, John has performed and presented work in over 30 cities across 12 states and 4 continents. Recent credits: (film) *A Thousand and One* (Sundance Grand Jury Prize) directed by AV Rockwell (tv) *Law & Order: SVU*, Recurring Guest Star *Law & Order: Organized Crime*.

Rebecca Sandlin is a seasoned dance artist and yoga instructor living in New York City. She has performed with artists such as Julia Ehrstrand, Max Stone, and Matthew James and Enzo Celli. Most recently she was a company member of Kizuna Dance under the direction of Cameron McKinney. She currently teaches dance classes and workshops in New York City.

Kim Savarino is an artist working in film, theater, and dance. Kim joined La MaMa's Great Jones Repertory Company in 2019, playing Cassandra in Andrei Serban's sold out revival of *The Trojan Women*. Other favorite projects include ishkwaaazhe Shane McSauby's film *The Beguiling* (TIFF Official Selection), developing choreography with Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker/ROSAS for *West Side Story* on Broadway and nearly 1,000 performances of Third Rail Projects' immersive hit *Then She Fell*. As a dancer, she's worked with artists including Romeo Castelluci, Miguel Gutierrez, Dan Safer, Emily Johnson/Catalyst and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. Kim grew up in California and West Virginia.

About En Garde Arts

Founded by Executive Artistic Director Anne Hamburger in 1985, En Garde Arts is the award-winning pioneer of New York City's site-specific theatre movement. En Garde has a rich, impactful history of using the city as our stage to create, produce and present bold theatrical experiences that reach across artistic, physical and social boundaries. It has a significant legacy of producing ground breaking productions by Anne Bogart, Chuck Mee, Tina Landau, Reza Abdoh, Jonathan Larson and Mac Wellman, among others. It produces new work at the intersection of theatre and social change to spark conversations that explore new perspectives, and build an inclusive community. Two developmental programs: Uncommon Voices, and playdate serve dozens of artists each year with bespoke support for artistic teams developing new work. When theatres were closed due to Covid-19, EGA produced A Dozen Dreams. It was a multimedia immersive installation that brought to life the dreams of 12 playwrights, including Lucy Thurber, Ren Dara-Santiago, Liza Jesse Peterson and Emily Mann, among others. Fandango for Butterflies (and Coyotes), a music-theatre production produced in 2020 and created by an all Latinx team: Andrea Thome (playwright), Sinuhé Padilla (music), José Zayas (director). It premiered at La MaMa, toured to Penn State, UMD, and was presented by the La Jolla Playhouse. In 2021 EGA launched a partnership with the Downtown Alliance BID, for the creation of Downtown Live, a festival of 36 outdoor performances, followed by Downtown Stories, composed of three theatrical pieces that rediscovered Lower Manhattan and its rich and complicated history. In 2023, EGA produced Helen. at La MaMa, a new adaptation by Caitlin George of the SuperGeographics. Most recently, En Garde produced- in association with Vineyard Theatre- the critically acclaimed, sold-out, production of The Wind and the Rain: A story of Sunny's Bar written by Sarah Gancher and directed by Jared Mezzocchi. En Garde Arts is the recipient of six Obies, an Outer Critics' Circle award and a Drama Desk award. www.engardearts.org

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This workshop is possible thanks to the generosity of:

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A full program with information on this production can be found on the *Seagull F*cker* (working title) page of the La MaMa website.

In addition you can scan the QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for access to the digital program.



LA MAMA



RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street underwent an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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We thank our supporters who are indispensable to La MaMa as we continue to expand and strengthen our artistic community. You help make space for artists to create and share new stories, present diverse perspectives, and keep us all connected in our 63rd Season!

63rd Season General Operating Support:

Doris Duke Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Radio Drama Network, and The Shubert Foundation



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 Bon Yagi/ T.I.C. Restaurant Group
 Thomas Young

*A very special THANK YOU! to all who contributed to La MaMa's Capital Campaign to restore and rebuild our landmark building at 74A East 4th Street

La MaMa is deeply grateful for the support of the Estate of Harold C. Walker, and the late beloved James Reynolds.

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To receive information regarding upcoming events at
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La MaMa, 66 East 4th St., New York, NY 10003

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NOW PLAYING

In a Grove

Jan 16-19, 2025
Ellen Stewart Theatre

The Mulberry Tree

Jan 16-19, 2024
The Club

Seagull Fu*ker

Jan 17 - 19, 2025
The Downstairs

Building My Casa

Jan 23-Feb 2, 2025
The Downstairs

H.T. Chen & Dancers

Jan 24- 26, 2025
Ellen Stewart Theatre

La MaMa Kids:

The Great Zodiac Animal Race
Feb 1-2, 2025
Community Arts Space

COMING SOON

Had Enuf of the Blues: Cabaret on the Verge

Feb 6-9, 2025
The Club

No Resevation

Feb 6-23, 2025
The Downstairs

The Barbarians

Feb 14- March 2, 2025
Ellen Stewart Theatre

La MaMa Kids:

The Dragon's Laugh & Other Tales
Feb 15-16, 2025
Community Arts Space

Unsuccessful (La Consagración de Nadie)

Feb 27-March 2, 2025
The Downstairs

The Magic Light

March 7-16, 2025
The Downstairs