

La MaMa

Experimental Theatre Club

presents

Uncle Vanya, scenes from country life

Krymov Lab NYC

Dmitry Krymov, Writer and Director



Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
March 28-April 12, 2026

Uncle Vanya, scenes from country life

Dmitry Krymov: Writer and Director

Tatyana Khaikin:

Krymov Lab NYC Producer, Interpreter, & Casting Director

Zach Jenkins: Production Manager
Patrick Dunning: Production Stage Manager
Kate Willard: Assistant Stage Manager
Shari Perkins: Dramaturg

Luna Gomberg: Costume Design
Regina Melady: Costume/Wardrobe Assistant
Cole Kravitz: Costume/Wardrobe Assistant
Clara Gainer: Costume/Wardrobe Assistant

Emona Stoykova: Production Design
Madisen Frazier: Production Design Assistant
Calan Britz: Tech Director/Special Effects
Leah Ogawa: Puppetry Design
Denis Zabayaka: Sound Design
Krista Smith: Lighting Design
Yana Biryukova: Projection Design

John Murphy; Stagehand/Run Crew
Wilder Marsden: Stagehand/Run Crew

Arlo Banta: Production Intern (Hunter College)
Daisy Martin: Production Intern (Hunter College)
Frankie McGuire: Production Intern (Hunter College)
Peter Murphy: Production Intern (Hunter College)

Andrew Stout: Production Assistant (volunteer)
Alina Mukhametvaleeva: Production Assistant (volunteer)

Dakota Silvey: Pyro/Atmospherics/FDNY Consultant
Aran Savory: Company Manager
Irina Simakovsky: Director of Development and Communication
Katya Choodnovskiy: Marketing Manager
Clayton Howe: General Manager
Kevin Gallagher: General Manager

CAST

Natalie Battistone: Actor (SONYA)
Colin Buckingham: Actor (SEREBRYAKOV)
Tim Eliot: Actor/Producer (NANNY)
Shelby Flannery: Actor (YELENA)
MaryKate Glenn: Actor (HEN)
Zach Fike Hodges: Actor (VANYA)
Amen Igbinosun: Actor (TELEGIN)
Javier Molina: Actor (ASTROV)
Sasha Drey: Actor (ROOSTER)
Any Zicer: Actor (MAMA)

DRAMATURG'S NOTES

Go to sleep my baby,
You don't have to carry
The weight of the world in your muscles and bones,
Let go, let go, let go.
—"Loosen" by Aly Halpert

Dmitry Krymov's adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* transforms the classic psychological drama into a grotesque elegy in which absurdity and despair intertwine in a desperate embrace. At the piece's center is Yelena Andreevna, a newcomer to the community. Young, empathetic, and beautiful, she draws the inhabitants of the Voinitsky estate to her like a priest in a confessional. Each visitor carries his or her own wounds and obsessions, each is undergoing their own tragedy, each is desperate to be seen.

In a world that is fraying at the seams, nature is degrading and people continually change for the worse. They become almost inhuman—but never completely. Against this background, Krymov's *Vanya* hurtles towards an inevitable conclusion, but along the way we experience the symphony of human suffering, from the loss of a favorite food all the way to the heights of Greek tragedy. What does it mean to live, to choose life and hope in the face of madness and despair? What is love, tenderness, and memory? What does it mean to be seen for who you are?

Dmitry Krymov (Director) A founder of Krymov Lab NYC, is a renowned theatre director, set designer, painter, and educator. He was a major figure in Russian theatre, directing acclaimed productions at the country's leading companies and earning multiple honors, including five Golden Mask Awards, four Crystal Turandot Awards, the Stanislavsky Award, the Grand Prix at the Prague Quadrennial, and the Herald Angels Award at the Edinburgh International Festival. He began his career designing over 90 productions in collaboration with many of Russia's most esteemed directors. In the 1990s, Krymov turned to painting, with solo exhibitions in Russia and abroad—including the State Russian Museum, the Manege Exhibition Hall, and the Musée Historique de la Citadelle Vauban (France) —and represented the Pushkin Museum at the Venice Biennale. His works are held in major collections worldwide, including the Tretyakov Gallery, the Victoria and Albert, the Vatican, the National Institute of Health, and the World Bank in Washington, D.C. Until 2022, when he left Russia in protest of the war in Ukraine, Krymov taught at the Russian University of Theatre Arts (GITIS), where he led the Set Design workshop and founded the theatre company Krymov Laboratory in Moscow. The Lab's original productions, developed with his students and professional actors, toured extensively to wide acclaim, including festivals in Poland, Hungary, the UK, Estonia, Finland, New Zealand, the US, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, and many other countries. Author of books *Course: Conversations With Students* and *New Course: Conversations With Yourself*.

Tatyana Khaikin (Producer/Interpreter/Casting Director) is a lead producer of KrymovLabNYC and has worked with Krymov since 2013. She has also worked as an interpreter/translator for almost 30 years. Recent translations include *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall; three one-acters by young American playwrights for the Book Wings International Writing Program at the University of Iowa (co-sponsored by the American Embassy in Moscow). Since the early 1990s she was actively involved in many educational and theatrical projects between the US and Russia. In the early 2000s she was a Managing Producer for V. Dolgachev's US tour of *The Oldest Profession* by Paula Vogel, and a Managing Producer for the US tour of Sergey Yursky's one-man show *Old Friends*. Tatyana worked with many successful directors and playwrights on both continents. In the US she worked with Oleg Efremov, Roman Kozak, Adolf Shapiro, Marina Brusnikina, and Alla Sigalova; and in Russia with Janos Szasz, John Tiffany, Steven Hoggett, and Konstantin Raikin. From 2009 till 2016 she was the First Assistant to the Dean of the Moscow Art Theater School, overseeing international exchange programs between Russia and the US such as a semester-long program with the National Theatre Institute; a graduate program with the American Repertory Theatre Institute; summer programs with Wayne State and Butler University; and a three-week introductory course with Fordham University. In 2013 Tatyana began her close collaboration with Dmitry Krymov: she interpreted for his master classes first in Moscow and then the US, including the workshops at Yale University and New School for Social Research, as well as for Krymov's production of *√3 Sisters* at the Yale School of Drama (2016). Most recently (spring of 2022) Tatyana worked with Mr. Krymov on the production of *The Cherry Orchard* at Wilma Theatre in Philadelphia.

Shari Perkins (Dramaturg) is a freelance dramaturg and editor based in NYC and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Shari is the company dramaturg for Krymov Lab NYC, having worked on *Love Stories*, *Eugene Onegin*, and *Metamorphoses*. She was dramaturg for

New American Ensemble's *The Brothers Karamazov* and *Ivanov*. Other recent projects include Argia Coppola's *Cursed*, a new jazz play about Marilyn Monroe based on the novel *Blonde* by Joyce Carol Oates; *The Marriage at LaMaMa*; and *King Lear* and *The Barista* directed by Arseniy Fariatiev at Columbia University. <http://shariperkins.art>.

Luna Gomberg (Costume Design) is a versatile artist and designer, specializing in immersive performance art, wearable sculptures, and unexpected and colorful costuming decisions. Luna has worked with theater companies, outdoor performance venues, and collaborators, including Krymov Lab NYC in their critically acclaimed runs of *Big Trip* and *Funeral at LaMaMa ETC* in the East Village, *Pinocchio the Musical* at the Emerson Colonial Theater in Boston, several performance groups at TurnPark Art Space in the Berkshires, and multiple theater companies in New York City. Luna works at the intersection of performance and studio art, an underfunded gray area, but not the area to be overlooked in the turbulent times we as a society currently find ourselves in. Luna's artistic mission is to use her cultural heritage to attempt to build peace and understanding together with people and artists of other cultures, and to exchange generational knowledge with them. She believes peace can only be found in conversation and interaction, and while her art may look whimsical and lighthearted, it is made with intention and love, in hope for a better future.

Emona Stoykona (Production Design) is a scenic designer for theater, film, and live performance, with a special interest in new plays and adaptations. Her work is focused on empathy, collaboration, and seeking experimental and non-traditional approaches to storytelling. In Europe, she has collaborated with such renowned directors as Robert Wilson, Alexander Morfov, among others. She is the Production Designer of Krymov Lab NYC, where she previously designed *Metamorphoses*, *Big Trip*, *Onegin*, *In Our Own Words*, *Americans: 2 Hems & 1/8 Eugene O'Neill*, and *Metamorphoses (La MaMa)*. Other recent American credits include: *Salome (Heartbeat Opera)*, *An Enemy Of The People (Yale Repertory Theatre)* [Outstanding Set Design Nomination]; *We are P.R. (Behmer Theatre)*; *The Gold Room (HERE)*; *She Talks to Beethoven, A Number, Girlfriend*, and *The Seventeenth Chapel (A.R.T./NY Theatres)*; *Coop (Paradise Factory)*; *Ella in the Tundra (The Signature Theatre)*. Emona holds an MFA in Set Design from the Yale School of Drama, a BA in Scenography from the National Academy of Arts, Bulgaria, and is a graduate of the National School of Fine Arts, Bulgaria. She is a recipient of the Oenslager Fellowship Award in Design, was a featured artist at the Prague Quadrennial in 2019, and USITT 2019, and has had her work exhibited at the PQ (2011, 2015).

Leah Ogawa (Puppetry Design) is an installation artist and puppeteer based in New York City. Raised in Yamanashi, Japan, Leah studied Bunraku puppetry, Kuruma Ningyo, and Butoh art forms. She has worked with artists, theaters, and companies including The Metropolitan Opera, La MaMa, Dmitry Krymov, Phantom Limb, Dan Hurlin, Tomf Lee, Nami Yamamoto, Loco7, and others on projects including the critically acclaimed "El Nino" and "Big Trip." In addition to The Metropolitan Opera, Leah has performed at Quai Branley in Paris, and across Asia. Leah is a recipient of the Jim Henson Foundation's workshop grant and held residencies at Five Myles Gallery and Kino Saito Art Center. Her recent work, *Divine Generations*, with co-creator John Tsung, has been featured in the New York Times.

Denis Zabiya (Sound Design) started his DJ career at 15 created music, performed and toured around Russia. He got a degree in sound engineering and became a manager of a studio in Moscow. He was an official DJ at the Paralympic Games in Sochi and founded his own record company. He also a sound producer and founder of two music bands. In 2017 and 2018, he started a multimedia musical project of the multimedia musical project EPPOS being a sound producer and an animated musical series PG13 where Denis is a general producer. For 15 years, Denis worked at the Pyotr Fomenko Workshop Theatre, designing sound for over 100 productions.

Krista Smith (Lighting Design) is a Lighting Designer and Interdisciplinary Artist with an enthusiasm for new work, adaptations, and all forms of storytelling interwoven with music. Previous designs with Krymov Lab NYC: *Metamorphoses*, *Big Trip: Onegin In Our Own Words* and *The Americans: 2 Hems & 1/8 Eugene O'Neill*. Her design work has been seen across the United States, and internationally in the UK & Western Australia. Frequent associate to Jennifer Tipton, including her Lighting Design Master Class of Swan Lake in partnership with The Asian Arts Council and Ballet Philippines in Manila. Recent projects include: Pig Iron's Poor Judge (Wilma Theater), Choreographer Emily Coates's Tell Me Where It Comes From (The Guggenheim), and Ni Mi Madre (Best of Edinburgh Fringe Winner 2024). Originally from California, Krista is the recipient of Theatre Bay Area's 2011 Eric Landisman Fellowship. Professional training includes a B.A. in Theater Arts from San Francisco State University and M.F.A. in Design from Yale School of Drama.

Yana Biryukova (Projection Design) is a video artist and theatre designer based in New York City. Selected designs include *Cosi Fan Tutte* (Detroit Opera), *Simona's Search* (Hartford Stage), *Imogen Says Nothing* (Yale Repertory Theatre), *Andy Warhol in Iran* (Barrington Stage Company), *Yeah Baby* (Resident Ensemble Players), *Elian* (Miami New Drama), *Prelude to a Kiss* (Milwaukee Rep), *Mlima's Tale* (Westport Country Playhouse), *Transport* (Irish Repertory Theatre) and many more. Associate credits include *Harry Potter and The Cursed Child*; *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* (Broadway). In addition to theatre design Yana edits and designs films and installations, including *Palimpsest* presented at the Venice Biennale, *Alphabet City* (Yale Art Gallery), *Not Just Me* (Catskill Art Society) among others. Yana has lectured and taught workshops on projection design at Harvard, Yale and Colgate universities. Member of USA 829. MFA: Yale School of Drama. yanabiryukova.com

Calan Britz (Technical Director/Special Effects) graduated from SUNY Fredonia with a BFA in Theatrical Production and Design in 2023 and has been expanding his experience in the NYC area including his second season here with Krymov Lab NYC. Some recent credits include Technical Director for Brian Sanders' JUNK, Weehawken HS, and St Johns University, Carpenter for The Factory NYC, and Hudson Scenic. He wants to thank the Director and Krymov Team for giving him this amazing opportunity to create beautiful art.

Patrick Dunning (Production Stage Manager) is an actor, stage manager, and sound designer based in Brooklyn. He has performed at La MaMa, BAM, BRIC, The Tank, and more. He'll be performing at La MaMa's Downstairs theater this Spring, in Talking Band's new production *A Door Slams, A Glass Trembles*. Patrick holds a degree in Drama from Vassar College, and has studied acting in New York at the Atlantic Acting School and abroad at the Moscow Art Theatre School and Konstantin Raikin School of Performing Arts. patrickdunning.com

ACTORS

Natalie Battistone is an original member of Krymov Lab NYC and has been in each production since 2022: *Eugene Onegin*, *Love Stories* and most recently *Metamorphoses* as The Boy. In 2024 she received a Best Performer nomination from Broadway World LA for her performance as Sophie (Sonya) in Riot Act's site-responsive *Uncle Vanya* adaptation *Gross Old Man*. Natalie first encountered Krymov's work during her formative actor training at the Moscow Art Theatre School in 2011 through NTI. (She still can't quite believe she gets to work with him now!) MFA: Harvard/American Repertory Theater and MXAT. Natalie dedicates this performance to peace.

Colin Buckingham (he/they) is an actor and writer based in New York City and is grateful to be making his La MaMa debut. Recent theater credits include *Sleep No More*, *Red Noses*, and *When the Cat's Away*. Screen work includes *Daredevil: Born Again*, *Mr. Robot*, *New Amsterdam*. Much love to friends, family, and teachers who have supported him throughout the years. Glóir dóibh siúd a throidéann an impiriúlachas.

Tim Eliot is a founding company member and the Managing Director of Krymov Lab NYC. He originated man/Husband/Eben in Krymov's *Three Love Stories Near the Railroad* at La MaMa. A cofounder of Form & Pressure Films, he wrote and acted in their short *Marisol*, which aired on HBO, played 60+ festivals, and won awards from HuffPo and Cabbagetown. He has been featured on *Love Story*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Gilded Age*, *The Deuce*, *The Plot Against America*, *Boardwalk Empire*, and *Godfather of Harlem*. Tim played MacBeth with Everett Quinton and *Sleep No More* alums in a Catholic Church in Chinatown, Hamlet at the cell, and Romeo at Yale. He directed *Romeo & Juliet* in an abandoned LIC garage, *Much Ado* in a Chelsea garden/gallery, and *Erdman's Suicide!?* in a former Hell's Kitchen piano factory. Tim currently runs Full Contact Shakespeare, a new dramaturgical and performance approach to classics, and teaches a survey/workshop of storytelling media at NYU. He studied with Bob Krakower and Bill Esper, got his MFA from the ART/MXAT Institute at Harvard, and got his BA from Yale University.

Shelby Flannery trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, where she received her MFA in acting. She has worked across theatre and television, performing at theaters ranging from the Guthrie Theater to La MaMa, where she is excited to be collaborating for the third time with director Dmitry Krymov. Shelby is best known for playing Hope on The CW's hit show *The 100*. She can most recently be seen as young Miriam in *The Artist*, streaming on The Network, with additional appearances on *Law & Order: SVU*, *NCIS*, and *FBI: Most Wanted*.

MaryKate Glenn (she/her) is a bicoastal maker, mover and performer, approaching her practice from backgrounds in acting, psychoanalysis, and classical ballet. Her current performance research investigates the absurd, the uncanny, and the assumed passivity of the viewer theatrical space. Collaborators include: La MaMa ETC, Prototype Festival, Transport Group, Great River Shakespeare, Triplets Amsterdam, CULTUREHUB LA, and The Useless Room. She is a founding member of the performance collective exit strategy, which recently workshopped exit strategy presents: *How to Win A Gameshow* at the Broedplaats Bouw Arts Center and OT301 in Amsterdam, NL. Training includes Teatr ZAR of the Grotowski Institute in Wroclaw, Poland. BA Theology/Philosophy, Fordham Rose Hill Honors College. MFA CalArts.

Zach Fike Hodges is an actor, writer, and arts educator based in New York City. Film: *Descent* (opposite Maura Tierney), *Eleanor the Great* (dir. Scarlet Johansson), *My Bird Is Sick!* (opposite Janeane Garofolo, executive produced by Cate Blanchett), *It's a Forever Frontier* (opposite Bellmay Young). His performance as Louis Ironson in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America Parts One and Two* (BEDLAM/Central Sq.) was hailed 'a tour-de-force marvel' by Edge Media Network and earned him an Elliot Norton Award nomination for Outstanding Featured Performance. Off Broadway: *Arcadia* (BEDLAM), *Public Enemy* (The Pearl). New York: *Metamorphoses* (KrymovLab NYC/LaMama), world premiers of *The Book of Will* (dir. Davis McCallum), *Kate Hamill's Pride and Prejudice* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare), *Love's Labour's Lost* (The Acting Company), *Leonce and Lena*, *Electra* (Two-Headed Rep); Regional: world premiere of *RENT* in Concert with the National Symphony Orchestra (Kennedy Center); *Our Class* (-Arlekin!/The Huntington), *Riddle of the Trilobites* (dir. Lee Sunday Evans, Flint Rep). Zach's original one-person adaptation of Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening* premiered off-Broadway as part of the United Solo Festival. He is a former member of The Bats, the resident acting company of the Flea Theatre and served as a senior staff member of the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He has developed new work with Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, The National Black Theatre, The Fire This Time Festival, Bay Street Theatre, Playwrights' Center, and LubDub. Zach's screenplay, *THE DAIRY BAR*, was the recipient of the 2026 South Carolina IndieGrants award, and features Constance Schulman and Gus Birney, directed by Tess Goldwyn. As an educator, Zach chairs and teaches acting for the 9th Grade Drama Program at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and is a teaching artist for Hudson Valley Shakespeare and New York Theatre Workshop. Upcoming: *Moments After Ajax*, directed by Andrew Watkins, at JACK Summer 2026. Training: MA Acting, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, BA Acting, Fordham Theatre Program + Moscow Art Theatre School. www.zachfikehodges.com @zfiike

Amen Igbinosun is an actor, writer, director, producer, educator, and arts leader whose work centers experimental performance and storytelling across the African diaspora. He is the Executive Director of JACK Arts Inc. in Brooklyn, where he leads artistic vision, programming, and producing in support of bold, artist driven work. As a performer, his work spans stage and screen, including TNT's *The Last Ship*, and *The Lily's Revenge* by Taylor Mac at the American Repertory Theater, as well as

collaborations with Dmitry Krymov, most recently performing *Metamorphoses* with Krymov Lab at La MaMa. He studied at the Moscow Art Theatre, where he worked under master teacher Igor Zolotovitskiy, who recently passed. This performance is in honor of him. Igor shaped the way Amen approaches the work, how he listens, how he stays present, how he builds and play with others in the room. His presence is still here. Amen carries him with deep gratitude and honors him through this work. Thank you Igor Zolotovitskiy.

Javier Molina was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Passaic New Jersey. He is the first Latino Co-Artistic Director of The Actors Studio in NYC. He directed the short film WONDER, winning 21 awards, including the Best Short Film Award at Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, qualifying WONDER for Academy Award consideration and securing distribution by HBO. He recently directed, "A View From the Bridge" by Arthur Miller which is now touring Spain with a main stay in Madrid. Recent acting credits include co-starring with Hugh Jackman in *Reminiscence* (HBO), Liam Neeson in *Thug*, and NBC's *This is Us* and *Blacklist*. Javier Molina received a 2024 Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts!

Sasha Drey is an award winning composer, sound designer, singer-songwriter, performer, music educator, multi-instrumentalist, harmonic overtone singer and instructor, with accolades for his work in various mediums including film, animation, theatre, video games, TV commercials, etc. Over the past decade, he has delved into the study of shamanic tools and musical instruments from diverse cultures, under the guidance of Mitch Nur. Sasha has honed skills in harmonic overtone singing with Kaigal-ool Khovalvg from renowned Tuvan ensemble Huun Huur Tu. Sasha is a founding member of electronic band ChingisDub and plays bass in rock'n'roll band La Pucelle. For the past decade, Sasha has been sharing his expertise as an instructor through various retreats and workshops and festivals.

Anya Zicer is an Israeli, Russian speaking, Jewish actor based in New York City. Born in St. Petersburg, and raised in Tel Aviv, Anya moved to New York at the age of 17 to train at the American Academy of Dramatic Art. For the past decade, Anya has been deeply embedded in the multicultural New York City, Yiddish, Russian, Ukrainian, Jewish and Israeli theatre scene both as an actor (acting in English, Russian, Hebrew and Yiddish) and as a creator. Anya has been a part of KrymovLab with the acclaimed theatre director Dmitry Krymov (*Eugene Onegin in Their Own Words* and *Three Love Stories* by the Railroad @ La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club), she also worked with Alexandre Marine (*COVERS & KNOCK* @ The Players Theatre), and Gera Sandler (*Old New Year & A Star Without A Name* @ National Yiddish Theatre and Theatre at St. Clement's. Anya is psyched to be working with Dmitry Krymov again this season! Represented by Rochel Saks.

SPECIAL THANKS

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The Lab would especially like to thank our Board of Directors for their generous support and dedication.

**A full program with information on this
production can be found on the La MaMa
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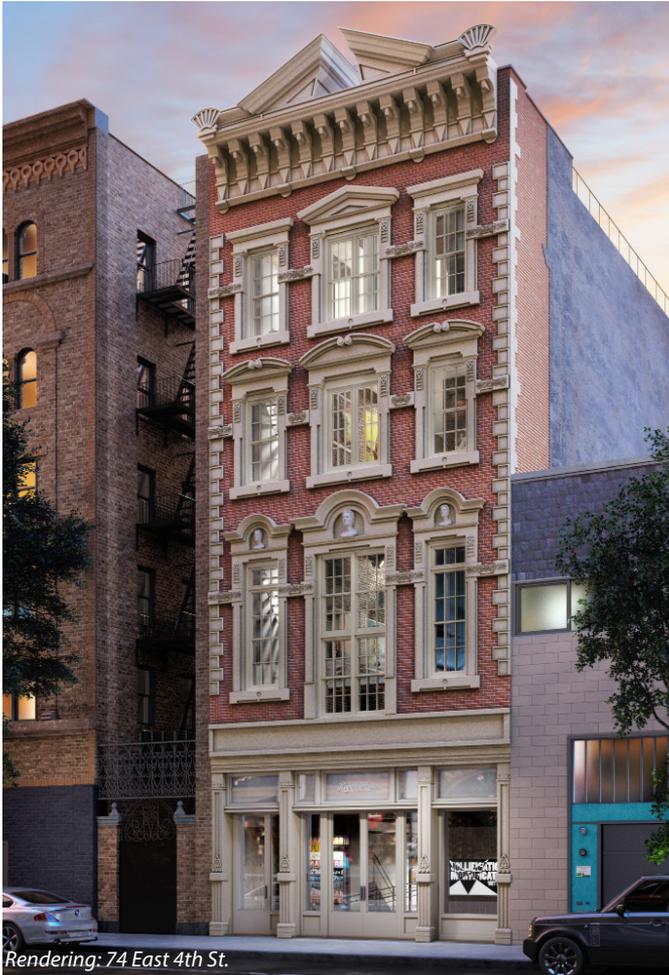
Uncle Vanya, scenes from country life

**In addition you can scan the
QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for
access to detailed information on this 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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Antigone in Analysis

March 20-April 5, 2026
The Downstairs

Spider Rabbit

March 26-April 12, 2026
The Club

Uncle Vanya,

scenes from country life
March 28-April 12, 2026
Ellen Stewart Theatre

La MaMa Kids:

Elementary

March 28-29, 2026
Community Arts Space

The Iguana Becomes Marco

April 1-5, 2026
Community Arts Space

COMING SOON

La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival

April 9-May 10, 2026
All Four Venues

The Door Slams,

The Glass Trembles
April 24-May 10, 2026
The Downstairs

Memory Generation

May 2-10, 2026
Community Arts Space

The Censorship of Dreams

May 2-17, 2026
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Take Me To Dollywood

May 14-31, 2026
The Downstairs