

Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center present:

YARA'S TRADITIONAL ARTS:

FOLK DANCER:

Vasile Avramenko



August 13, 2020

www.yaraartsgroup.net

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Yara's Traditional Arts

Folk Dancer: Vasile Avramenko

Entrance music: *Hony viter* orchestra led by Pawlo Humeniuk

Introductions Virlana Tkacz

Video: Vasile Avramenko solo from a 1931 dance concert

On Vasile Avramenko and the Second Wave of Ukrainian Immigrants

Virlana Tkacz

Music: *Kolomyika na dvi pary* orchestra led by Pawlo Humeniuk

Video: *Vesna* from film *Zaporozhets za Dunaem*

Music: *Kateryna Khersonska* orchestra led by Pawlo Humeniuk

On Pawlo Humeniuk's recordings for Vasile Avramenko Mike Andrec

Video: *Kozatsky hertz* from film *Zaporozhets za Dunaem*

Music: *Chumak* orchestra led by Pawlo Humeniuk

On Vasile Avramenko's Talking Pictures Yuri Shevchuk

Video: *Chumak* dance from *Natalka Poltavka*

Video: Vasile Avramenko solo from *Zaporozhets za Dunaem*

Exit music: *Arkan kolomyisky* orchestra led by Pawlo Humeniuk

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz

visual design: Waldemart Klyuzko, tech support: Darien Fiorino

VASILE AVRAMENKO was born in 1895 in Stebliv, not far from Kyiv. As an adolescent he traveled to Vladivostok to join his brothers. In 1917, he studied in Kyiv and in 1921 was interned in a camp in Kalisz, Poland, where he conducted his first Ukrainian folk dance classes. He taught folk dance wherever he traveled, including Canada, where he landed in 1925. In December 1928, he moved to New York and a few months later had a dance school with 300 students. Pawlo Humeniuk recorded music for twelve dances that formed the core of Avramenko repertoire. His tours in 1931, 1932 and his concerts for the Ukrainian Pavilion at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933 set his

reputation but left him in debt. He then turned to filmmaking, creating the first Ukrainian talking pictures in America: *Natalka Poltavka* and *Zaporozhtsi za Dunaem*, based on Ukrainian operettas. Avramenko continued teaching dance and showing his films until his death in 1981.

VIRLANA TKACZ heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed over thirty original shows at La MaMa Theatre in New York, as well as in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She has co-produced a series of recordings of Buryat Mongolian artists and of the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia from the Carpathian Mountains. She received an NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her translations with Wanda Phipps. They were recently nominated for a PEN Poetry Translation Award for *What We Live For, What We Die For: Selected Poetry by Serhiy Zhadan* published by Yale University Press last spring.

MIKE ANDREC is a Certified Archivist at the Ukrainian History and Education Center (Somerset, New Jersey), where he has been working on bringing the Center's collections accumulated since the 1960s -- including personal papers, organizational records, and recorded sound -- to professional standards of preservation, description, and accessibility. He is also part of the organizing committee for the UHEC's "Nashi Predky/Our Ancestors" Ukrainian genealogy program. In addition, he is the archivist responsible for the management of the permanent institutional records of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (Somerset/South Bound Brook, NJ).

YURI SHEVCHUK is lecturer of Ukrainian language at Columbia University's Department of Slavic Languages. He holds a Ph.D. in Germanic Philology from Kyiv State University (1987), and MA in Political Science from the New School for Social Research (1996). He has published in the US, Canadian, and Ukrainian press and on the Internet on issues of Ukrainian language, identity, culture, Ukrainian and world cinema. He has lectured on Ukrainian language, culture, and film at leading US, Canadian, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Ukrainian universities.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO is an artist from Kyiv who has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2010, most recently creating the set for *Opera GAZ*. He is a visual artist who has had exhibits at La MaMa Galleria, the Ukrainian Institute of America and the Bezpala Gallery in Toronto.

DARIEN FIORINO is at Cornell University studying environmental science and performing arts. He was in Yara's *Winter Songs on Mars* and *1917/2017: Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* at La MaMa.

STAFF: Translations: Iryna Voloshyna, and Publicity: Zoriana Siokalo

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YARA ARTS GROUP was established in 1990 and is a resident company at La MaMa, the acclaimed experimental theater in New York. Yara has created thirty-seven theatre pieces based on extensive research in Eastern Europe, Siberia and Asia, in Yara's signature style of multilingual dialogue and songs supported by evocative visuals and documentation. Yara has also created numerous traditional music events and the *Kurbas: New Worlds* exhibition for the Art Arsenal in Kyiv. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 (212)475-6474 yara@prodigy.net www.yaraartsgroup.net**

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