



Press Release Friday 25 March 2022

ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCE IN SOLIDARITY - A DAY OF PLAY READINGS AND A LIVE STREAM ON FRIDAY 1 APRIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THEATER OF PLAYWRIGHTS KYIV AND THE GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER.

DONATIONS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT UNICEF UK'S FUNDRAISING APPEAL TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN UKRAINE AND HELP OTHER HUMANITARIAN WORK IN THE COUNTRY AND WITH REFUGEES.

- ***On the War* by Theater of Playwrights, Kyiv - 10 short readings in the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs**
- ***Bad Roads* by Natal'ya Vorozhbit translated by Sasha Dugdale - an in person play reading in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs and live streamed online. It will also be available to watch for a week on the Royal Court Theatre website and the Guardian**
- **Ticket prices for the readings are being kept to a minimum and bookers are encouraged to donate what they can to Unicef UK's fundraising appeal to protect children in Ukraine. [Donate Now](#)**



The Royal Court Theatre will host *In Solidarity*, a day of readings and a live stream in solidarity with Ukrainian theatre artists. *In Solidarity* will foreground the voices of extraordinary Ukrainian playwrights reflecting the immediate experience and deep roots of the current invasion. The event takes place on Friday 1 April 2022.


Ticket revenue will contribute towards supporting the Ukrainian artists involved in this event. We are keeping ticket prices for the readings to a minimum to encourage bookers to donate to Unicef UK's fundraising appeal to protect children in Ukraine please follow the links [here](#).

The events include:

***On the War* by Theater of Playwrights, Kyiv
Friday 1 April 2022
2.30pm & 5.30pm - Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Tickets £8**

For this project, ten leading members of the Theater of Playwrights in Kyiv tell their own stories about the war.

The Russian war against Ukraine began in 2014 with the occupation of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the Crimean peninsula. Eight years later, it continues with Russia's full-



scale invasion of Ukraine. Is this the right time for the theatre? Probably not. But it still gives us the platform to speak - about the war and the way it has changed the world.

Written by Oles Barleeg, Natalia Blok, Andrii Bondarenko, Oleksii Dorychevskyi, Julia Gonchar, Anastasiia Kosodii, Lena Lagushonkova, Olha Matsyupa, Oksana Savchenko, Liudmyla Tymoshenko. Translated by Jack Clover, Molly Flynn & Helena Kernan. Directed by Nastazja Domaradzka & Sam Pritchard. Dramaturgy by Anastasiia Kosodii. Visual Artist Nikolay Karabinovych.

Project Partners: Münchner Kammerspiele, Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, Maxim Gorki Theater, Nationaltheater Mannheim, Staatstheater Hannover, Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre.

***Bad Roads* by Natal'ya Vorozhbit translated by Sasha Dugdale**

Friday 1 April 2022

8pm - Jerwood Theatre Downstairs and live streamed on the Royal Court and Guardian websites.

Tickets £8

A staged reading of Ukrainian playwright Natal'ya Vorozhbit's seminal play, produced by the Royal Court to huge acclaim in 2017. *Bad Roads* documents Russia's 2014 invasion of Crimea and Donbas.

This event is also available to watch live online for free on the Royal Court Theatre and Guardian website at 8pm on Friday 1st April and for a week after the initial event.

A journalist takes a research trip to the front line.

Teenage girls wait for soldiers on benches.


A medic mourns her lover killed in action.

Bad Roads is heart-breaking and powerful study of what it is to live in a time of war.

Directed by Vicky Featherstone.

Throughout Friday 1 April 2022 the Royal Court Bar & Kitchen will be giving proceeds from food sales to the #CookforUkraine [campaign](#).

All performers to be announced.



**On the War by
Theater of
Playwrights,
Kyiv.**



**Bad Roads by
Natal'ya
Vorozhbit.
(translated by Sasha Dugdale)**



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Notes to Editors:

For more information please contact AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com

We would also like to signpost the work being done by the following organisations who have been brought to our attention should you wish to donate, support or understand more:

[The Ukrainian Institute \(UK\)](#)
[Black Foreigners in Ukraine](#)
[Genderz](#)
[Choose Love](#)
[Fulcrum](#)
<https://detebg.org/en/mission-ukraine/>

Images: Bad Roads production pictures <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c6l3akre4zp4cl6/AADPAcD6elI2fu6edSmTQ4-6a?dl=0>

Playwrights Biographies

For Bad Roads

Natal'ya Vorozhbit

For the Royal Court: **Bad Roads, The Khomenko Family Chronicles, Maidan Diaries.**

Other theatre includes: **Vy (Maksim Golenko, Magdeburg); Shame (Artishok/The Almaty, Kazakhstan); Take the Rubbish Out, Sasha (National Theatre of Scotland/Òran Mór); The Grain Store (RSC); Demons (Moscow/National Theatre of Latvia); Galka Motalko (Moscow/National Theatre of Latvia).**

Films include: **Bad Roads, Cyborgs, Voroshilovgrad, Galka Motalko.**

Awards Include: **Eureka Prize for Galka Motalko, Golden Mask for Docudrama (Vy).**

Natal'ya Vorozhbit was born in Kiev and studied at the Moscow Literary Institute. She took part in Royal Court workshops in Moscow and attended the Royal Court International Residency in 2005. She is the co-founder of the Theatre of the Displaced in Kiev and curator of the "Class Act" project in Ukraine.

For On the War

Natalia Blok

(Kherson – Kyiv)

Blok is a well-known Ukrainian playwright and screenwriter and one of the founders of Theater of Playwrights. She has written scripts for full-length films, serials, and short films. Together with Marina Usmanova, Blok founded the feminist organization 'Insha.' Her work focuses on the topic of human rights in all its various forms.


Liudmyla Tymoshenko

(Kyiv – Lviv)

Tymoshenko is a playwright, screenwriter, artist, and university lecturer. Her plays have been shortlisted for drama festivals and competitions both in Ukraine and internationally. She had two premieres scheduled, one in February in Kyiv and the second in May in Lviv. Both have been cancelled due to the war.

Oles Barleeg

Zaporizhzhia



Barleeg is a poet, novelist, and playwright from Zaporizhzhia. He is the author of a collection of poetry entitled *The Pleasure of an Imaginary Death* (2012) and the collection of queer plays *Beasts Will Look in Place of You* (2017). His play *The Trees are Late for the Bus* on the topic of Holodomor (1932-33) was the winner of the Drama.UA drama competition in Ukraine in 2012.

Oleksii Dorychevskiy

(Kyiv)

Dorychevskiy is a film actor, a director, and a playwright. He is the founder of the theatre collective 'Promin' and a creator of the outdoor theatre festival, Osten Saken Offstage. He and his family are now refugees in Germany.

Oiha Matsyupa

(Lviv – Lublin)

Matsyupa is a Ukrainian playwright based in Lublin. She is a creator of the TransDramaticum Arts Platform initiative in Lublin, which stages readings of contemporary plays and organizes art therapy workshops for migrants. In 2018 she participated in the production *We Won't Return the Lions* exploring Ukrainian-Polish relations at the Wanda Siemaszkowa Theatre in Rzeszow.

Oksana Savchenko

(Kyiv)

Savchenko is a playwright and Screenwriter. Her work has appeared in the Heidelberger Stückemarkt Festival in Germany in 2017, the Telpa Daugavpils International Festival Laboratory in Latvia in 2014, as well as the Week of Contemporary Plays festival in Ukraine. Savchenko has collaborated with the Theatre of Displaced People in Ukraine and participated in a Royal Court programme for Ukrainian playwrights in 2011.

Lena Lagushonkova

(Stanitsa Luhanska – Kyiv)

Lagushonkova began her career as a playwright in 2018 with the play *Baza* which told the stories of women who worked as prostitutes. She is currently the lead playwright at the Vasylo Odesa Academic Ukrainian Music and Drama Theatre. Her plays have been shortlisted for the Week of Contemporary Plays Festival, Drama.UA, and the Aurora Festival.

Andrii Bondarenko

(Lviv)

Bondarenko is a playwright, director, and researcher. He has a PhD and is head of the literary-drama department at the Lviv Puppet Theatre. Bondarenko also curates the storytelling for the stage group 'Drama Atelier.' His plays have been included in major theatre festivals throughout Ukraine with works staged in Lviv, Kyiv, and Zaporizhzhia. He is also the director of the short film *A Night with Natalia* (2017).

Julia Gonchar

(Kyiv)

Gonchar is a playwright and translator as well as a participant in and curator of international theatre projects. She is an active advocate of new drama and avant-garde art in Ukraine. Gonchar also worked as the curator for international collaboration at Ukraine's Week of Contemporary Plays and was invited as the Ukrainian delegate to the Berliner Theatertreffen festival in 2017 and the International Schiller Days at the Mannheim National Theatre in Germany.

Anastasiia Kosodii

(Zaporizhzhia - Kyiv)

Kosodii is a Ukrainian playwright, director, and one of the co-founders of Theater of Playwrights in Kyiv. Before the full-scale Russian invasion, Kosodii often worked with NGOs in Eastern Ukraine in towns on the front line of the war between Ukraine and Russia. Her international work is in connection to the Maxim Gorki Theater (Berlin) and Münchner Kammerspiele Theater (Munich).

Theater of Playwrights, Kyiv

In the years between Ukraine's Euromaidan Revolution (2013-14) and Russia's full-scale invasion of the country (2022), Ukraine has witnessed an incredible boom in socially



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engaged performance practice. Enlivened by a new sense of political agency, Ukrainian theatre makers from across the country have been seeking out innovative approaches to imagining and articulating a more inclusive, coherent, and pluralistic vision of civil society through theatre and performance. Perhaps most notable has been the founding of Ukraine's first democratically run playwright-led theatre collective, the Theater of Playwrights.

The collective was founded in 2020 and is made up of twenty leading Ukrainian playwrights. After a year of community organizing, fundraising, and renovations, the Theater of Playwrights opened the doors to its modest Kyiv venue in December 2021. The founding of the Theater of Playwrights

project, and the opening of the group's dedicated theatre space, marked an important moment in the history of Ukrainian theatre in the post-Maidan era. The project's founders are building upon years of grass roots initiatives to establish new languages of solidarity, multiplicity, and self-definition for contemporary Ukraine. However, less than three months after its official opening in December 2021, the Theater of Playwrights has been forced to temporarily close its doors as the city of Kyiv is currently under siege by the Russian army and the Kremlin's ongoing imperialist invasion of Ukraine.

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