



BECKETT. WOMEN. JULY 28 - 30

YLFA EDELSTEIN LESYA VERBA KATHRYN MEDEROS SYSSOYEVA

DIRECTED BY
DIANA ZHDANOVA

SUBLETSERIES@

HERE

AnomalousCo

Directed and Designed by **Diana Zhdanova**

with (in order of appearance)

Ylfa Edelstein

Lesya Verba

Kathryn Mederos Syssoyeva

Ukrainian Translation of *Not I* by **Lesya Verba**

Ms. Edelstein's Costume Design by **Lesya Verba**

Lighting Design by **Milner Sommers**

Technical Director, Stage Manager, and Board Op - **Erika Bracy**

Production Support - **Jeremy Goren**

Marketing Assistance - **Weronika Helen Wozniak**

Produced by AnomalousCo (anomalousco.com)

This production is a part of SubletSeries@HERE: Co-op, HERE's curated rental program, which provides artists with subsidized space and equipment, as well as a technical liaison.

Special thanks to Remi Harris, Kristin Marting, and the wonderful team at HERE for your ongoing support of the work of AnomalousCo.

Special thanks too, to Ximena Garnica and Shige Moriya of LEIMAY for their continued generous donation of rehearsal space.

SUBLET SERIES @HERE

#HERE @HEREARTS



Welcome!

Thank you for coming to the production of *BECKETT. WOMEN.* a SubletSeries:Co-Op presentation. This program provides artists with discounted space and equipment, as well as technical support.

HERE also supports the work of artists at all stages in their careers through our HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), which develops and produces the work of our 10 resident artists, and Visiting Artist presentations for adult and family audiences. Please check out our other performances and events at HERE.org.

Like all the work at HERE, this SubletSeries:Co-Op presentation was curated based on the strength and uniqueness of the artist's vision.

We hope to see you HERE again soon.

Best,

Kristin

KRISTIN MARTING

Founding Artistic Director

ALSO AT HERE

HEREart
INTERLUDE
NOW – SEPT 2

SubletSeries
CHANTEUSE
NOW – JULY 30

HERE SUPPORT

HERE is extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of an important group of Foundations, Corporations, Government Agencies, Elected Officials, and dedicated individuals. We would not be HERE without them.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

HERE'S programming is made possible with Public Funds from: National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the New York State Legislature; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Office of the Mayor of New York, and Speaker Corey Johnson; The Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer; and New York State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick. We are extremely grateful for the support and advocacy of all of our dedicated elected officials: Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten R. Gillibrand, Representative Jerrold L. Nadler, Mayor Eric Adams, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee of the City Council, and State Senator Brad M. Hoylman.

PRIVATE AND CORPORATE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

Alliance of Resident Theatres/ New York, Axe-Houghton Foundation, Booth Ferris Foundation, Edison Properties, Fund for the City of New York, Howard Gilman Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Inc., Jim Henson Foundation, Joseph and Joan Cullman, Foundation for the Arts, Leon Levy Foundation, mediaThe Foundation, Mental Insight Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Select Equity Group, Inc., The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Barbara Bell Cumming Charitable Trust, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Sherman Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation, and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

HERE, in partnership with Resident Playwright Taylor Mac, is a participant in the Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Program administered in partnership with HowRound. HERE is a proud member of the Hudson Sq Connection & Lower Manhattan Arts League & The National Opera America Center & TCG.

The Company

Diana Zhdanova, Director

Diana Zhdanova is an actress, director, coach, and a co-artistic director of AnomalousCo. A graduate (Summa Cum Laude) of the renowned Filshinsky Acting Studio of the St. Petersburg Institute of Performing Arts, Ms. Zhdanova has performed in Russia, Poland, and the US. Acting credits include a leading role in Tadeusz Slobodzianek's *Our Class*, winner of the Audience Choice and Special Jury prizes at Poland's 2019 ITSELF Festival, and St. Petersburg's prestigious Golden Spotlight Award for "Most Impressive Production of the 2020 Season." Since 2020, Ms. Zhdanova has served as co-Producing Artistic Director of AnomalousCo - a predominantly queer/women-led, feminist, transdisciplinary performance collective. In 2021 she produced *Beckett & the Virtual* - an international laboratory/festival of Beckett one-acts, reconceived for New Media - seen globally online, at Poland's 2021 Sopot Festival, and live at the 2022 Beckett Festival and Symposium at Assumption University in Massachusetts. Since relocating to New York City a year ago, her work as a director and actress has been seen in numerous Manhattan locations, including The Center at West Park, HERE, and Theatre 59E59.

Ylfa Edelstein - Footfalls

Ms. Edelstein is a proud member of AnomalousCo, participating in the development of *(beyond) Doomsday Scrolling* from 2022-2023, as an actress and musician in multiple venues, culminating at HERE Arts in February 2023 - and is thrilled to return in *Beckett. Women.* for another HERE/AnomalousCo. collaboration.

Ms. Edelstein was born and raised in Reykjavik, Iceland. Her grandparents fled Nazi Germany in 1938, settling in Iceland after her grandfather was offered a position as a cellist with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra. From an early age, Ms. Edelstein showed a proclivity for performance, in ballet, theatre, and music, before coming to the United States to study theatre. Ms. Edelstein has appeared in numerous film and television productions, as well as plays in Iceland and the US. For resume, photos and reels, please visit:

www.ylfaedelstein.com

Lesya Verba - Not I

Lesya Verba is a singer, artist, designer, songwriter, bandura player, muralist and actress. At home in the music of the Art Deco era, progressive urban jazz, and the spirit of the Berry Sisters, Ms. Verba performs songs in Ukrainian, Russian, English, Italian, and Yiddish. In 2020, Ms. Verba released the album *Gold*, a collection of her own songs. In her native Odessa, Ms. Verba was a featured soloist of the Odessa-Kiev project "Favorite Songs of Utesov", soloist of the municipal jazz big band, and actress in the extravagant cabaret *CoCo L'Amour* and the absurdist *House of Clowns*. In 2009 in Moscow, Ms. Verba sang before His Most Serene Highness, Prince of Liechtenstein, and His Serene Highness Maximilian.

As a visual artist, Ms. Verba burst into the highest ranks of the Ukrainian national avant-garde in the early 2000s with her painted textiles. Her art works have since been exhibited at museums and may be found in private collections, including those of filmmaker Peter Greenaway and model Alexandra Pivovarova.

In New York, Ms. Verba has performed with Yara Arts Group at the La Mama Theatre in *A Thousand Suns* and *Radio-477*, directed by Virlana Tkacz. In March 2022, she joined AnomalousCo as a musician and actress, where she has been central to the development of *(beyond) Doomsday Scrolling*, the company's ongoing work about women, war, displacement, and resistance. In 2023, she appeared in *Undesirable Elements*, directed by Ping Chong.

Kathryn Mederos Syssoyeva - *Rockaby*

Kathryn Mederos Syssoyeva, PhD, is a theatre director, actor, teacher, and scholar, and founding Artistic Director of the predominantly queer-women-led, nearly-all immigrant, entirely feminist theatre collective, AnomalousCo. Her directorial work encompasses both collectively-created, transdisciplinary performance, and modern and contemporary drama. Her productions have been seen in New York (Center at West Park, Cloud City, and HERE), San Francisco (Circus Center, Bindelstiff Studios, Thick House, Galería de la Raza, Off-Market Theater, City Solo, and Franconia Performance Salon), Utah (where she ran a contemporary play series at the Kayenta Center for the Arts), Saint Petersburg, Russia (New Holland Island Pavilion), Gdansk, Poland (the SOPOT Festival), the Providence, Portland, and SF Fringe Festivals, and globally online.

A teacher of acting, directing, devised physical theatre, Meyerhold's biomechanics, theatre for social change, and global theatre history, Dr. Syssoyeva has taught at Stanford University, Yale School of Drama, Utah Tech, Bowdoin College, Colby College, and Florida State University. A recipient of multiple grants and residencies for both the artistic and academic aspects of her work, including Fulbright and Mellon fellowships, Dr. Syssoyeva holds a joint-PhD from the Department of Drama and the Graduate Program in Humanities at Stanford University. Publications include *A History of Collective Creation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), *Collective Creation in Contemporary Performance* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), and *Women, Collective Creation, and Devised Theatre* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

AnomalousCo

AnomalousCo (anomalousco.com) is a predominantly queer/woman-led, feminist, transdisciplinary performance collective, collaboratively creating original work at the intersection of drama, new media, circus arts, installation, immersive performance, and music. Under the cooperative artistic direction of **Kathryn Mederos Syssoyeva, Diana Zhdanova, and Jeremy Goren**, we are a theatre without borders: intercultural, international, and multilingual. We are committed to foregrounding minoritarian voices, to amplifying the voices of women, and to adhering to a collaborative ethos: distributed leadership models, group decision making, and networked structures of cooperation. With a core team based in the US (New York), we maintain collaborative partnerships across the globe. Practice as research is central to our work; our productions are devised in both professional and academic settings. Our methods are syncretic, drawing upon the rich lineage of twentieth and twenty-first century European and US performance practices. Our work has been seen across the US, and in Poland, France, Russia, and globally online. Our ongoing work, *(beyond) Doomsday Scrolling*, about women, war, displacement, and resistance was hosted by HERE in March of 2023, and by New York's Center at West Park in March and May of 2022. Our most recent productions, Savianna Staniescu's AI/immigrant rom-com *Zebra 2.0*, directed by Jeremy Goren, and *Beckett.Women.*, directed by Diana Zhdanova, were presented, respectively, by Ohio Theatre's Ice Factory Festival and HERE Arts Center in July 2023. AnomalousCo is a partner member of The Between.Pomiędzy International Theatre Research Group (Poland) and WEST (Kyiv, Ukraine).

"Not I" is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection (dramatists.com). "Footfalls" and "Rockaby" are presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. (concordtheatricals.com).