

Arlekin's Zero Gravity (zero-G) Virtual Theater Lab

presents

WITNESS

World Premiere in December

About (zero-G) Virtual Theater Lab

During the pandemic, while most theaters worldwide were shuttered, Arlekin Players Theatre wasted no time in transforming their small theater into the Zero Gravity (zero-G) Virtual Theater Lab, developing a new genre and producing two international virtual theater productions: *State vs Natasha Banina* and *chekhovOS /an experimental game/*, which featured Obie winner Jessica Hecht as Ranevskaya and Mikhail Baryshnikov as Anton Chekhov.

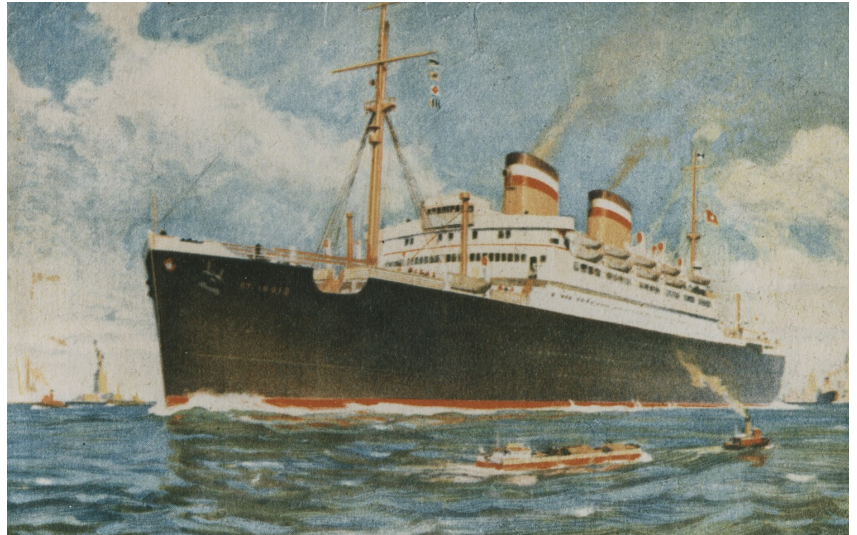


chekhovOS /an experimental game/

Both productions went viral, catapulting Arlekin onto the global stage, garnering international attention (with audiences in over 40 countries) and receiving rave press, including two *New York Times* Critic's Picks. This work has positioned Arlekin and our founder, Igor Golyak, as innovators and international leaders in the virtual theater movement.

"...the future of online productions might be best represented so far by Arlekin Players Theatre"

-The Week in New York



WITNESS: Where Do Unwanted People Go?

Award-winning Arlekin Players Theatre will open its 2021-2022 season with WITNESS, a bold and complex new documentary theater piece that bears witness to the migratory experience of Jews today and throughout history. Based on interviews of Jewish people around the world conducted by the Arlekin company members, along with historical records and letters, this timely piece will tell a multiplicity of stories of migration, displacement, home and identity. This interactive digital trans-media production will allow audience members across the world to become immersed in these stories and to engage with them directly.

The piece is based, in part, on the 1939 voyage of the M.S. St. Louis, the ship that famously left Germany with over 900 Jews on board, seeking to escape the rise of the Nazi party. When they arrived at their destination, Cuba, they were turned away. Efforts to locate the refugees elsewhere in the Americas also failed. No one wanted them, and the ship was forced to return to Europe, where more than 250 would perish in concentration camps.

Director Igor Golyak's vision for WITNESS is an interactive theater experience that allows participating audience members to engage in the life experiences and stories of centuries of Jewish people migrating, fleeing persecution, seeking a home, and struggling to understand their identities across the broad Jewish diaspora: Where do unwanted people go? How are they part of a single culture if they don't share land, language, or life experience? How do they survive? Thrive?

About Arlekin Players Theatre

Arlekin Players Theatre, founded by Artistic Director Igor Golyak in 2009, is an artist-driven company created with and for immigrant actors from the former Soviet Union. For over a decade, we have told powerful stories and invented new forms of theater in both Russian and English, working to build vital connections and create shared human experience. We take special pride in exploring questions of self-identity and working on productions that play on the ideas of culture, identity, home, tradition, the idea of nationality, finding common themes that unite us all.

During our first ten years, Arlekin was invited numerous times to perform on the world-famous stage of the Moscow Art Theatre and at international festivals including the prestigious Mondial du Théâtre in Monaco. During our 10th Anniversary Season, we received a sweep of Boston's Elliot Norton Awards, including Best Production, Best Designer, Best Actress and Best Director.

We remain committed to connecting in new ways, creating meaningful, groundbreaking artistic productions, and continually reinventing what theater is for our community in Boston and for an increasing audience across the globe.

Quick Links & Work Samples

[State vs Natasha Banina Trailer](#)

[chekhovOS Trailer](#)

[NYTimes Review/Critic's Pick](#) - Elisabeth Vincentelli

[Gaming Nexus Review](#) -Eric Hauter

www.arlekinplayers.com

www.zerogravity.art

Past Arlekin Productions About Immigrant and Jewish Identity



The Stone

By Marius von Mayenburg



Tales of the Last Wednesday

Based on stories by Isaac Bashevis



Memorial Prayer

By Gregoriy Gorin

Based on Aleichem's "Tevye the Dairyman"

Мы/Us

Original documentary piece
Script by Lyubov Mulmenko

Immigrants 3.0

Based on *Not Far from God* by Ganna Slutski

