

The Dailes Theatre (Riga, Latvia)

Territory Foundation for contemporary art development (Moscow, Russia)

together with

Blavatnik Family Foundation

and MART Foundation

present

May 28-31, 2022

at the Dailes Theatre

premiere

IN THE SOLITUDE OF COTTON FIELDS

based on Bernard-Marie Koltes play

starring **Ingeborga Dapkunaite and John Malkovich**

staged by **Timofey Kulyabin**

and designed by **Oleg Golovko**

performance is in English language with Latvian and Russian subtitles

On January 15, 2022, the first stage rehearsals started **at the Dailes Theatre** for a new international theatre production. The famous Russian theatre and opera director **Timofey Kulyabin** turned to the work of the outstanding French playwright of the second half of the 20th century, **Bernard-Marie Koltes**. World famous actors are invited to participate in the performance – Russian-Lithuanian actress **Ingeborga Dapkunaite** and American actor **John Malkovich**. Rehearsals will be held in two stages, the first will end on January 25. The production team will then meet again in Riga at the beginning of May to present the premiere later that month, on May 28, 29,

30 and 31. Until the end of 2022, the second block of performances **In the Solitude of Cotton Fields** will take place on the stage of the Dailes Theater, after which the production will go on a world tour in 2023.

Bernard-Marie Koltes (1948, Metz - 1989, Paris) was a French playwright best known, among others, for his plays *The Night Just Before the Forests*, *Black Battles with Dogs*, *Quay West*, *In the Solitude of Cotton Fields* and *Roberto Zucco*, which were translated into almost 40 languages and included in the repertoire of theatres around the world. The work of Koltes attracted attention of major European directors, including Patrice Chereau, Peter Stein, Krzysztof Warlikowski, Michael Thalheimer, Kama Ginkas, Luis Pascual and others.

Patrice Chereau first staged the play *In the Solitude of Cotton Fields* in 1987 at the Nanterre-Amandier theatre in Paris.

This play features the following situation: two people meet in a dark alley. One calls himself the Dealer, the other is named the Client. Dealer is trying to sell something to the Client, something the latter must name himself. Client doesn't want to name the item and refuses the deal in every possible way.

The piece is their argument, the confrontation of two people expressed in a play on words and meanings. Over time, audience realizes that the subject of the sale is a secret sexual attraction. Two characters must confess their attraction to each other. However, since neither one of them wants to call things for what they are, they go round and about and audience understands that this dispute will not be resolved because no one wants to confess.

Director **Timofey Kulyabin** and dramaturg **Roman Dolzhansky** have created stage adaptation of the play for the new performance, in which sound design and video score are meant to play an important role. New age cameras follow actors and create not only the "close up" effect but parallel media action, some sort of live videoart.

Timofey Kulyabin: *In 2022, we should differently approach the theme of forbidden, unspoken and irresistible attraction. We are making performance about a secret desire,*

which is punishable and recognized as criminal by any society – according to the current law.

There are two actors in our performance but only one character. We will spend most of the time in the subconscious, in the nightmares of a person who will never appear on stage. Instead, we will see two confronting figures conducting a tense, emotional and complicated dialogue. It is a dialogue of a person with his own secret desires and fears. With something he can't even admit to himself – and at the same time, something he can't get rid of without committing suicide. It is a story of human complexity, which faces the world where complexity is something unwanted, inappropriate, almost obscene. This world is creating inner discord, disharmony that is killing the person from the inside as some lethal disease.

Ingeborga Dapkunaite and John Malkovich have already crossed paths on stage; their history includes more than ten common projects in theatre and cinema. In 2009-2011, they played in Michael Sturminger's musical performance *The Giacomo Variations*, which successfully toured many countries of the world. In 2017, actors played together in the Russian film *About Love*.

Timofey Kulyabin

Theatre director who prolifically works both in drama and in opera. One of the best known Russian directors of the younger generation in Europe. He made his debut as the professional stage director at the age of 22 in 2006, and has since staged about 30 productions in Russian and European theatres, including the Bolshoi Theatre, Theatre of Nations (Moscow), Deutsches Theater (Berlin), Schauspielhaus (Zurich), Residenztheater (Munich). Since 2015, he is the artistic director of the Red Torch Theatre (Novosibirsk). He is known for his radically modern interpretations of classical authors - Chekhov, Ibsen, Pushkin, Gogol, Strindberg, etc. His productions are regular guests of international theatre festivals, and his show *Three Sisters* based on Anton Chekhov's play was awarded the Golden Mask National Theatre Award and has toured dozens of countries.

Oleg Golovko

Artist and designer. Graduated from I.E. Repin St. Petersburg State Academic Institute of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture (class of Eduard Kochergin). Trained in Paris at the Beaux-Arts Institute. From 2000 to 2003, he was the chief artist of the Altai Regional Drama Theatre named after V. M. Shukshin (Barnaul). In 2004–2006, he was the chief artist of the Red Torch Theatre, for which he designed more than 20 performances. He has created stage design for more than 100 performances, including shows for the Bolshoi Theatre and Theatre of Nations (Moscow), Mariinsky Theatre, Bolshoi Drama Theatre, the Bryantsev Youth Theatre, the Baltic House (St. Petersburg), Yaroslavl Volkov Theatre, Omsk Academic Drama Theatre, Residenztheater (Munich), Opernhaus (Wuppertal, Germany), Deutsches Theater (Berlin, Germany), etc. For more than ten years, he has been working with director Timofey Kulyabin, being the set designer for all his performances up to this day.

Ingeborga Dapkunaite

Theatre and cinema actress, TV presenter. She started her acting career in Lithuanian theatres, particularly in the productions of the legendary director Eimuntas Nyakroshyus. Since the 1990s, she has been successfully working in Russian theatres and on Russian television and has become one of the most recognizable and popular actresses in Russia. Currently her theatre work in Russia is mainly connected with the Theatre of Nations (Moscow), where she successfully performs central parts, both in classical works and in plays by contemporary playwrights. She also takes part in international theatre and film projects and constantly works with British and American studios; she played in *Mission: Impossible* (1996), *Seven Years in Tibet* (1997) films and in numerous BBC series.

John Malkovich

Actor, director, producer and scriptwriter. His cinema work displaying his wide range of acting, outstanding charm and technique, has brought him international fame, dozens of awards and several Oscar nominations. He has played over 70 parts in movies including those by Steven Spielberg (*Empire of the Sun*, 1987), Bernardo Bertolucci (*The Sheltering Sky*, 1990), Stephen Frears (*Dangerous Liaisons*, 1988), the Coen brothers (*Burn After Reading*, 2008), Luc Besson (*Joan of Arc*, 1990) and others. Malkovich, apart from film acting, also works as a director, writer and producer, and appears in TV

productions. At the same time, since the mid-1970s, Malkovich has continually worked theatre stages of Broadway, London, Paris and other theatrical metropolises as an actor and director. His partners are the stars of world theatre. For his directing work in theatre, he received the French National Theatre Molière Award and the British Milton Schulman Award.

Creative team

Director – **Timofey Kulyabin**

Starring **Ingeborga Dapkunaite and John Malkovich**

Set and costume designer – **Oleg Golovko**

Dramaturg – **Roman Dolzhansky**

Sound designer– **Timofey Pastukhov**

Video designer – **Alexander Lobanov**

Director of photography – **Vladimir Burtsev**

Video editor – **Anastasia Zhuravleva**

Light designer – **Taras Mikhalevsky**

Executive producer – **Irina Paradnaya**

General producer – **Ekaterina Yakimova**

Territory Foundation for culture and contemporary art development since 2006 has been holding in Moscow the international school-festival Territory, which has become one of the largest contemporary art forums and one of the most important educational projects in Russia. The Foundation also has numerous festival and educational projects in many regions of Russia and participates in international projects. It was founded by Evgeny Mironov, Kirill Serebrennikov, Roman Dolzhansky and others.

The Dailes Theatre was founded in Riga in 1920 by the outstanding Latvian actor and director Eduard Smilgis, who was at the head of the theatre up to 1964. In 1977, theatre moved to a new building, three halls of which are still among the main cultural addresses of the Latvian capital. The theatre is well known abroad as well; the Dailes stage has seen performing many outstanding Latvian actors. Since 2020, theatre's artistic director is Viesturs Kairiss.

Photos for media

Contacts for media

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