



HB
STUDIO

It's Only Word That
Should Be Granted Life
Лишь Слову жизнь дана

October 11, 2020 | 2:00PM

HB Studio presents

It's Only Word That
Should Be Granted Life
Лишь Слову жизнь дана

A presentation in honor of the Russian novelist
and poet Ivan Bunin's 150th birthday

October 11, 2020

2:00 PM

Directed by Snezhana Chernova

Featuring:

Marina Bondik
Christine Elmo
Kate Gerasimova
Anna Kaliuzhnaia
Florian Kiniffo
Lyubov Orlovsky
Timo Palonen
Alisa Rusanoff
Olga Sopian
Inna Zozulya

Edith Meeks, Executive & Artistic Director

Lauren Ritter, Production Manager

Lorraine de Silva, Zoom Tech



This program is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and many generous supporters.

About Ivan Bunin

The first Russian winner of the Nobel Prize for literature in 1933, Ivan Bunin is considered to be one of Russia's most important pre-1917 Revolution literary figures. A prolific writer and the author of over 100 poems, Bunin is most famous for his prose in such stories as "On the Farm," "The News From Home," "To the Edge of The World," "Antonov Apples," and "The Gentleman from San Francisco." His calm and classic writing style is said to recall the great 19th century literature of Tolstoy and Chekhov. Descended from a long line of landed gentry, Bunin witnessed his family's increasing impoverishment and the eventual loss of their fortune. This powerful childhood experience shaped his writing, which frequently focuses on the decline and decay of the Russian nobility. His first full-length work, "Derevnia" (The Village) published in 1910, highlights life in the Russian Provinces at the time of the 1905 Revolution. In 1912, Bunin published "Sukhodol" (Dry Valley), a lament for the passing of gentry life and a veiled biography of his family. He emigrated to France, where he settled in Grasse. In 1920, Bunin published his diary "Okayannye Dni". Other later works include the autobiographical novel "The Life of Arsenyev" (1933), "Mitya's Love" (1925), and "Shadowed Paths" (1946), written during the nazi occupation. Bunin died in Paris on November 8, 1953.



Snezhana Chernova (Director)

Snezhana Chernova (SAG-AFTRA) graduated from St. Petersburg State Theater Arts Academy in Russia. Before moving to America, she acted at the Baltic Repertoire Theater in St. Petersburg. In New York, she studied with the legendary Uta Hagen at HB Studio. She took the Jacques Lecoq workshop with Norman Taylor in NYC and the Theatre Pedagogy course with Anatoli Vasiliev in Venice, Italy. She taught speech/speaking voice and acting at Saint Petersburg State Theater Arts Academy, at the Danish Theater School GITIS Scandinavia, and Trinity/LaMaMa Performing Arts of Trinity College. Snezhana is on the acting faculty at HB Studio. She has performed with

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different theater companies in the USA, Canada, Germany, South Korea, Ukraine and Russia. Film/TV: FX's THE AMERICANS, LOVE IN THE BIG CITY, PROOF OF BIRTH, ALASKA KIDS, THE LOUISE LOG, and others.



Marina Bondik

Marina Bondik is a model and actress. Marina has been featured in a few short films including THE SCENE OF LIGHT, DOWN AND OUT, and DAD. She has also done commercial and publication work including a national commercial for Men's Warehouse and print campaigns with Harper's Bazaar UK. She has studied acting with Lenore Harris, Susan Campanaro, Snezhana Chernova, and Mary Tierney.



Christine Elmo

Christine Elmo has studied dance extensively for most of her life. She has performed in works by Biba Bell, Nancy Garcia, Douglas Dunn, Charlotte Gibbons, Neil Greenberg, Miguel Gutierrez, Juliana May, Paige Martin, Jennifer Monson, Eileen Myles, Susan Rethorst, and Vicky Shick. She has worked in film with Elise Kermani, Rose Troche, and Treva Wurmfeld. Christine's choreographies were seen at Kate Werble Gallery, Situations Gallery, The Chocolate Factory, Dixon Place, 92nd Street Y, among other venues in NYC and elsewhere. She has collaborated with musicians Daniel Carter and Jacob Wick. In 2019, she appeared in a principal role on an episode of HIGH MAINTENANCE. She holds a BFA in Dance Performance from Purchase College, SUNY, and a BA in Classical Studies (Bluhm Fellowship Scholar) and Anthropology with a minor in Archaeology from Hunter College, CUNY.



Kate Gerasimova

Kate Gerasimova designs and facilitates workshops and leadership development programs for clients. She enjoys working with people and finds that acting helps her understand and define herself so that she may provide better self improvement tools for her clients. She has taken acting classes at HB Studio, Santa Fe Community College and in Russia. Kate holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a concentration in consulting.



Anna Kaliuzhnaia

Anna Kaliuzhnaia is an actress from Moscow, Russia. After having graduated with a BA in Arts and Humanities from Russian State University for the Humanities, where she studied history of theater and cinema, she decided to continue learning in a more hands-on way. That desire brought her to NYC and then to HB Studio, where she has been studying acting with Trudy Steibl and Snezhana Chernova. Some of her recent works include: Abigail in 2Y20M (directed by Kae Fujisawa), Sam in OUTSIDE THE LIGHTHOUSE (directed by Mohammed Elmzaghi).



Florian Kiniffo

Florian Kiniffo is a 29-year-old French actor and model currently based in London. He has been studying at HB Studio since 2018.



Lyubov Orlovsky

Lyubov Orlovsky was born on May 7, 1981 in Eysk, Russia. Lyubov grew up in Moldova, where she graduated from the Academy of Music as a pianist. She worked as an accompanist, chorus conductor, chorus singer, and piano teacher, and studied vocals privately. She studied acting for two years at the Russian Acting School in NY. Currently, she is raising a two-year-old son, making musical arrangements, and volunteering by translating spiritual literature and organizing yoga retreats.



Timo Palonen

Timo Palonen is a graduate of New York City's High School of the Performing Arts. He has trained with Marat Yusim, Anthony Abeson, Jeanne Kaplan, Austin Pendleton, Ed Morehouse, Terry Schreiber, and Snezhana Chernova. Timo's last appearance at HB Playwrights Theatre was in 2015, in the CENTRAL PARK PLAYS and VIRGIL GOES FOR A RIDE, as part of the Pat & Julie Project.



Alisa Rusanoff

Alisa Rusanoff is a professional singer and actress based in New York. Her experience includes multiple concerts and gigs as part of FK Band, as well as various musicals, theatrical plays and other performances. Several years ago, Alisa became a finalist of the Star Chance contest, a singing contest in New York. Since then, her songs have been rotating on multiple radio stations. For the last couple of years, Alisa has been performing solo. Her repertoire includes pop and jazz songs in English, French and Russian. She has also worked with Steps Theater, Theater Dialogue and others on multiple projects.



Olga Sopian

Olga Sopian is an artistic person, interested in all facets of art. She started acting four years ago, appearing in background TV projects. This sparked her interest in acting and she began taking acting classes. For one year, she went regularly to a Russian acting school, where she studied the Stanislavsky system, along with dancing and singing. Olga is a professional architect.

Inna Zozulya

Inna Zozulya is an actress, singer, and author of rock ballads. She plays piano, guitar and many other instruments. She was born in the Ukraine. There, she directed choir and worked for many years in music education. When she immigrated to the USA in 1998, she began her acting career. Without education in the field, she acted in Off Broadway shows, including leading parts in Russian plays, student movies, and Russian commercials at Russian Channel RTVI. She has performed at Children Galli Theater in NYC. She has also done voice over work and directed some contemporary plays. Currently, she is an actress at the TRACT-Theater of Russian Actors. While participating in different acting projects, she decided to take some acting classes to improve herself as an actress. She has taken acting classes from Russian Acting Studio, HB Studio, and others.

