



GALYA (GALINA) ZHDANOVA

actress / theater director

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I was born in Estonia in 1983, after graduating from the Tallinn High School of Humanities I entered the Theater Academy in St. Petersburg (2001-2006 - actor; 2006-2010 - director; master's degree - diplomas), worked in Russia, Germany, and moved back to Estonia in 2020.

I became a member of the Estonian Actors' Union and the Estonian Theater Association.

In February 2024 I founded a theater studio for adults in Tallinn (PERFORMA PROJECT, link to the social media <https://www.instagram.com/performa.project?igsh=eTU0cm1jZzFzNjFi>), where I teach acting practices and combine them with the practices of awareness and psychotherapy, which I am studying professionally in Baltic Gestalt Institute as a student for the second year so far. I plan to integrate my expertise in psychology into my research for future projects in theater and art.

In December 2023 I released a premiere “Little blizzard girl” in Tallinn`s state teater VENETEATER as a director and scriptwriter, which remains in the theatre`s repertoire <https://vimeo.com/1018974605>

In March 2023 participated as a coordinator in the Erasmus+ international youth exchange in France "Theatre for Peace", I conducted acting workshops as part of the exchange (certificate) <https://www.facebook.com/566131002/videos/3456787144578850/> (video trailer link)

In 2021 participated in the international theater laboratory "Beckett and the Virtual", organized by the theater group "AnomalousCo" (New York, USA) <http://www.anomalousco.com/virtual-laboratory>. As part of the lab I created the online play "Come&Go".

In 2020 in Tallinn, I took part in Aleksandr Kučmezov's theater project THEATRICUS as a mentor (certificate).

I have extensive directing experience with professional adult groups, have directed 13 performances in various professional drama theaters across Russia, was involved in

- the selection of the play's text
- the casting of the production team and actors
- holding rehearsals and publishing the premieres
- prepared existing shows for tours and festivals

THE LIST OF MY DIRECTOR'S WORKS:

DECEMBER 2023 – performance based on the Sami fairy tale "Little blizzard girl", Veneteater, Tallinn, Estonia

APRIL 2021 – performance for the zoom platform based on S. Beckett's play "Come and Go", international festival of digital theater "Beckett and the virtual"

DECEMBER 2019 - performance based on the fairy tale story by S. Lagerlöf "Nils's Journey with the Wild Geese", Sary Dom Theater, Novosibirsk

JUNE 2019 - performance based on the play "TOPGIRLS" by Caryl Churchill, CXT Theater, St.Petersburg

NOVEMBER 2018 - performance based on W. Shakespeare's play "12th Night" at the Drama Number Three Theater, Kamensk-Uralskij

NOVEMBER 2017 - performance based on W. Shakespeare's play "Much Ado about Nothing", Subbota Theater, St.Petersburg

SEPTEMBER 2016 - performance "Tango. Etudes", Yaroslavl Volkov Drama Theater, in coproduction with choreographer Irina Lyakhovskaya

DECEMBER 2015 – solo performance by Nurbek Batulla "My Nuriev", Youth Theater of St.Petesburg

OCTOBER 2014 – author and artistic director of the theater laboratory "Tsygil. Improdrama", within the laboratory two performances were produced: "Tsygil.Improdrama" and the theater marathon "Product 24" (24 hours non-stop theatre improvisation), Takoy Theater, St.Petersburg

OCTOBER 2012 - performance "Carmen", Prosper Merimee, "NaLiteinom" Theater, St.Petersburg

JUNE 2012 - performance "A lovely Sunday for a Creve Coeur", Tennessee Williams, Omsk State Drama Theater, Omsk

DECEMBER 2011 - performance "The Nutcracker", Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann, Bolshoi Drama Theater of Tyumen

MARCH 2011 - performance "Romeo and Juliet", William Shakespeare, "NaLiteinom" Theater, St. Petersburg

MAY 2009 - performance "Maria`s Field", Oleg Bogaev, "NaLiteinom" Theater, St. Petersburg

I taught acting for 4 years at the St. Petersburg Theater Academy, and also worked as an acting coach at the opera studio of the Mariinsky Theater for 1 year.

The plays I directed have become nominees and laureates of state theater awards and festivals.

Also I am proud to have been able to participate in the first world championship of theater improvisation, which took place in 2006 in Berlin.

I have rich experience in the field of classical drama theater, but at the moment my interest is both the drama performances and the development of personal contemporary theater art projects. I am particularly interested in interdisciplinary projects, and also attracted by the idea of greater involvement of city residents in cultural projects to make art more accessible and involve more people in this practice.

When it comes to personal position, it is very important for me to be able to reflect the theme of inner and outer freedom in my works, and I am also interested in how a person's choices shape the meaning of his\her\their life. For this reason I can consider myself a follower of the philosophy of existentialism.