

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE THEATER DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



By Liudmyla Tymoshenko & Maryna Smilyanets
Translated by Olga Drobotai and Alex Borovenskiy
Edited by John Freedman

Directed by Prof. Ginny Anderson
Music by Jack Mitchell
Costumes Designed by Prof. Sabrina Notarfrancisco
Stage Managed by Jo Duckett '25
Cultural Consultant Olha Vasyliv '23

This performance is part of the
Worldwide Ukrainian Play Readings Project
organized by John Freedman.

Cast

(In order of appearance)



Peachy
Their human: Sofika
Pluto Payne '24



Mykola
Her Human: Angela
Maddy Fisher '26



Marusia
Her human: Petro
Jo Duckett '25



Busia
His human: Katrusia
Leo Saperstein '26

Crew

Cultural Consultant
Assistant Director
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager

Costume Shop Manager and Draper
Makeup Head
Costume Crew Head
Costume Crew

Sound Design
Sound Assistant
Props Crew Head
Props Crew
Run Crew
Dramaturge

Poster Design

Vocal Coaches

Olha Vasyliv '23
Gabi Craig '25
Jo Duckett '25
Gaby Henao '26
Lucy Stefani '25
Sabrina Notarfrancisco
Ali Rubin '25
Ainsley Cornwall '26
Ainsley Ellison '26
Alex Coughlin '26
Ethan Chin '25
Ian Rawlings '25
Jack McKibben '26
Griffin McAliden '24
Sage Cohen-Rider '26
Izzy Artino '24
Jem War '26
Bianca Falcone '25
Althea Tierney '25
William Ferguson '23
Jade Mamenta '25

Director's Note

A letter to Oscar (age 7) and Yelena (age 5), from their mom:

Hey kiddos,

I'm so excited to finally share this show with you – and with so many kids and grownups in our community! We've had so much fun putting it together.

I know you're excited to see the show, but there's something I want to tell you. You know how I always remind you of Mommy's most important jobs?

1) Keeping you safe.

2) Making sure you know that I love you.

This play is actually about both of those things!

The cats in this show were forced to leave the homes they knew in order to stay safe. Can you imagine how hard that must have been for them? I'm so happy they found a safe place to go and I'm so glad they helped each other through a tough time. They're pretty great friends, don't you think?

Even though sometimes it's hard when they're scared, deep down Peachy, Mykola, Marusia and Busia also never let go of the fact that their people love them, no matter how far away they might be and no matter what happens. I think that's what they mean when they sing "The light you will never lose, the darkness will not last. That's a very simple truth, known to all the coolest cats."

We all have people (and animals) we love and who love us – and there are always people who will help us if we need it. I'm so proud to join such a powerful group of artists around the world right now. I am so proud of everyone who helped to put this important show together – and that includes you and all our friends in the audience.

How much do I love you? SO much.

Mommy

Pull out the activity pages and enjoy!

Resources for Grownups

Scan the QR code below to read “How to Talk to Kids About Ukraine” by Melinda Wenner Moyer, published in the *New York Times* Feb. 25, 2022.



Read or listen to “What to say to kids when the news is scary” from NPR’s *Life Kit*, by Anya Kamenetz and Cory Turner.

Compiled resources for educators:



PEACHY: What does “refugees” mean?

MARUSIA:

Ones who had to leave their homes because of the Big, Bad Thing.

BUSIA:

If you meet a cat refugee or a dog refugee or even an iguana refugee, it doesn’t matter. You have to help them. Give them some support.

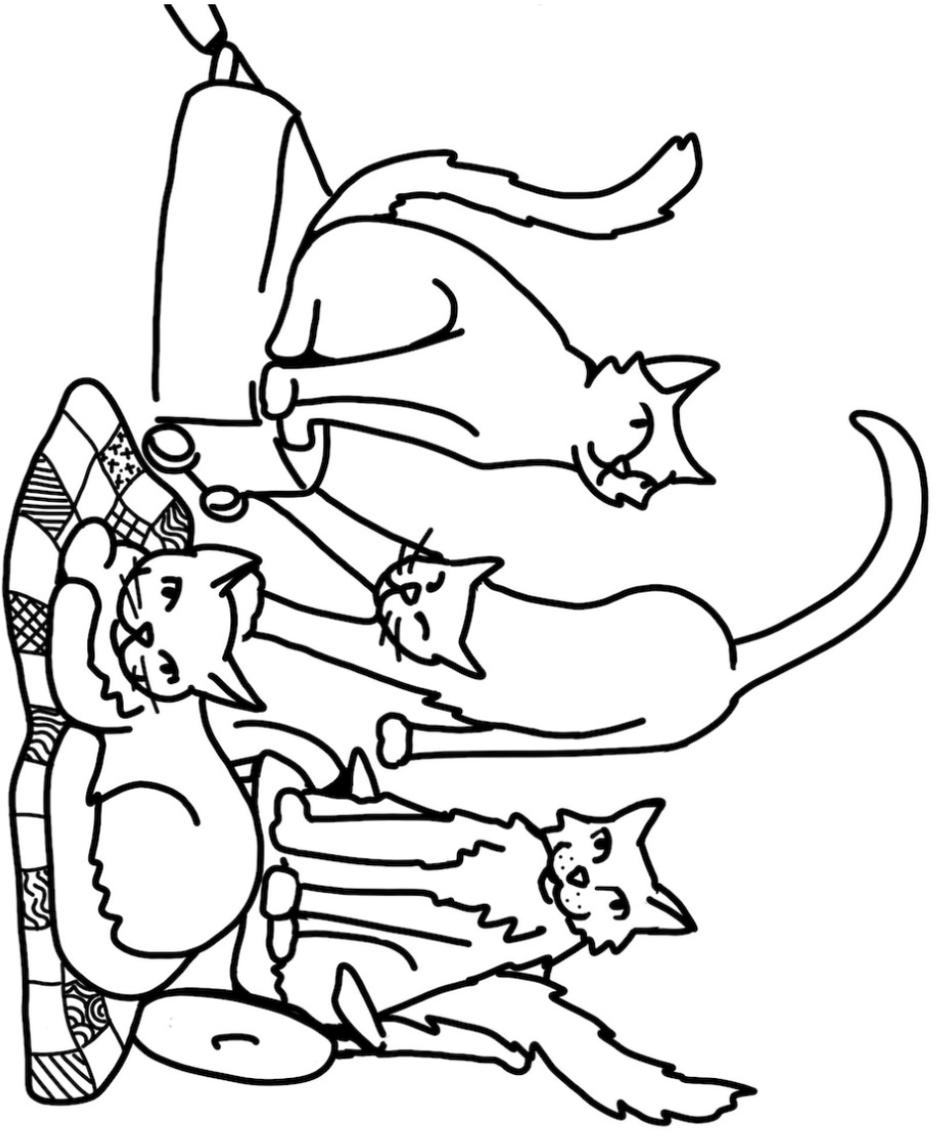
UKRAINE
flag



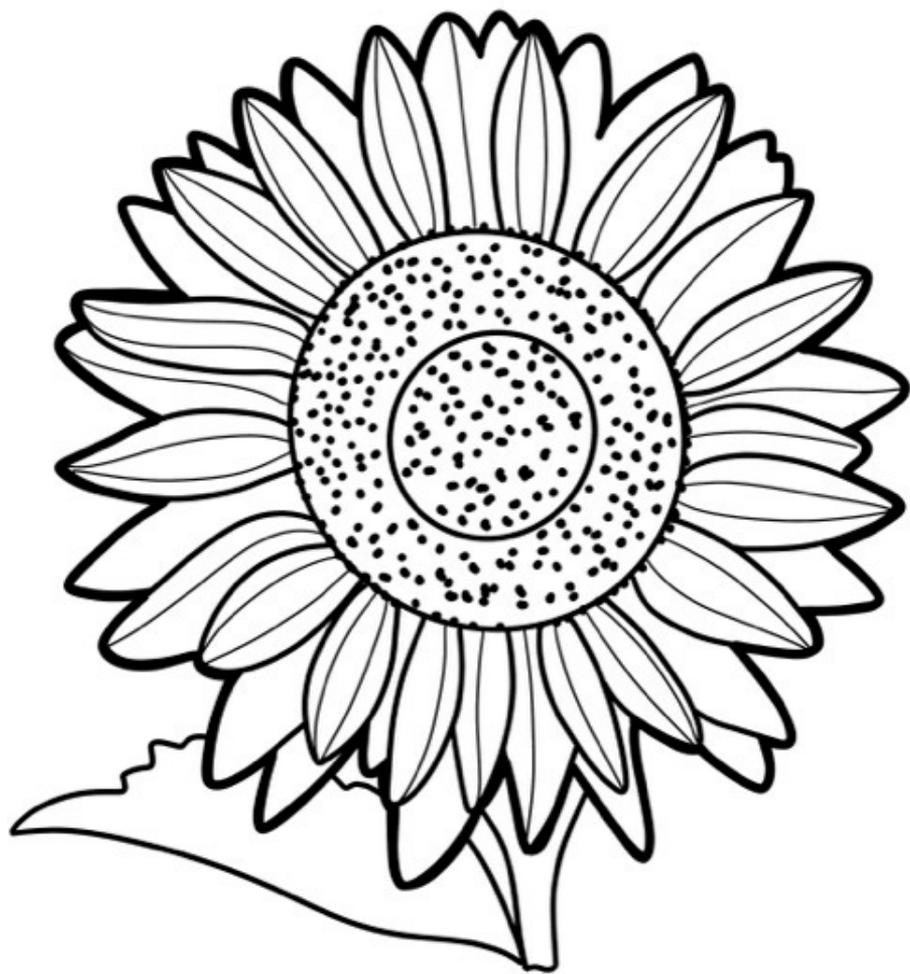
To color the flag of Ukraine, color the top stripe blue and the bottom stripe yellow.

PEACHY:

When you are so scared and lonely, when you are so far away from home, we need to be nice to each other, we need not to hurt each other... We need to say warm words, not cold words... We need to be kind.



SUNFLOWER



The sunflower has been used as a symbol of peace in Ukraine.

What does "home" mean to you?

Draw a picture of "home".



Center for International
Theatre Development

Philip Arnault
founder & director

Ukrainian  Initiative

Since the War started, CITD has raised **\$60,000** for our **Ukrainian HOPE Initiative** and has:

- Commissioned **23** plays from Ukrainian playwrights for plays written during the War
- Helped the **Theatre of Playwrights** open their new space in Kiev
- Working with **Ukrainian refugees** in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Belarus
- Partnered with our two-decade colleague in Eastern Europe, **John Freedman**, and Ukrainian playwright, **Maksym Kurochkin**, supporting the **Worldwide Ukrainian Play Readings** project
- Supported John Freedman in collecting **103** Ukrainian plays, some in multiple translations— a total of **191** scripts, that have been performed in **226** fundraising events in **23** countries around the world.
- **\$250,000 in donations** have been leveraged for various Ukrainian organizations at these 200+ readings.

SUPPORT US

We are asking for your support to continue our work with **CITD's Ukrainian HOPE Initiative**. To make a tax-deductible donation, send a check to:

**Center for International
Theatre Development**
Attn: Ukrainian Hope Initiative
901 Lenton Ave
Baltimore, MD 21212-3210

Or scan the QR code to
make a donation via
Credit Card or Paypal.



Special Thanks

Jangael Rosales

The Connecticut College Child Development Lab School
The Regional Multicultural Magnet School
The Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School
The East Lyme Public Library
The Niantic Children's Museum

Yelena Anderson-Luber
Sarah Anglin
Pat Bayne
Rodney Dumond
John Freedman
Nadia Hopkins
Andrea Lanoux
Rebecca McCue
Ayako, Emiko, and Mariko Moher
Melissa Norris
Dassia Posner
Rena Powers
Mia Rubino
Melissa Schmoegner
Dave and Sandie Scott
Midge Thomas
Bruce Valenti
Pasha Vasyliv
Andrea Wollensak

Buy Nothing East Lyme

The Blue Door
Providing Free Medical Equipment to the uninsured or for items not covered by insurance.
Also accepting donations of equipment.
Contact Rena and Gerry Powers
860-333-7651 call/text
4 South Street, Niantic, CT 06357

And our friends and families

A note from our cultural consultant:

During the outraging humanitarian crisis that started in February following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it has been difficult not to get involved in showing solidarity with Ukrainian people. Although the migration crisis caused by the invasion is one of the largest ones in recent history, Ukrainians receive less public attention. This production aims to create space for conversations about democracy, refugees, cultures under threat, and conflict. Describing the horror of forced displacement, "Cat Refugees" evokes a variety of sociological concepts present in communities across the globe: depending on one's background, it might be about justice, about diversity, about friendship, or about the power of Ukrainian patriotism and will to defend home.

Olha Vasyliv
Connecticut College '23



JOIN US following the 1 pm performance on Sunday, October 9 for a conversation with Olha Vasyliv '23

Olha is an international senior at Connecticut College. Coming from Ukraine, she has always been interested in sociological exploration of multicultural environments. Her academic background and professional experience in public service in Ukraine helped her mobilize hundreds of volunteers across the world to help inform societies about the ongoing war in dozens of languages. She continued working on cultural programming in the Embassy of Ukraine in France, where she was able to gather hundreds of Parisian visitors to appreciate the beauty of Ukraine and honor the memory of victims of Russian occupation. Olha continues promoting Ukrainian heritage in the United States by researching outcomes of the migration crisis and creating events around Ukrainian culture on campus.

Connecticut College Theater Department

Ginny Anderson, Associate Professor

Jessica Cerullo, Adjunct Associate Professor

David Jaffe, Professor

Sabrina Notarfrancisco, Associate Professor

Kenneth Prestininzi, Associate Professor, Department Chair

Tyrone Robinson, Adjunct Professor

Dotty Jo Scott, Academic Department Assistant

Kate Tarker, Adjunct Professor

Department of Arts Programming

Rob Richter, Director

Joe Matovic, Assistant to the Director & Box Office Manager

Upcoming Events

Nov. 18, 7:30 pm | Nov. 19, 2:00 and 7:30 pm | Nov. 20, 2:00 pm

Tansill Theater

The Moors

A dark comedy and absurd Gothic thriller by Jen Silverman

directed by Ken Prestininzi

AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

In recognition of World AIDS Day (December 1) 2022, Connecticut College once again hosts panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Weighing 54 tons and composed of more than 48,000 panels dedicated to more than 94,000 individuals, The AIDS Memorial Quilt is the premier symbol of the AIDS pandemic and the largest ongoing piece of community folk art in the world.

