



LIBRETTO

IT'S A MUSICAL COMEDY WITH A
DIALOGUE BASED ON TRUE STORIES.

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CHARACTERS



GALINA MYKHAILIVNA

A woman fleeing shell bombardment with her teenage son. Her heart is full of love for Ukraine; her hands are full of an emergency suitcase that contains everything she thinks is essential (a half-dried favorite dress, a random set of whatever, and at least one family photo album—because memories matter). Hopeful and optimistic, she is ready to reunite with her stepdaughter Tanya/Tanité, whom she hasn't seen in years.



ROMAN

Galina's son, aged 15-17, just young enough to be allowed to leave Ukraine but old enough to argue with his mother about absolutely everything. He explores the world primarily through TikTok. To him, life is one big adventure—as long as his phone battery doesn't die. He enjoys traveling, though his practical experiences are mostly limited to Google Maps and whatever influencers are doing. Yet.



OGIROK

A Ukrainian refugee from 2014 who has been in Lithuania long enough. Back when he arrived, the laws were very different, and his legal status doesn't quite match that of the new wave of Ukrainian refugees. He knows more about Lithuania than most locals, and he's definitely not shy about sharing it with newcomers – even if they didn't ask. At the time of the performance, his legal situation is... let's say, fluid



THE CAT

A Belarusian refugee whose legal status is best described as delicate (like a house of cards on a windy day). Unsure of which language to use when speaking to Ukrainians, she has strategically decided that English is the safest bet—it ensures everyone understands her and conveniently hides the fact that she speaks Russian. She is Ogirok's roommate, friend, and occasional partner in navigating the absurdities of being in legal limbo.



TEACHER

The dream Lithuanian language teacher: funny, charismatic, and stylish all at once. Everyone adores her—how could they not? She's wildly overenthusiastic about her new students, who will one day be fluent Lithuanian speakers (no chance to step back). She's friends with Ogirok and The Cat, both of whom are students in her class, which uses perfectly innovative and unbelievable methods of learning.



TANITË/TANYA

Galina's stepdaughter, Roma's older half-sister. She moved to Lithuania a couple of years ago, possibly escaping a complicated family situation, and has since built a life for herself. Now, she's welcoming her relatives into her tiny apartment, fully convinced that she can help them adapt quickly. She's trying to stay calm, so what could possibly go wrong?

ACT 1 ARRIVAL

G.M. - How tired I am... Where are we? Roma, Roma!! Where are we? Can you at least look at the geolocation?

Roma: Mamo, I can't catch the signal here...

G.M. - I always use "Kyivstar" in Carpathians, and it always works.

Roma - I wanted "Life", mom... OK, Look here...

G.M. - Algirdo gatve... Look, "gatve: - good word! I am Galya. This is Gatve. I like it! What is this country?

Roma: Lie-tu-va.

G.M. - Never heard of such... Where is it?

Roma - How do I know?

G.M. - What do you mean? You have had additional lessons since January for Geography. I have paid 250 hryven!

Roma: Today, I will tell you honestly, Mom, I never went there. I went to the ice rink with friends with this money... Don't get mad at me, please!

G.M. - What?...

Ogirok: Mme....

Singing:

Malonu pakviesti

Но в автобус не лезьте!

Netinka maršrutas

Gal tiks parašiutas

Atrodot pasimete

But this does not matters

It all looks like košmaras

You don't know kas čia daros - приспів

(Каппа та Юстіна) - 3 р.

Atsipalaiduok, вам пощастило

Литва - це частина нашого тилу...

Але зауважте ви занадто яскраві

Kartu pasilikti тут ви не праві

Цей ліс вам не джунглі

Atsargiai prisijungti

Дивіться на знаки - не чекайте атаки.

Miške pamatysite

від скуки тут не скиснете

Багато всіх тут нас

Naujamiestis - Донбас

А у центрі все «прілічно»,
особливо з січня.
Ну що, вже захотілось saves інтегрувати?
Треба навчитись
Lietuviškai співати
В мене є єдина tokytoja в лісі
Яка надзвичайно файно пишiть пісні

Teacher is ready and jumps in:

Gal ir nuobodu
Mokytis tą kalbą
Nuo pačių pradžių...
Nelenda į galvą
Bet jei tik, brolau,
žygiui pasiryši,
niekada daugiau
šiam miške nebepaklysi
Nosinėle prikabinę
ir taškelį užritinę,
kad éééé-ééé suskambėtų
iš lūpų išbyrėtų
Čeža čeža žiba žiba žiba
Žėri žėri žiūri žiūri
Tai raidelės šaunuolėlės
ant samanų prigulę
Šypso vypso klega šneka
Tai pyragą, tai noragą
Tai į tvorą, tai į mietą,
Apkeliauja visą sietą
Nosinėle prikabinę...
Gal ir nuobodu
Mokytis tą kalbą
Nuo pačių pradžių...
Bet iš tikro verta!

Galina Myhaylivna jumps in to answer:

Я відчуваю все, що ви нам тут казали
(I deeply feel everything you have told us here.)
Але інтегруватися поки що зарано
(But it's still too early for us to integrate.)

Сподіваюсь, скоро поїдемо додому
(I hope we will go home soon.)

Я вам дуже вдячна. Ніколи не забуду!
(I am really grateful! I will never forget you!)

Roman gets a tune and jumps in:
Україна-Литва, сестри навіки!
(Ukraine and Lithuania, sisters forever!)
Šaltibarščiai з борщем обіймуться без криків.
(Šaltibarščiai and borscht will embrace without any shouting.)
Цепеліни й вареники – дружня комбінація,
(Cepelinai and dumplings – a friendly combination.)
Ми різні, але разом – класна інтеграція!
(We are different, but together – great integration!)
Everybody is surprised, but Ogirok continues to scare them a bit:
Čia rasite skirtingų, yra man patinka
Бувають тут і руські, та вулички вузькі
Звичайно краще знати, кому і що казати
Дивиться, ось ця киця не вірить небилицям.
Втекла від «бульби-баті»
Живем разом на хаті
Вона мовчить, або мурчить
Lietuviškai atsargiai вчить
Бо Anglišką вже знає
(Saugo paslaptis завжди)
Мені не заважає...

This is Cat's song:

Even if I try
I can't tell you why I am in this place
It is sad, I know
Wandering around
Making gloomy sounds
Hiding who I am
from everyone, I am sorry!
Я же refugee from the very bad regime
And I don't like police
Just don't touch me, please!

Ogirok can understand how to be
Nobody's man
We are two non-grata people
In this forest, in this land.

And I know all ways around this place
Tell me where to go you want
I'll take you...
There is no metro
But this is "все равно"
Anyways we will
take the underground...

Vilnius does not have underground, but we will find it) You need somewhere to go,
right? This is somewhere here in Vilnius. Because we are in Vilnius now...

G.M. - What a nice kitty, it reminds me of our Joko...

Roma - Mamo, don't do it. Let's call Tanitè, my sister. She lives here.

G.M. - Ok. Let's do it! Please, wait, dear Cat, we'll tell you where we are going...

Telephone rings. We hear the voice of Tanya - "Hello? Talk!"

Roma: Tanya, it's me - Roma! We are here. I mean here, in Lithuania. We came with
volunteers, didn't even know where they were taking us. And then mom gave me this
tea... And we couldn't find the name of the country on the map... Can we come to you?

G.M. - Oh, Tanya! No, no, no, don't say anything... You have a golden heart. Yes, my
father stayed in Ukraine. He is still young. What is your address? Pergalès gatvė 35-8.
While speaking, they move after the Cat around the stage - Ogirok and Teacher are
changing the scenery, creating the house of Tetyana.

ACT 2 AT TANITA'S

We see Tanya sitting in a meditation pose and G.M. with Roma standing on the other
side of the stage. Japanese music. Pantomime.

G.M. - Oh, Tanya, forgive me, we won't be here for long. You understand, right - these
are very special circumstances, so we didn't wait for an invitation... You are so beautiful
now. I haven't seen you for such a long time. Look, I have a photo of you with me...

Tanya - Don't worry. You are welcome anyway! Please, make yourself comfortable. Oh,
I am happy to see our flag. Roma, please, find a good place for it.

G.M., at the same time unloading the suitcase and commenting on each item there.
Important: looking for a present for Tanya, she finds an icon from Krivorivnya, the
umbrella from the Lithuanian rain... The last thing is the vyshyvanka, then G.M.

remembers that she is still in her coat, starts to undress, which moves Tanya out of her stupor.

Svarbu ne skubėti

- Gyvenimas čia вчить чекати – lauk i žiūrėk dangų...Visi myli lėtą maistą, lėtą orą ir lėtą gyvenimą... всі люблять тут їсти повільно, тиху погоду та тихе життя..

Moї перші слова po atvykimo:

Norėčiau juodos kavos išsinešimui

O kada aš pradėjau po biški šnekėti – ‘blemba’, ‘biški’, ‘šneka’ – mane žmonės mokėdavo, bet pats sako, kad vartoti negalima!” ar ne?

-Nu jo....nu jo... (Justina)

O kada aš pradėjau truputį kalbėti

Ah žodžiu...

Sėdžiu taksi, на вокзал, bilietuką turiu

Bet... šviesoforas! Rimtai? Negaliu...

Rodo man ranką raudoną «Laukite» - nu atsiprašau ради бора - skubu!

Vėluoju, gal galim greičiau? Aš prašau

Shhhhhh... laukite O, žalia, pagaliau!

Važiuosim ... 2 metrai.. dar vienas: stovėsime...

Luktelk, luktelk

Dar vieną minutę luktelk..suspėsime

I Куди б я не бігла і де б не була,

Visi man prašo ir rašo: „Palauk“.

Nesinervuokite, Nusiraminkite

Atsipalaiduokite, Nepanikuokite

Vis dar suspėsite, Viskas gerai!

Не переживайте все буде окей

Turėkit kantrybės – терпіннячко майте

Kvėpuokit giliai, ви глибше вдихайте

Ось так от, lėčiau, vel, повільно, lėčiau...

За мною kartoјame щоооо?

Svarbuuuuu ne skubėti....

Skubos darbą velnias gaudo

Поспішиш – насмішиш людей

Kas greitai kyla, tas greitai krinta

Швидкий злет і падіння швидко

Geriau vėliau...negu niekada
Краще пізно, ніж ніколи!!

Ramus vanduo krantus griaua
Тиха вода греблі рве

Kantrybė – dorybė
Терпіння – чеснота

Traukinys šikančių nelaukia - ой не, це не то!

Nu Ką padarysi, mes taip ir gyvenam.
Зранку цей ліс – у власному темпі,
Марно тікати – nėra kur pabėgti
Tyliai, ramiai ir negreitai kalbeti
Дерева dainuoja, озера lyg stiklas
I laikas тут бєга повільно-повільно
Lyja, ir veja, “elegantiškai sninga”
Dabar aš protinga ir sąmoninga
І я так люблю ліс, taip myliu šį mišką.
Aplinkui гуляю su kava та книжкой
Spalvotų drabužių turiu jau mažai
Всі кольори менш яскраві уже...

Kur aš би не бірла і де б не була,
Visi man prašo: „Palauk“.
Svarbu ne skubėti!

G.M. - Tanyu, honestly saying, I understood almost nothing.

Tanita: That is why, Galina Mychailivna, I have already enrolled you in the class of Lithuanian.

G.M. - No!!!! I will better continue studying English! Look, this is my favorite book, I read it all the time!

Tanita: Galina Michailivna, viskas bus gerai!

Tik tie, kurie mokosi, visada išlieka jauni.

Thank you for the umbrella - lyja again.

Nu, sėkmės!

G.M. with her suitcase: Roma, I think it is time for me to head back home...

She comes to the door and is almost knocked over by the Teacher, Cat, and Ogirok,

She comes to the door and is almost knocked over by the Teacher, Cat, and Ogirok, who are coming in.

ACT 3 - THE LESSON OF LITHUANIAN.

Roma finds a bayan and quietly rehearses his song. Only during the Lithuanian innovative aerobic class does he get stuck on two notes, which become a rhythmic structure for the aerobic/language class.

- Entrance of the Teacher and “smart” students - G.M. recognizes them and is very surprised, but delighted by this situation. She thinks these are guests and they are in need of tea)
- Mokytoja explains that this is Walt delivery of Lithuanian language lesson)
- Roma, put the kettle on. Roma, look, the guests are here. G.M. tries to be on the top of the situation
- Roma has some letters that were smuggled to him in the first scene. He is waiting for his chance to demonstrate them.
- Ogirok and Cat assist Mokytoja with fervor.
- Mokytoja starts by explaining the first letter - A. As an example she gives the word “kava”. G.M. immediately thinks it is time for her and Roma to make some coffee. That is a common word! Mokytoja breaks her cool and gets terribly enthusiastic. She starts giving other words that can be recognized. Cat and Ogirok help her. They introduce Ogurkele-Ogirok and Mokytoja.
- “I am also a teacher! announces us G.M. - like all teachers I love to teach but also I love learning!”
- “Well, then we can learn new letters today. Roma, we need music!” ...
- Aerobics with Lithuanian letters. The speed is so fast, then G.M can’t take it anymore and faints...
- Mokytoja concludes her lesson with recognizing normality of the reaction of G.M and announcement of her availability. Cat and Ogirok calm down G.M. and make an exit.

G.M. - Roma, do you hear me? Why do you think our Tanya is alone?

Roma: Mama, what kind of question is that?

G.M. - She is so good. She has such beautiful eyes, she is kind, and she sings so well, but she doesn’t have a boyfriend...

Roma: That’s her business, mama!

G.M. - So what? It’s just very interesting... Maybe there is a problem with men... How is it possible not to notice such a woman?

Roma: Mama, maybe it's a good idea for you to rest now?

G.M. - Yes, my son, you are right, as always. I'll go rest.

(She goes to the bench and lies down. She covers herself with her dress, takes a triangle, and makes a sound...)

Dream of Galina Mykhailivna: Snowman.

So once I met a snowman
His face was made of ice
I thought then, oh, what's wrong, man?
Cause inside you must be nice...

Like a tiny butterfly bits against
the steel of a robot man
Oh I tried and I tried to understand
So He likes me or ne labai?

And he also wished to share some things,
But his system did not allow
His basic settings lack the means
To let tender feelings out.

So Okay forget me, and all is fine,
Thank for cancelling all this show
But the 3 months later whats there at last?
Got: "Kaip sekasi? Labas, hello!"

And 6 months later, he invites me
For a first date, to have a beer.
And the time goes by, and he seems so quiet;
Where's his "Will you marry me, dear?"
So He's mad about basketball and his flag,
And the justice for this magic wood.
But he never dances like a crazy fan
Under rain or stars, though he could!

And he doesn't shout, "Ei, gražuole mano,"
And he smiles a year just thrice:
When summer comes, vacation starts,

And when he finds the very cheap price
So the time flies and my snowman stands
Now I almost know when he happy or sad
So The one thing we must understand
His calmness is just a facade...

/pause/

Once he will tell me Мала, mažule, baby, я так довго мовчав але знаєш чого?
Чоро? Oj, Kodél, mielas, I will ask him back
All this long, endless time, I practiced pronouncing this word the right Ukrainian way
for you this word “beautiful”: Гарнааааа!

Black out.

ACT 4 - FAREWELL

The wind picks up.

Tanité.- One day I will meet the right man, I know for sure! But for now I am afraid it will
be only to listen to sirens together...

The cat - Can you really deport a cat? It is better to be a cat nowadays, then the
human

Ogirok - Without Sodra ти тут ніхто!!

G.M - Lithuania is the country that will never betray us, I hope.

Roma - Я тут бачу можливості для себе. Мені тут подобається.

The wind stops. Galina Mykhailivna slowly untangles Roma from the red thread.
Roman recites the poetry:

Mother, I will recall in my sleep
Where my dreams like wings were growing
Where my song was like a spring
Where grass gently caressed me
And nobody knew where was the war
It has not happened yet to us
Now my world is running somewhere
And I found my path here
I have opened up
I can be like a free bird

But my heart is always home
Though this war has changed us
Even if I am tired
I will create space for you and me
I am grateful to you and my destiny
For you being near
For you defending me at night
Believe me, now I can stand against the darkness!

G.M.: Well, my son, you stay here and I will go home. My heart is really calling me home!

Monologue - Galina Mykhailivna.

You know, tomorrow I will board a train that goes to Ukraine. My heart calls me there.
And I am calling you!
Waltz of Galina Mykhailivna.

You are welcome anyway!

Full heartedly I wish to invite you to Ukraine
It's here you will remember what Love is...
You'll feel that life is precious, forget of your depression,
You'll cherish every moment of your day!

Refrain

You are welcome, you are welcome,
You are welcome anyway!
You are welcome, you are welcome,
Please believe you'll be okay!

В кожному погляді, на касах і в метро,
(In every glance, at the cash registers and in the metro)
В підземних переходах і крамницях
(In underground crossings and in the shops)
Зустрінете ви ніжність, турботу і любов,
(You will find tenderness, care, and love,)
Які не в змозі знищити ніхто!
(Which no one is able to destroy!)

Refrain (Ukr):

Приїжджайте, приїжджайте, Україна любить вас,
Приїжджайте, приїжджайте,
Бо про любов цей вальс!

(Come, come, Ukraine loves you,
Come, come,
For this waltz is about love!)

Bridge
Here is the best kava in the world,
Here is the best книгарня,
Let me take you to my favourite walk,
Please meet my city and friends!

Refrain:

You are welcome...

(3)

Refrain:

You are welcome...

The End?

Let's talk! Let's discuss!

Performance director:

Mariia Koreneva.

Actors and musicians:

Olena Gavrylenko, Roman Honcharenko, Mariia Dormidontova, Mariia Koreneva,
Justina Kaminskaitė, Tanya Vasykevych.

Bass guitar: Vytautas Tamošauskas

Sound director: Ilaria Yermak

Music producer: Justina Kaminskaitė

Technical manager: Mantas Mikalauskis.

Duration: 2 hours with dialogue.

Languages: Lithuanian, Ukrainian, English.

Premiere: 1st of February 2025 at Arts Printing House, Šiltadaržio str. 6, Vilnius.