



#FinboroughFrontier

#VoicesFromUkraine #Українськіголоси #Ukrayins'kiholosy

For **Stus-Fest 2024**

## PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

### I CROSS THE EDGE

by Vasyl Stus

Translated from Ukrainian by Artem Pulemotov

Performed by Oliver Senton.

The Finborough Theatre's ongoing **#VoicesFromUkraine** season continues with a new release as part of **Stus-Fest 2024**.

Vasyl Stus, famous Ukrainian poet and dissident, was repressed and allegedly killed by the Soviets in the 1980s.

Stus-Fest is an international festival commemorating Vasyl Stus, initiated by DSP Theatre, Poetry Theatre of Ukraine. led by Alex Borovenskiy. January 2024 will have a very special initiative within Stus-Fest called **#stus\_international** featuring Vasyl Stus poetry recorded in different languages.

Stus-Fest will take place during January 2024 with its key events around 6 January (Vasyl Stus' birthday). It is a wandering festival – every city in every country can conduct an event dedicated to Vasyl Stus and/or based on his poetry and become a part of the festival – in any language. Write to Stus Fest at **shotgenerations@gmail.com**.

[https://instagram.com/stus\\_fest](https://instagram.com/stus_fest)

<https://www.facebook.com/stusfest>

[https://youtube.com/@stus\\_fest](https://youtube.com/@stus_fest)

<https://tiktok.com/@stusfest>

#stus\_international #stusfest #васильстус #стус #стусфест #vasylstus #stus #stusfest #vasylstus #stus

#FinboroughFrontier

Performed by **Oliver Senton**

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Natural Inclinations*, *Sympathetic Magic* and – as part of *VoicesFromUkraine* – *Planet Speranta*.

Trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Theatre includes *A Christmas Carol*, *Coriolanus*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Beauty and The Beast* (Rose Theatre Kingston), *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*, *Showstopper! The Improvised Musical* (Apollo Theatre), *Mamma Mia!* (Prince of Wales Theatre), *The Mob* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *The Scarecrow and his Servant* (Southwark Playhouse), *Twelfth Night*, *The Merchant of Venice* (Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds), *The Lady's Not For Burning* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Cosmic Trigger* (Cockpit Theatre), *The Tempest* (Norfolk and Norwich Festival), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Derby), *Three Sisters* (Harrogate Theatre), *The Invention of Love* (Salisbury Playhouse) and *War Correspondents* (UK Tour).

He was in Daisy and Ken Campbell's legendary 24-hour production, *The Warp* (1999-2000), is a founder member of The School of Night (specialising in poetic and literary improvisation), and an associate artist of Slung Low, including The

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e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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# PRESS INFORMATION

Gifting (Leeds 2023), *Flood* (Hull City of Culture), *Camelot: The Shining City* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield), *The White Whale* (Leeds) and most recently *All The Joy That You Can Wish*, the opening ceremony for the Shakespeare North Playhouse.

Television includes *Trigger Point*, *Call The Midwife*, *Should We Bomb Auschwitz?*, *Frankie and Emma*, *White Heat*, *Doctors*, *EastEnders*, *Casualty*, *Hollyoaks*, *My Dad's The Prime Minister*, *Nuremberg* and *Cathedral*.

Film includes *Wimbledon*, *Sink* and *Seagull*.

Radio and Audio includes *The Sherlock Holmes Casebook*, *Miss Marple*, *Bomber*, *Ben Hur*, *Roads To Freedom*, *Journey To The Centre of the Earth*, *Trodd en Bratt Say 'Well Done You'*, *Showstopper!*, Doctor Who adventures for Big Finish Productions, and several Robert Anton Wilson books for Audible/Hilaritas Press.

Poet **Vasyl Stus** (6 January 1938, Rakhnivka, Ukrainian SSR – 4 September 1985, Perm-36, Kuchino, Russian SFSR) was a Ukrainian poet, translator, literary critic, journalist, and an active member of the Ukrainian dissident movement. For his political convictions, his works were banned by the Soviet regime and he spent 13 years in detention until his death in Perm-36 – then a Soviet forced labor camp for political prisoners, subsequently The Museum of the History of Political Repression – after having declared a hunger strike on September 4, 1985. On November 26, 2005, the Ukrainian president Viktor Yushchenko posthumously awarded him the highest national title: Hero of Ukraine. Stus is widely regarded as one of Ukraine's foremost poets.

Available **FREE TO VIEW** at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9PoVw6BDF0> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsefTPjfXOw>

All videos are free to view but we do ask for donations for the ProEnglish Theatre of Ukraine

<https://www.proenglishtheatre.com/support-us/>

Simultaneously available free on Scenesaver with subtitles. [www.scenesaver.co.uk](http://www.scenesaver.co.uk)

Performance Length: 2 minutes.

## #FINBOROUGHFRONTIER

Since January 2022, we have continued our online work under a new name – **#FinboroughFrontier**, curated by Artistic Director **Neil McPherson** and Playwright-in-Residence **Athena Stevens**. All our online content remains – as it was throughout lockdown – entirely free to view, and also be available in a subtitled version. Our first releases, were **An Earls Court Miscellany**, a celebration of the vivid history and personalities of Earl's Court featuring poetry, prose and music, and filmed in the local area, and **How To Make A Revolution** by Einat Weizman with Issa Amro, a verbatim documentary play filmed in the UK and Hebron, and the ongoing **#VoicesFromUkraine** series.

## #VoicesFromUkraine #Українськіголоси #Ukrayins'kiholosy

Previous releases in the **#VoicesFromUkraine #Українськіголоси #Ukrayins'kiholosy** include **Otvetka** by Neda Nezhdana, **He Who Opens The Door** by Neda Nezhdana, **The Peed-Upon Armored Personnel Carrier** by Oksana Gritsenko, **A Dictionary of Emotions in a Time of War** by Yelena Astasyeva, **A (Ukrainian) Midsummer Night's Dream** – Shakespeare's play performed in Ukrainian, **I Want To Go Home** by Oksana Savchenko; interviews and responses to the war in Ukraine. All are now available on the Finborough Theatre YouTube channel, and available with subtitles on Scenesaver.

Live productions included **Two Ukrainian Plays** featuring Natal'ya Vorozhbit's **Take The Rubbish Out**, **Sasha** in a double bill with Neda Nezhdana's monologue **Pussycat in Memory of Darkness**, pairing Ukraine's leading contemporary playwright together with a Ukrainian playwright making her UK debut, which played at the Finborough Theatre in August 2022. **Pussycat in Memory of Darkness** also returned for a solo full run in March 2023. In December 2022, **Pussycat in Memory of Darkness** became the first play performed in Ukraine by a foreign company since the Russian invasion.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Ellie Renfrew** on e-mail [press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07799 642410**

Download press releases and images at <http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources.php>

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