

‘Lyudmila Gurchenko Lives’ by Mikhail Volokhov

Mikhail Volokhov’s long-awaited and much-discussed play ‘Lyudmila Gurchenko Lives’ was premiered on 27 April 2017 at the Leonardo Club, in a production by director Andrey Zhitinkin with the actress Galina Bosaya. Costumes for the performance were created by fashion designer Slava Zaitsev.

The play presents intermittent and vivid episodes that seem to randomly emerge from memory, scenes in the life of this famous actress, singer and female icon. Life through memory. Memory through our memories of her. Documentary and fictional images collated together – like memory, like real life. Joys, sorrows, twists and turns in life, love, happiness and suffering. A complex, eventful life that has become part of our country’s history. Emotional tension rivets the audience’s attention for nearly one and a half hours.

The playwright Mikhail Volokhov says:

“In my play ‘Lyudmila Gurchenko Lives’ – I myself define this play as a Sacred Tragedy – an artistic language and a polysyllabic game present the Image of Gurchenko’s Memory, meaningfully reinterpreted so that the truly authentic facts set forth by the heroine’s speech acquire a Prophetic resonance, and the image of Lyudmila Gurchenko herself is elevated to the highest horizons of her perfect Humanity.

I’m glad that it was possible to recreate in the performance the revived spirit of Gurchenko, who not only remembers, but Lives in Figurative Embodiments of her Memory with the Meaning of Truth and the sincerity of Prayer...”

Director Andrey Zhitinkin added:

“The title of Mikhail Volokhov’s play ‘Lyudmila Gurchenko Lives’ demands a lot from us, and we decided that Gurchenko can be Alive only when artistic people of another generation perform her repertoire in their own completely individual and unique way, as you hear in our production. This is the first attempt to show Lyudmila Gurchenko as a historical person.

Most importantly, it seemed that we know everything about her, but viewers who watched the performance were stunned, for they didn't know what was going on in the heroine's soul, behind her external persona as the striking and successful star of carnival night."

Summing up, producer Andrey Alekseev succinctly and briefly described the work as follows:

"The play 'Lyudmila Gurchenko Lives' tells a story of human resilience."

Vlad Stopalov
