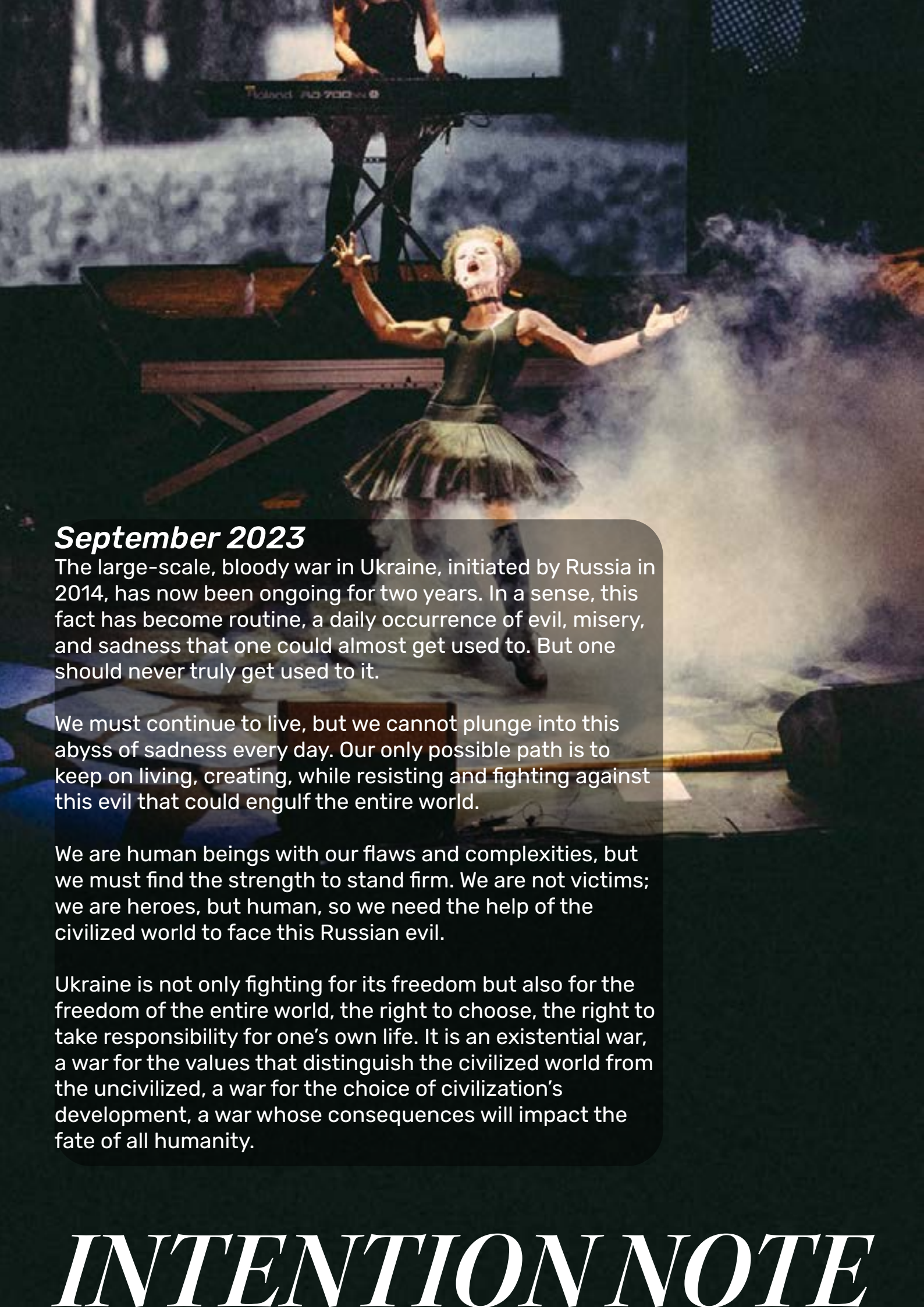


DAKH THEATRE AND DdD PRÉSENT

# DAKH DAUGHTERS UKRAINE FIRE



A ballerina in a black tutu is performing on a stage. She has her arms outstretched and her mouth open as if singing or shouting. The stage is filled with smoke or fog. In the background, there is a keyboard on a stand and another person's legs visible on a raised platform.

## ***September 2023***

The large-scale, bloody war in Ukraine, initiated by Russia in 2014, has now been ongoing for two years. In a sense, this fact has become routine, a daily occurrence of evil, misery, and sadness that one could almost get used to. But one should never truly get used to it.


We must continue to live, but we cannot plunge into this abyss of sadness every day. Our only possible path is to keep on living, creating, while resisting and fighting against this evil that could engulf the entire world.

We are human beings with our flaws and complexities, but we must find the strength to stand firm. We are not victims; we are heroes, but human, so we need the help of the civilized world to face this Russian evil.

Ukraine is not only fighting for its freedom but also for the freedom of the entire world, the right to choose, the right to take responsibility for one's own life. It is an existential war, a war for the values that distinguish the civilized world from the uncivilized, a war for the choice of civilization's development, a war whose consequences will impact the fate of all humanity.

# ***INTENTION NOTE***





"Our performance bears witness to the military crime committed by Russian troops. It also reflects the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the Russian army, the horrific deaths of the civilian population in Kharkiv, Mariupol, Chernihiv, Bucha, Gostomel, and many other regions of the country.

Furthermore, our show is a hymn to our defenses and the Ukrainian people, who resist courageously and withstand this evil.

We are here today because we are artists. It is very important for us to feel support and solidarity with Ukraine. The Ukrainian people are victims of Russian aggression, but at the same time, they are heroes of resistance. Because slaves cannot overcome free people."

*Dakh Daughters, March 2022*

# MANIFESTO

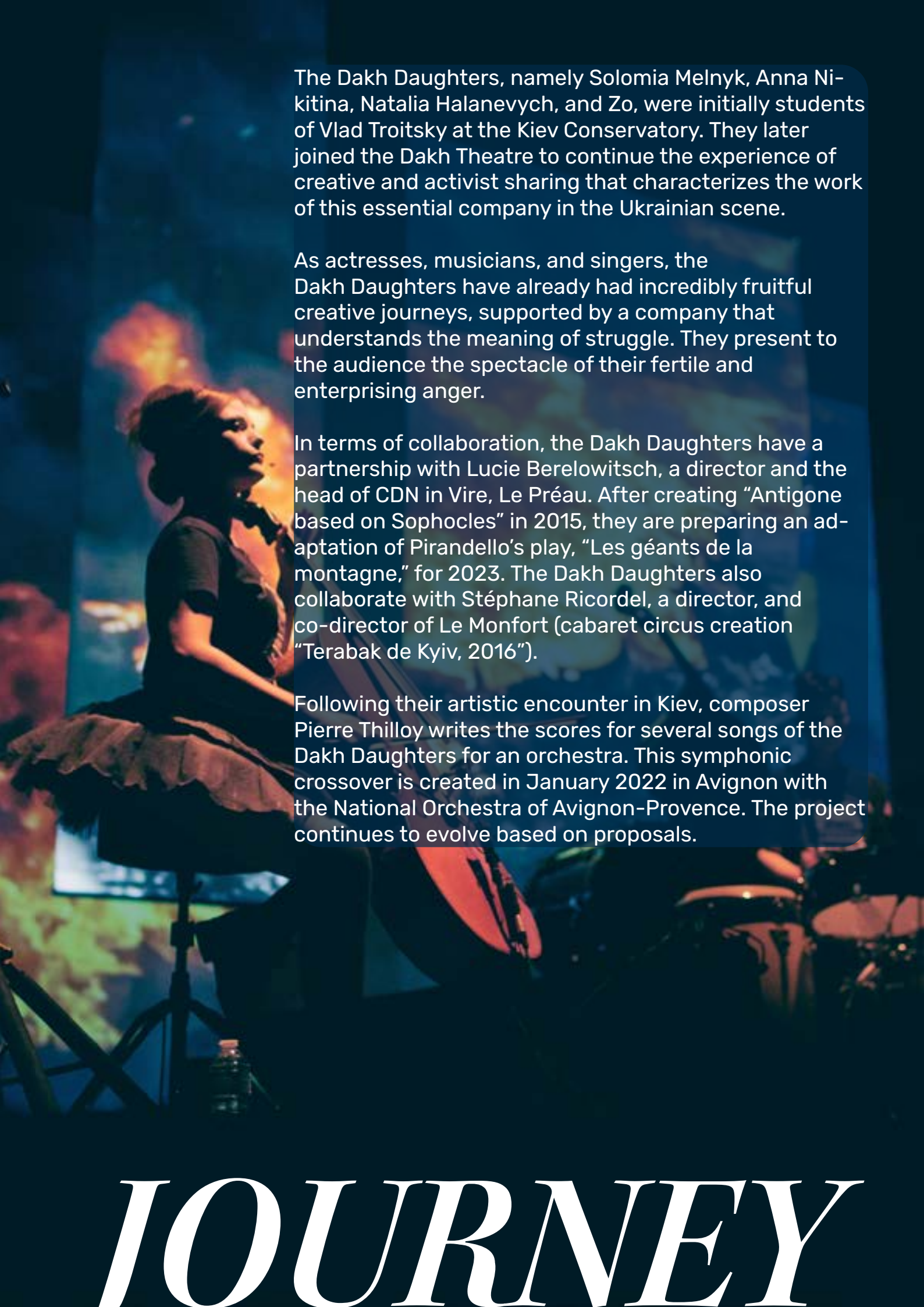


**UKRAINE FIRE** embraces the distinctive elements cherished by DAKH DAUGHTERS: songs crafted with poetic and folkloric texts, accompanied by video projections that range from phantasmagorical to highly realistic. It features a detonating live orchestration, an amalgamation that always sounds like a handcrafted cocktail thrown against the wall of resignation.

The show is an act of resistance, a grand musical poem that bears witness to the invasion, crime, and humanitarian catastrophe caused by the Russian army and its leaders.

With vocals, cello, accordion, guitar, double bass, or percussion, the group allows for everything: homage to Slavic harmonic lines, theatrical rock compositions, minimalist or explosive. UKRAINE FIRE is a concert by women with powerful, human, sensitive voices to offer a glimpse, to come and heal, perhaps even contemplate, the world of today."

# *THE SHOW*



The Dakh Daughters, namely Solomia Melnyk, Anna Nitkina, Natalia Halanevych, and Zo, were initially students of Vlad Troitsky at the Kiev Conservatory. They later joined the Dakh Theatre to continue the experience of creative and activist sharing that characterizes the work of this essential company in the Ukrainian scene.

As actresses, musicians, and singers, the Dakh Daughters have already had incredibly fruitful creative journeys, supported by a company that understands the meaning of struggle. They present to the audience the spectacle of their fertile and enterprising anger.

In terms of collaboration, the Dakh Daughters have a partnership with Lucie Berelowitsch, a director and the head of CDN in Vire, Le Préau. After creating "Antigone based on Sophocles" in 2015, they are preparing an adaptation of Pirandello's play, "Les géants de la montagne," for 2023. The Dakh Daughters also collaborate with Stéphane Ricordel, a director, and co-director of Le Monfort (cabaret circus creation "Terabak de Kyiv, 2016").

Following their artistic encounter in Kiev, composer Pierre Thilloy writes the scores for several songs of the Dakh Daughters for an orchestra. This symphonic crossover is created in January 2022 in Avignon with the National Orchestra of Avignon-Provence. The project continues to evolve based on proposals.

# *JOURNEY*



## **The Dakh Daughters, daughters of Shevchenko and the Sex Pistols**

With two large red circles on their cheeks, eyes lined with charcoal, and scarves tightly wrapped around their necks, first carved out their reputation as punk singers. In their bottle-green dress-blouses, one might easily stack them like nesting dolls. But beware, these six Ukrainians are true freaks, not at all elegant, dismantling all the feminine stereotypes one might try to impose on them. The Dakh Daughters are fighters who open up to shout dark stories of love, loneliness, poverty, and wars. "We want to claim freedom through art," specify those who consider rebellion their duty. "We want to show another Ukraine than the one portrayed in the media, one of free and energetic people." (...)

The catch of this impressive concert: it sparks an irresistible desire to sing at the top of your lungs with the band and dance wholeheartedly.

**Le Monde**



**Best of the year, quite a lot of which was by revolutionary women**

The most extraordinary group of musicians I encountered this year was the bands singing on the barricades during the Ukrainian Revolution on Maidan Square. Foremost among them were the Dakh Daughters, who created an explosive show they describe as a 'freak cabaret.' They performed (Ukrainians will long remember) for the crowd of rebels on Maidan facing the assembled military forces. The group gathers its lyrics from wherever it finds resonance. One of their 'hits,' 'The Rose of Donbass,' is a variation on Shakespeare's sonnet 'Roses have thorns, and silver fountains mud,' tragically resonating with the events unfolding in the Donbass region. Also from Kiev, DakhaB-rakha stunned the audience at WOMAD this year. - Peter Culshaw

**The Arts Desk**

# **PRESS**

## *La provence*

“A caress, a slap. Softness and strength alternate in these instrumentalist singers whose musical universe draws as much from the traditional melodies of their country as from the polished and baroque side of Dead Can Dance, or the energy, urgency, and fierceness of the Béruriers Noirs, a French punk group that, in its time, paid tribute to a Ukrainian hero with the title ‘Makhnovtchina.’ Fire under the ice, a seismic shock. These artists carry beyond their borders the despair of an entire people.”

## *Toute la culture*



“There are six of them, looking like they stepped straight out of the universe of Tim Burton. They provide us with a suspended moment where the strings are brilliantly out of sync. They intertwine their repertoire, resembling freakish tales, with narratives of the war in Ukraine. Magnificent.”

“Nothing is more dangerous and subversive than an angry clown. The DAKH daughters understand this well. Behind the whimsy of clown makeup and cabaret atmosphere, one quickly discovers a highly crafted artistic approach. The dialogue between images, the performance, and the audience unleashes a wild and surprising energy made of hope, madness, and poetry.”

*Rue 89*

# *PRESS*

**Artistic Direction:** Vlad Troitskyi

**Dakh Daughters:** Nataliia Halanevych, Ruslana Khazipova, Solomiia Melnyk, Anna Nikitina,  
Nataliia Zozul

with the participation of Tetyana Troistka, actress

**Lighting, video mapping:** Mariia Volkova

Sound: Mickael Kandelman or Maksym Taran and Bruno Ralle

**Images:** The Dakh Daughters thank those individuals who provided the images used in this show.

**Photographers:** Maksym Donduyk and Oleksandr Glyadyelov

**Graphics:** Iryna Korchyuk, Andriy Yermolenko

**Videos:** Hromadske.TV, Ukrainian internet television station, Telegram, widely used social network in Ukraine.

**Production:** Dakh Theatre, DdD

Distribution in collaboration with Blue Line Productions

The Dakh Daughters acknowledge the support for their country in war and recommend two organizations.

**France :** <https://amc.ukr.fr/> "Medical and Charitable Aid France-Ukraine," established in 2014.

**Estonia :** <https://www.prorizne.org/> "Non-Governmental Organization for Social Cohesion in Europe," established in 2002.

**Learn more :**

**Dakh Daughters :** <https://www.facebook.com/DakhDaughters>

DdD [www.dddames.eu](http://www.dddames.eu)

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# CRÉDITS