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Title of the article - "What an incredible ratatouille!"

The Theatre on Vasilievsky is busy with the last preparations to the premier of a play written by a famous Hollywood writer Israel Horovitz "My dear Mathilde"

Just imagine - a man who is unlucky for all his life suddenly gets a stroke of luck. He inherits a huge apartment overlooking the Luxemburg Garden. He is looking forward to selling it very quickly and start his broken life over. Not everybody gets a chance like that.

So, the American, whose name is Mathias arrives in Paris - he spends his last money on the ticket. He opens the door, and... There is somebody living in the apartment. There is Mathilde, a woman of 80, and her single daughter. And they are not going to move anywhere. Why? How are they connected with Mathias' father? By what right do they live there? And so on and so forth... Comic situations are suddenly transformed to strained dialogues. Distaste for each other grows into human interest. Layer by layer the verbal peel comes off and the characters get to the truth. At the end they are so different from who they were in the beginning. And this boring housing problem, which as it turns out - can spoil not only us, but citizens of other countries, is not the reason for that...

- As I understand, this play is about a very selfish lady, charming towards everybody, but her own child, this play is about children who never knew parental affection, which they desperately needed, and about children who felt lonely throughout their lives. This play tells about mothers with no maternal instinct and weak fathers unable to act like men. This is a story about passion and finally love, which was found in the end of life, - comments John Pepper.

He manages a trio of actors, whom he considers a "dream team": Mathilde - a Distinguished Artist of Russia Elena Rakhlenko, Chloe - Natalia Kruglova, Mathias - Dmitry Vorobiev.

Seignior John Pepper is a son of American parents who was raised in Italy, studied in France and became an artist by chance. He was on vacation with his parents. A seven-year old was casted on the beach. The movie was "Cleopatra". John's role was to sit at Elizabeth Taylor's feet on a platform...

The boy grew up, graduated from the Princeton University and the American Film Institute, directed a number of plays in different countries with different actors, produced movies. He is fond of photography. Once he came to Saint Petersburg to exhibit his series of photo images.

- Having visited your city for the first time I felt at once, that I would really like to come back, - he says. - And when I was offered to direct a play by Horovitz "My dear Mathilde" with Russian actors, I said yes. I understand it as a challenge, which is truly great to take now, when I'm a bit over fifty. This is the age, when everything new and interesting starts for an artist who already possesses some life experience and still has lots of energy, passion and curiosity.

Speaking five foreign languages, John Pepper started to learn Russian with enthusiasm. Russian - the language of Stanislavsky (Pepper use to study his system). He started with the alphabet in order to read and audio percept the speech, though not really understanding those complicated Slavic cobwebs.

- Sometimes it gets so strange!, - he admires the diversity of life in between rehearsals. - The playwright is American, the events take place in Paris - I lived 20 years of my life there, the characters are an American and two French ladies, the actors are Russian, they perform in Russian directed by an Italian... I can already imagine, one can say: "God, what an incredible ratatouille!"

The opening night is on the 30th of April and the 1st of May in the Theatre on Vasilievsky.