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Title of the article - "Family skeletons"

Relationships between a mother and a daughter, a housing problem, ghosts of the past and a whole closet with family skeletons in it... the Theatre on Vassilievsky is releasing a premier of a play "My dear Mathilda" based on a piece by Israel Horovitz.

Mathias is a lame duck, but he finally gets a stroke of luck - he inherits a luxurious apartment in Paris. However, when he arrives there from the States on his last money, he finds out that he inherited this apartment together with its residents - two single ladies: Mathilda and her middle-aged daughter Chloe. This upscale apartment is absolutely worth fighting for, and Mathias is ready to the heritage dispute.

There is everything in the play for the actors to reveal all the angles of their talent: narrative clearness of a melodrama, emotional tension of a psychological drama, flashes of grotesque. A role of Matilda - eccentric, inconsistent woman with "a story behind" - a real gift for an actress. By the way, in this play staged in the Moscow Art Theatre this role is preformed by Irina Miroshnichenko - royal attitude and a bundle of romantic memories truly fit her. In the Theatre on Vassilievsky this role is played by a mysterious and delicate Elena Rakhlenko. Please, do not doubt - her character knows how the skeletons in the closet look like!

The play also casts: Natalia Krouglova and Dmitry Vorobiev. Director: John Pepper.

Direct speech

John Pepper, the director of the play:

I never make decisions whether to direct a play if I do not feel my personal connection with the material. Not only that I knew and admired very much earlier works of Israel Horovitz, I also had a chance to work with him about 20 years ago, when I was producing a movie in Hollywood - we were doing a re-make of a French film called "Le Boeuf". The movie was never released though, however I noted the talent of this man. That is why when the agent called with a proposal to direct his play I got immediately interested. And when she specified that it is to be done in Saint Petersburg, I got excited - I fell in love with your city when I arrived here for the first time to take part in Photovernissage in CEH "Manege" in 2012 with a series of my photo-works. And finally it turned out that I would be working with Russian actors in Russian, which I do not speak...

So, basically, it was a challenge which I really should go for right now, when I am somewhat older than fifty. In my opinion this age is the beginning of a great period of an artist's life.

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. I am familiar with such pain and tribulations, just like I am very well acquainted with a sarcastic style of the main characters of the play, which they make use of to protect themselves.