



## Project Profile:

Yury Klavdiev's *I Am The Machine Gunner*  
translated by John Freedman

### Project History:

- **September 2010:** U.S. Premiere at Baltimore Theatre Project
- **May 2010:** Presentation at CUNY as part of Center for International Theatre Development (CITD) Panel on New Russian Drama
- **November - December 2009:** Workshop production at Towson University.
- **October 2009:** New York Rehearsal Retreat (ART/NY) and Creative Team Meeting.
- **June 2009:** Workshop production at WordBRIDGE Playwrights Laboratory.
  - James Alfred Rose Johnson (Lighting Designer) joins the team.
- **April 2009:** The Center for International Theatre Development, under Philip Arnoult, provided funding for David White and James Knight to travel to Russia joining a larger CITD team to attend the Golden Mask drama festival as well as working and researching *Machine Gunner*.
- **January 2009:** Rehearsal retreat at Towson University and at Generous Company in Baltimore.
  - Rebecca Eastman (costume designer) and Iaedn Hovorka (sound designer) join the team.
- **October 2008:** White and Freedman meet at Towson University and finalize the working translation.
- **August 2008:** White and Freedman meet in Baltimore for initial talks on translation revisions.
- **August 2008:** Rehearsal retreat at Yale University and 78th Street Theatre Lab (NY).
  - Mike Vandercook (creative technical consultant) joins the team.
- **June 2008:** James Knight (actor) is featured in the first reading of John Freedman's translation of *I Am the Machine Gunner* at WordBRIDGE Playwrights Laboratory.
- **May 2008:** David M. White (director) attends a production of Yury Klavdiev's *I Am the Machine Gunner* at the Nova Drama festival in Bratislava, Slovakia with Philip Arnoult and the Center for International Theatre Development.
  - White meets with Yury Klavdiev (playwright) & commissions a translation from Russian translator and theatre critic for the *Moscow Times*, John Freedman (translator).

### Upcoming Events:

- **October 2010:** *I Am the Machine Gunner* at the Raue Center for the Arts (Crystal Lake, IL)
- **November 2010:** *I Am the Machine Gunner* at New Village Arts (Carlsbad, CA)

### The Translation:

A poetic, vulgar, and violent translation by John Freedman that transcends time, place and person capturing the struggle of a young Russian gang member seeking the same honor in his own battles that his grandfather found fighting Germany on the Russian Front in World War II.

- This project has been generously supported by the Center for International Theatre Development, Philip Arnoult – Director.

**For updates on Yury Klavdiev's *I Am the Machine Gunner* join us on facebook.**

Keep up with **BULLET POINTS**, the *I Am the Machine Gunner* blog:

[www.iamthemachinegunner.blogspot.com](http://www.iamthemachinegunner.blogspot.com)

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### The Artists:

**Rebecca Eastman (Costume Designer):** Recent Design credits include Gas & Electric Arts (*Between Trains*), Single Carrot (*Playing Dead*), Unicorn Theatre (*Yellowman*, *Lobby Hero*, and *Bat Boy* (revival)); Coterie Theatre (*Zorro*). Since 2007, Rebecca is the costume designer in residence at WordBRIDGE Playwrights Laboratory. She was the costume designer in residence at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference in 2005.

**John Freedman (Translator):** John has translated over two-dozen Russian plays that have been published or produced throughout the United States, Australia, Canada and England. He has been the Theater Critic of The Moscow Times for 18 years, during which time he has written or edited 9 books on the topic of Russian theater.

**Iæden Hovorka (Sound Designer):** Iæden is a master noise orchestrator for theatre and film. Most recently serving as Resident sound designer for both the Denver Center Theatre Company (DCTC) and the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. Recent design Credits include *Apartment 3A* at Clockwork Theatre (NYC); *Swine Heart* at Cardboard Box Collaborative (Philadelphia), *The Long Christmas Ride Home* (2005 Best Sound Design-Denver Post) and *Yellowman* at Curious Theatre (Denver); Movie sound credits include *No Love In The City*, *Drinking Sand*, *11:59*, and *The Fold*.

**James Alfred Rose Johnson (Lighting Designer):** James worked as Assistant Technical Director at the Elm Shakespeare in New Haven, CT in 2010. James studied Acting and Design at Towson University where he was a House Electrician. At Towson, he has been the Master Electrician for *Largo Desolato* and *The Time of Your Life*. Lighting Design: *Pippin!* and *The Who's: Tommy* (Assistant Designer).

**Yury Klavdiev (Playwright):** Klavdiev made his Moscow debut in 2006 with *The Bullet Collector* and *Let's Go, A Car is Waiting*, (Praktika Theater, Playwright and Director Center). *The Slow Sword* premiered in a British translation and production in 2007 and the British Council commissioned *The Polar Truth*. *I Am the Machine Gunner*, (Moscow's Playwright and Director Center in 2007), has performed at festivals in Russia and Europe. Klavdiev has written numerous screenplays and teleplays.

**James Knight (Actor):** James has performed at numerous regional theatres: Portland Center Stage, The Old Globe, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, and others. New York: The Mint Theatre Co., Theatre for a New Audience, New York Classical Theatre Co., and New York's Aquila Theatre Company's tour across America and Germany. James has developed new works at WordBRIDGE and at The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

**Michael Vandercook (Creative Technical Consultant):** Mike is the Lab Manager and Technical Director for the WordBRIDGE Playwright's Laboratory, and has an MA in Rhetorical Theory from UNO and an MFA in Technical Design and Production from Yale School of Drama. Mike was the Director of Operations and Technical Director for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, working with The National Theater Institute, National Puppetry Conference, National Music Theater Conference, National Playwright's Conference and as a technical consultant for guest artists. Most recently he served as Director of Facility Operations for Yale School of Drama.

**David M. White (Director):** David is a director, dramaturg, playwright, Faculty Member at Towson University, and Artistic Director of WordBRIDGE Playwrights Laboratory and founding member of Generous Company. Recent Credits include **Director:** *Sounds of Silence* by Eliza Jane Schneider (television's *South Park*) 2006 Ignite Festival NY. **Playwright/Director:** *Arithmetic Insurrection* (Commission – Geomatics Academy), April, September, & October 2009. **Playwright:** Yury Klavdiev's *Martial Arts* translation (Commission - New Russian Drama Project), April 2010.

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