

(Continued from previous page ...)

the Grand Prix at the International Literature Festival, Vilenica.

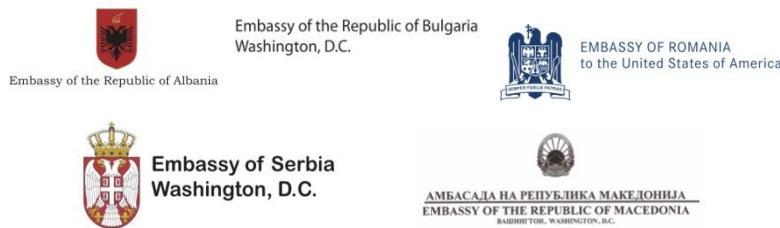
Biljana Srbljanovic (Serbia)—*Family Stories*. The best known Serbian playwright abroad, the plays of Srbljanovic have been translated and performed in more than 50 languages, in over 150 theaters worldwide. Her first international successes, *The Belgrade Trilogy* (1997) followed by *Family Stories*, “a slapstick tragedy,” were also performed abroad. *Supermarket America, Part Two*, was written in New York, while she was a visiting professor (2003). *Locusts* won the prestigious New Theatrical Realities Award, 2007 (European Commission). She was also awarded the Ernst Töller Prize, Germany.

Saviana Stanescu (Romania)—*Waxing West*. Stanescu’s works have been widely produced internationally and in the US. Recent New York productions include *Aliens with Extraordinary Skills* off-Broadway, at the Women’s Project (published by Samuel French); *Waxing West* (2007 NY Innovative Theatre Award), and *Yokasta Redux* (with Richard Schechner) at La MaMa Theatre; *Polanski Polanski* and *Aurolac Blues* are other recent works. *The E-Dating Project* was done with students at NYU. The site-specific *I Want What You Have*, took place at the World Financial Center. Bucharest Underground received the Marulic Prize for Best European Radio Drama.

— Ioana Ieronim and Joe Martin

SUPPORTING EMBASSIES:

The involvement of the following embassies, their ambassadors and Cultural counselors made this event possible.



Also supported by



BALKAN SAMPLER: PRODUCTION/EVENT TEAM

- Ioana Ieronim, project initiator
- Dr. Joe Martin, event director for CPD and SIS
- Dr. Gail Humphries Mardirosian, event director for DPA
- Catherine Gannon, public relations coordinator, CAS
- Jason Lurie, facilities manager, CAS
- Laurie Segel-Moss, liaison, CPD and SIS
- James Randle, production coordinator, DPA
- Shannon McArdle and Elise Arndt, stage managers
- Medha Marsten, production assistant
- Craig Packard, musician and music consultant



Photo: The Romanian Architects Association

Cultural Counselors and Consuls

- Mr. Arian Spasse, Embassy of Albania
- Mr. Petar Kraytchev, Embassy of Bulgaria
- Ms. Eli Bojadjieska Ristovski, Embassy, Republic of Macedonia
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- The Department of Drama at Catholic University of America



The organizers of Balkan Sampler would like to join in thanking Romanian poet and critic (and playwright) Ioana Ieronim for her vision in proposing this project, and for the writing she has done in American Theatre Magazine and elsewhere to promote the work of these and other major dramatists from the countries of the Balkan region.

A BALKAN SAMPLER: FIVE CONTEMPORARY DRAMATISTS

A performance of scenes from cutting edge Balkan plays, with a panel discussion on the role of theatre and culture in the “new Balkans.”



- Albania, Stefan Capaliku—*Allegretto Albania*
- Bulgaria, Hristo Boytchev—*The Colonel and the Birds*
- Macedonia, Goran Stefanovski—*Hotel Europa*
- Serbia, Biljana Srbljanovic—*Family Stories*
- Romania, Saviana Stanescu—*Waxing West*

Presented by the Department of Performing Arts,
College of Arts and Sciences and
The Center for Peacebuilding and Development,
School of International Service at
American University

With the Embassies of
Albania, Bulgaria, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Romania,
and Ambassador Theatre

Studio Theatre, Katzen Arts Center,
November 5, 2011, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

BALKAN SAMPLER: THE PLAYS AND CASTS

The five scenes included are excerpts from the plays listed below.

Family Stories, by Biljana Serbljanovic (Serbia)

Translated by Rebecca Ann Rugg
Directed by Gail Humphries-Mardirosian
Nancy Snider, Cellist

Andrija: Grant Rosén

Milena: Katie Ryan

Nadezda: Chelsea Thaler

Vojin: James Randle



Allegretto Albania, by Stefan Capaliku (Albania)

Translated by Mark Stringham
Directed by Joe Martin

Mother: Kendall Helblig

Pajtime: Sarah Lance

Younger Son: Tony Cohn

Older Son: Ben Gibson

Father: Scott Sedar*



The Colonel and the Birds, by Hristo Boytchev (Bulgaria)

Translated by Judith Sprostranova
Directed by Peter Karapetkov
Holly Karapetkova, Dramaturg

The Doctor: Lilia Slavova* +

Nina: Erika Grob

Titch: Katie Kane

Mata Hari: Chelsea Thaler

Meral: Megan Westman

Teresa: Michael Poandl

*Member of Actors Equity Association, +Member SAG

Waxing West, by Saviana Stanescu (Romania)

Directed by Marietta Hedges*

Daniela: Helen Davis

Marcela: Melissa Flaim*

Elvis: Dan Essig

Ceausescu: Robert Pike

Elena Ceausescu: Samantha Smedley

TV Anchor/Charlie: Phil Dickerson

* Member, Actors Equity Association



Hotel Europa, by Goran Stefanovski (Republic of Macedonia)

Directed by Hanna Bondarewska*

Scene I–Mother: Izzy Bartlotta, **The Bellhop:** David Berkenbilt

Wife: Kendall Helblig, **Husband:** Frank Turner

Scene II–Circe: Laura Bruns, **Odysseus:** Grant Rosen, **Social**

Worker: Jordan Van Clief

Scene III–Young Man: Sean Sidbury, **Maitre D’Hotel:** Mary Suib,

Prostitute: Jordan van Clief,

Scene IV–Mama: Rachel Silvert, **Prince Igor:** John Stangle,

Ivana: Izzy Bartlotta

Scene V–Visitor: Jeffrey Flynn Gan, **The Receptionist:** Ray
Converse, **Professor:** David Berkenbilt

Scene VI–Angel: Charles Merrick, **Caretaker:** Frank Turner,

Daughter: Kendall Heiblig, **Drifter:** Jordan van Clief

Scene VII–Bride: Jacqueline Toth, **Bridegroom:** Grant Rosen,

Daughter: Kendall Helblig, **Caretaker:** Frank Turner.

*Hanna Bonderewska’s participation courtesy of *Ambassador Theatre*



► **Note:** The scenes will be performed without intermission. Time: 1 hour 30 minutes. Performances will immediately be followed by a brief panel discussion, including Christos Kyrou from the Center for Peacebuilding and Development (SIS) and the Center of International Relations, Joe Martin (CPD) and Gail Humphries Mardirosian (DPA).

BALKAN DRAMATISTS: A NEW VISION

The scenes presented in “readers theatre” style, are from plays by some of the most important modern playwrights from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, and Romania. The vision of these writers is forged in the crucible and the memory of conflict, yet they reveal an astonishing consistency in terms of the innovative theatre culture that is shared by Balkan countries. They also demonstrate how united these artists are in their desire to confront us, to challenge us and to find new models of co-existence. Post-show audience engagement will involve thought-provoking dialog with experts on the Balkan area—and a sampler of Balkan cuisine. Our featured plays and playwrights include:

Stefan Capaliku (Albania)—*Allegretto Albania*. Capaliku is a playwright, poet, essayist, prose writer. He studied humanities in Albania and abroad, followed by graduate research in Italy, England, the US and Latin America. His writing is extensively published in Albania, also in France and Poland. His plays show a gift for satire and the absurd, and a keen eye for the steep incongruities between local traditions and today’s world. He has received recognition in the form of the first prize from “New Plays from Europe.” Other awards include that of the Wiesbaden Theatre Biennial in Germany 2010.

Hristo Boytchev (Bulgaria)—*The Colonel and the Birds*. Harold Pinter Prize, British Council. He is the most famous Bulgarian playwright internationally and is the author of comedies and political satires with more than 100 productions in over 40 countries of Europe and across the world. These include *Titanic Orchestra*, *Underground*, and *District Hospital*. *Colonel Bird*, produced in the UK, had a male and female cast; however the original version, was written for an all-female cast. Boytchev was a presidential candidate in his country in 1996, which made his satirical talent even more visible to his own nation.

Goran Stefanovski (Macedonia)—*Hotel Europa*. Stefanovski is a playwright, screenwriter, essayist and a cult figure in his country, with a diverse and distinguished international career. He introduced postmodern approaches to theatre in his country through his highly successful debut in 1974. During his Fulbright, he was recognized as an “Outstanding Artist Scholar in the US”. He currently teaches at University Christ Church, Canterbury, UK. He is recipient of the Sterijino Pozorje Prize for Lifetime Achievement, from Novi Sad, and