



Vera BOITCOVA

About the artist

Vera Boitcova is a theatre director, dramaturg, artistic researcher, curator, queer performance artist, and political activist. Currently pursuing her doctoral degree at the University of the Arts Helsinki, Boitcova focuses her research on “otherness,” “belonging,” and “home searching” in performance dramaturgy, particularly through the experiences of queer immigrants and refugees. She holds an MA in Comparative Dramaturgy (Goethe University Frankfurt) and an MA in Theatre and Performance (Queen Mary University of London).

A long-time nomad, Boitcova has lived, worked, and performed in the UK, China, Germany, Spain, and Finland over the past 12 years. Her work has been featured at such venues and festivals as: Caisa Art Centre, Svenska Teatern (Finland), Frankfurt LAB, Stadttheater Gießen, Wiesbaden Biennale, Favoriten Festival (Germany), Meyerhold Centre, Sovremennik Theatre, Aleksandrinski Theatre (Russia), Camden People’s Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre, Birmingham MAC, People’s Palace (the UK). In recent years, she has also curated and organized the annual Eve’s Ribs Festival of Feminist Art and QueerFest in Russia.

Boitcova has been recognized with the DAAD Prize for outstanding achievements in performance research (2022) and has received accolades for her plays *Today My Cat Died* and *Neptune* at the Lubimovka Festival of New Dramaturgy (2021-2023). She has participated in artistic residencies across Europe, including PACT Zollverein in Germany, Saari in Finland, and Faberlull in Catalonia.

Boitcova’s work often delves into queer narratives and political themes, examining identity and activism through multimedia, site-specific, and immersive formats. In her projects, she aims to bridge art and activism, focusing on creating spaces for underrepresented voices within the queer and immigrant communities.

About the research

The research project investigates the notions of “home” and “belonging” in performance dramaturgy through the lens of queer immigrant and refugee experiences. Rooted in Boitcova’s personal and professional journey, the project stems from her experience as a queer artist in Russia, where she faced systematic erasure of queer narratives in the arts. After Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Boitcova had to move across Europe, and on this journey, she met many people with similar experiences, in search of home and a sense of belonging, which inspired her to pursue this project.

As part of the Future Laboratory programme, Boitcova interviewed queer artists and refugees, establishing connections with various human rights and arts organizations, from local LGBTQ+ community centers (e.g., Cigale in Luxembourg and La Station in Strasbourg) to the Council of Europe. These interviews and findings formed the foundation for further artistic works and theoretical analysis. The research conducted during the programme supports Boitcova’s project goals of developing a new dramaturgical language for queer immigrant narratives, enhancing visibility for queer immigrant communities in the arts, collaborating with theatres to highlight the need for representation and safe spaces, and exploring the “performativity” of queer refugee experiences, particularly in relation to legal procedures and social integration, as well as artistically engaging with the concept of the “right kind of queer” as perceived by the EU legal and social system.

About the presentation

The presentation will take the form of a talk show featuring drag artists from Luxembourg and Finland as special guests. These artists will bring live performances to the stage and participate in interviews and discussions, providing insights into their creative journeys and unique perspectives. The event will also open up a broader conversation involving both guests and the audience, exploring the current landscape of queer arts within the EU and the particular challenges faced by queer immigrants and refugees.



- Queen’s Theatre Hornchurch: 24th October – 5th November 2022
- Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg: 27th November – 8th December 2023
- Théâtre National de Strasbourg: 13th – 27th March 2024