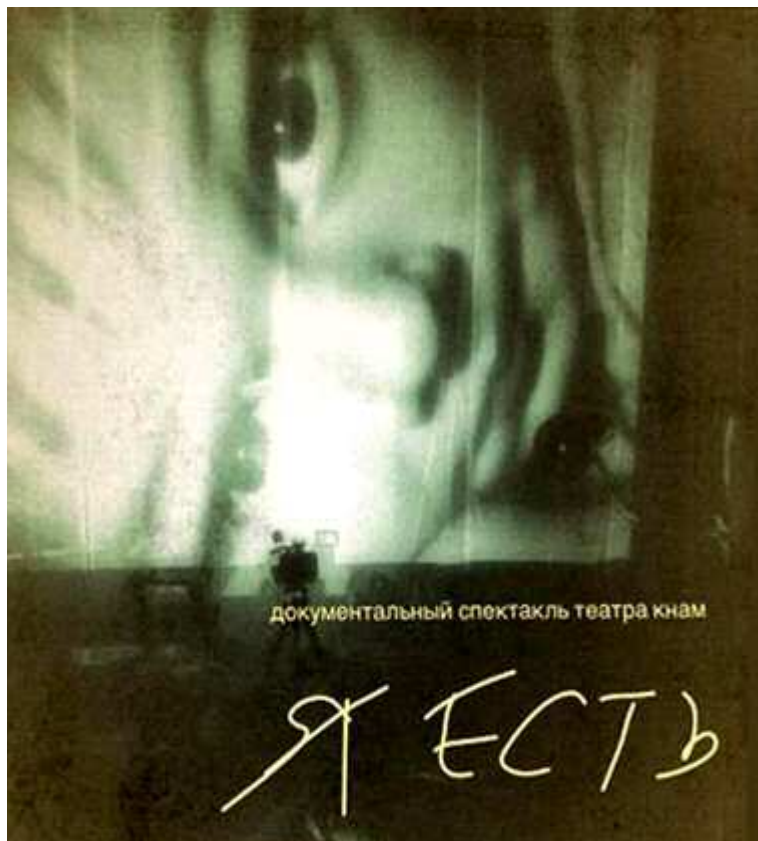


# I AM

DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION, ORIGINAL IDEA,  
DRAMATURGY AND STAGEPLAY TATIANA FROLOVA

## KnAM Teatr - Russia



**I AM** is a documentary theatrical project, which explores the theme of Remembrance and the Forgotten as essential aspects to life in society. It addresses the issue of forgetting crimes and other “disturbing” events in history for which the politician is often tempted into substituting fantasy with a heroic past.

**“So that today we can face tomorrow, we need yesterday.”**

**Joseph Brodsky**

What is this “yesterday” and how does it affect our personality? Does our future really depend on the past and what should we do when we gradually begin to forget? The **KnAM's** interest in this theme stems from the Alzheimer's disease of which a number of the mothers of the troupe members were victims. Faced by these personal tragedies, they found parallels with a worrying phenomenon of society: the loss of collective memory. This new show explores the theme of memory and the malfunction of: What actually happens to an ill person? What becomes of a society afflicted by Alzheimer's disease, whose collective memory is erased and replaced by myths? What threat does a loss of a collective memory pose?

### Documentary material text and image

Interviews, accounts, autobiographies collected by the artists from KnAM; excerpts from articles, studies and historical and remembrance works; excerpts from the books *The Dictionary of the Commune* and *The Book of the Forgotten* by Bernard Noël.

### Translations

Tatiana Frolova, Sophie Gindt

### Dramaturgy consultant

Tania Moguilevskaia

### Actors

Elena Bessonova

Dmitry Bocharov

Vladimir Dmitriev

### Arrangement and video mixing

Tatiana Frolova

### Lighting designers

Tatiana Frolova, Dmitry Bocharov

### Sound

Vladimir Smirnov

### Music

Archive, J.S. Bach, Benji Merrison

### Video

KnAM Teatr, H el ene Chambon

### Subtitling

Elena Harvier-Zhilova

### Technical manager

Pierre Millien

### Production manager

Gilles Morel

### Production KnAM Teatr - Russia /

En Compagnie d'eux - France

### Coproduction

C elestins, Th eatre de Lyon / Festival Sens Interdits

Th eatre de Poche Geneva

### Residency

232U / Th eatre de Chambre Aulnoye-Aymeries

### Supported by

DRAC Nord-Pas-de-Calais

Union Europ enne - INTERREG IV



En compagnie d'eux

Length of show 1h40



The history of the city of **Komsomolsk-on-Amour**, the home of the **KnAM Teatr**, is symptomatic of the way in which the collective memory feeds on a past spent in silence, which is portrayed solely in a positive light. **Komsomolsk** was apparently built by the courageous communist youth.

This is just not true. The city was built by gulag deportees and later by prisoners of war. The truth about the city was made public thanks to the work of the activists from the **Memorial Far-East Section**. But the myth lives on. Every year the city holds lavish birthday celebrations, without the politicians ever mentioning a word in memory of those who built it.

In the Russia of today the words “repentance” and “guilt” are absent from the vocabulary. Every effort to create a memorial to the victims has been fruitless. All there is, is one little commemorative stone, which is - by some twist of fate - hidden behind the walls of the Courthouse. The younger generations know nothing about what really happened and the older generations find it difficult to talk about. It's impossible to speak about the crimes of the past without mentioning the terror of Stalin's rule in the same breath. Stalin was a criminal yet his grave still lies in the cemetery of Red Square and every year, the “victims” of the personality cult come to pay their respects, and among them some very young people. History's lie is handed down from one generation to the next and so it continues...

In today's Russia freedom of speech is once again under threat, the crack-down on any form of dissent is intensifying. There are political prisoners once again and their numbers are growing. A new image of the enemy on the inside as well as the outside is being built up. You could be forgiven for mistaking the speeches of the current leaders, both in their form and substance, with those given by their sinister predecessors.

*“We want, by means of a powerful emotional force, to bring about real change as modest as it may be within the conscience of the spectator. We want the spectator to know just how important it is, not only to remember the best but also the worst. For it is only by making this effort to remember that we can hope to build ourselves a future that we can share together.”*

**KnAM Teatr**



#### Dates 2013

- 18 October in Aulnoye-Aymeries (232U)
- from 26 October to 09 November in Lyon (Les Célestins / Sens Interdits Festival)
- from 13 November to 01 December in Geneva (Théâtre de Poche)