

# UNCLE VANYA

CAPTURED LIVE ON STAGE AT MOSCOW'S VAKHTANGOV THEATRE



## SYNOPSIS

### ACT I

As the play opens, Astrov, a doctor, and Marina, an elderly nanny, discuss how old Astrov has grown, the boredom which is his life. Vanya enters complaining about how all order has been disrupted since the professor and his wife, Elena, arrived. As they're talking, Serebryakov, Elena, Sonya, and Telegin return from a walk. Out of the professor's earshot, Vanya mocks him, noting his pomposity and the smallness of his achievements. Vanya's mother, Maria Vasilyevna, who idolizes Serebryakov, objects to her son's derogatory comments. Vanya also praises Elena for her beauty, arguing that faithfulness to an old man is an immoral waste of vitality. Astrov is forced to depart to attend to a patient, but not before delivering a speech on the preservation of the forests, a subject he's very passionate about. Vanya, likewise, expresses his passion, but for Elena, not nature.

Night. A storm. Serebryakov complains of being in pain and of old age. Astrov arrives, but the professor refuses to see him. After Serebryakov is mollified, Elena and Vanya talk. She speaks of the discord in the house, and Vanya speaks of dashed hopes. He feels he's mispent his youth, and he associates his unrequited love for Elena with the devastation of his life. Elena will have none of it.



Astrov re-enters, somewhat drunk, and he and Vanya talk together. Sonya chides Vanya for his drinking, and responds pragmatically to his reflections on the futility of a wasted life, pointing out that only work is truly fulfilling. Astrov talks with Sonya about the suffocating atmosphere in the house; Serebryakov is difficult, he says, Vanya a hypochondriac, and Elena charming but idle. It's been a long time since he's loved anyone, he laments. Sonya begs Astrov to stop drinking, telling him it's unworthy of him to destroy himself. The two discuss love, during which it becomes clear that Sonya is in love with the doctor and that he's unaware of her feelings.

Elena enters and makes peace with Sonya after an apparently long period of mutual anger and antagonism. Trying to resolve their past difficulties, Elena reassures Sonya that she had strong feelings for her father when she married him, though the love proved false. The two women converse at cross purposes, with Elena confessing her unhappiness and Sonya gushing about the doctor's virtues. In a happy mood, Sonya leaves to ask the professor if Elena may play the piano. Sonya returns with his answer, "No."

*Presented in Russian with English subtitles.*

### ACT II

Vanya, Sonya, and Elena are in the living room, having been called there by Serebryakov. Sonya complains to Elena that she has loved Astrov for six years but that, because she is not beautiful, he doesn't notice her. Elena, despite suspecting the obvious answer, volunteers to question Astrov to find out whether there is a mutual attraction.

When Elena soon thereafter asks Astrov about his feelings for Sonya, he says he has none and concludes that Elena has broached the subject to encourage him to confess his own feelings for her. Vanya witnesses their embrace. Upset, Elena begs Vanya to use his influence to allow her and the professor to leave immediately. Before Serebryakov can make his announcement, Elena conveys to Sonya the message that Astrov doesn't love her.

Serebryakov's announcement consists of a proposal that he sell the estate, using the proceeds to invest in interest-bearing paper which will bring in a significantly higher income, leaving enough left over to buy a villa for himself and Elena in Finland. Composed but livid, Vanya asks where he, Sonya, and his mother will live. He protests that the estate rightly belongs to Sonya, and that Serebryakov has never appreciated his self-sacrifice in managing the property. Serebryakov insults Vanya, who storms out of the room. Elena begs to be taken away from the country and Sonya pleads with her father on Vanya's behalf. Vanya returns, wielding a loaded pistol. He fires at the professor, but pathetically misses.

A few hours later, Marina and Telegin discuss the planned departure of Serebryakov and Elena. Vanya and Astrov enter. Vanya has stolen a vial of Astrov's morphine, presumably to commit suicide; Sonya and Astrov beg him to return the narcotic, which he eventually does.

Elena and Serebryakov bid everyone farewell. In saying goodbye to Astrov, she admits to having been carried away by him, embraces him, and takes one of his pencils as a souvenir. Serebryakov and Vanya make their peace, agreeing all will be as it was before. Once the outsiders have all departed, Sonya and Vanya pay bills, Vanya complains of the heaviness of his heart, and Sonya, in response, speaks of living, working, and the rewards of the afterlife: "...Our life will grow peaceful, tender, sweet as a caress", she assures. "I believe it."



*The film will run for 3 hours (Including a 15 minute intermission).*

*Now in its second season, Stage Russia HD features productions from Russia's most renowned theater companies, staged by its greatest directors and selected to showcase the full breadth of Russian theater's styles and ideas.*

# UNCLE VANYA

## CAST



**Sergey Makovetskiy**  
*Voynitskiy Ivan Petrovich*

National Artist of the Russian Federation, Laureate of the State Prize of Russia, and Holder of the Order of Honour. With his magnetic combination of energy and skill, Sergey Makovetskiy is adored by the public, recognized and revered by critics and required by directors. He has appeared in dozens of films, in countless theater roles, and is the holder of over 30 Russian and foreign theater stage and screen awards.



**Vladimir Simonov**  
*Serebryakov Alexander Vladimirovich*

In addition to the many characters he has reimagined at the Vakhtangov Theatre, Vladimir Simonov is equally renowned for roles he has played in other theaters in and around Moscow, with works at the Moscow Art Theatre, the Theatre of Nations, the Stanislavski Theatre, the Et Cetera Theatre among many others. Simonov is a highly sought after actor, equally adept at both comedy and high drama.



**Liudmila Maksakova**  
*Voynitskaya Mariya Vasilyevna*

Liudmila Maksakova is the pride and glory of the Vakhtangov Theatre. Over her career she has worked with all the great directors of the Russian stage, including Ruben Simonov, Alexandra Remizova, Alexander Belinsky, Eimuntas Nekrosius, Pyotr Fomenko, and, of course, Rimas Tuminas. She is a National Artist of the Russian Federation, Laureate of the State Prize of Russia, and a Holder of the Order For Merit to the Fatherland.



**Evgeniya Kregzhde**  
*Sofya Alexandrovna*

Evgeniya Kregzhde is regarded as one of the leading actresses of the young generation at the Vakhtangov Theatre, undauntedly performing in main roles such as Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*, Katerina in *The Storm* and Sonya in *Uncle Vanya*. Evgeniya's recent performance in Stage Russia's film version of *Onegin* has earned her well-deserved praise from both critics and audience members across the globe.



**Anna Dubrovskaya**  
*Elena Andreevna*

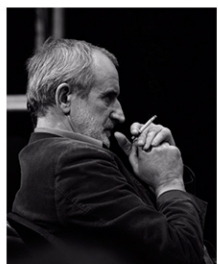
Anna Dubrovskaya is equally at home in a variety of roles. Selected parts at the Vakhtangov Theatre include Zinaida Afanasievna in *Uncle's Dream*, Nina in *Okayomov's Lifetime* and as Elena in *Uncle Vanya*. Outside of the Vakhtangov, Anna won two theater awards, the 'Seagull' and the 'Triumph' as Desdemona in *Othello*, and second 'Seagull' for the role of Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Malaya Bronnaya Theatre.



**Artur Ivanov**  
*Astrov Mikhail Lvovich*

An incredibly versatile actor, Artur Ivanov appears monthly in 8 main stage productions at the Vakhtangov Theatre. His memorable turn on stage and screen as the Retired Hussar in Stage Russia's production of Rimas Tuminas' *Eugene Onegin* was a revelation. Other memorable parts at the Vakhtangov include General Charnota in Yuri Butusov's *Flight* and as Astrov, the doctor, in *Uncle Vanya*.

## CREATIVE TEAM



**Rimas Tuminas**  
Director

Since taking over as Artistic Director of the Vakhtangov Theatre, the Lithuanian born Rimas Tuminas has overseen the growth and expansion of the theatre, driving it to a leading position among all venues not only in Moscow, but in all of Russia and throughout the world. He is recognized by many foreign performers, including leading actors such as Ralph Fiennes, to be one of the world's great directors.



**Adomas Jacovskis**  
Set Design and Costumes

Adomas Jacovskis has created stage works for more than 80 dramas, operas and ballets, both at home and in foreign theaters, including those in Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Scotland and Iceland. He has been connected at the hip with Rimas Tuminas since 1994, working together on over a dozen productions. Jacovskis also works actively as a painter and has participated in many international exhibitions.



**Faustas Latenas**  
Music

A recipient of the National Prize of Lithuania, Faustas Latenas has worn all the theater hats, as a Music & Artistic Director, a Managing Director, a Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs and as a Cultural Attache at the Embassy of Lithuania in the Russian Federation. In addition to his work on *Uncle Vanya*, Latenas has arranged memorable scores at the Vakhtangov Theatre for *Eugene Onegin*, *Smile at us*, *O Lord*, *Masquerade*, *Storm*, and more recently *Oedipus the King*.

### STAGE RUSSIA AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

We're always on the lookout for people who can help spread the word on what we're doing. If you're interested in devoting a couple of hours here and there to posting flyers, connecting with local community centers and sharing our social media missives, let us know. In return you'll receive free passes to all our screenings and a big thanks on the big screen.

For more information, you can contact us at [eddie@stagerussia.com](mailto:eddie@stagerussia.com)

To get all the latest information on Stage Russia programming, including university and public library streaming programs, visit [www.stagerussia.com](http://www.stagerussia.com).



Eugene Onegin

The Black Monk

The Seagull

The Three Sisters

Drillians