



People's Embassy of  
Belarus in Slovenia



Beloruska diaspora  
V SLOVENIJI

Event Report

## The Voice of The New Belarus

Tuesday, 4 April 2023

A project led by:

**Oder/Stage – Cultural Institute for Performing Arts / SC ITI, People's Embassies of Belarus in Ljubljana, the Association of the Belarusian Diaspora in Slovenia and The Week of Slovenian Drama Festival in Kranj, Slovenia**

Parallel to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the systematic repression of democratic processes has been happening in Belarus for years. These processes, among other things, weaken and destroy the working conditions for many artists and intellectuals who have been leaving the country to create new lives for themselves with the hope that they will one day be able to return home. Many truths remain hidden until we start talking about them, writing them down or documenting them in another way. Such knowledge must circulate in the art world so that it connects and empowers us to implement human rights. One of the projects that has been created with the

intent to speak up is *Insulted. Belarus* Worldwide Readings Project created by the American John Freedman and his wife, Oksana Mysina. They shot the documentary *Voices of the New Belarus*, based on Andrei Kureichik's eponymous play, and prepared a shorter version called *Love is Stronger than Fear*, which recently won the Grand Prix at the 14th Atlantis International Internet Short Film Festival in New York.

The event took place in person in Kranj and on Zoom. With it, we wish to open the space for theatre colleagues who, with their work, are keeping their culture and language alive, albeit no longer at home, and support their future efforts.

Programme:

- *Insulted. The Belarus Worldwide Readings* A project was presented by John Freedman, a writer and translator who worked in Moscow from 1988 and was a theatre critic for the *Moscow Times* between 1992 and 2015.
- Presentation of the film *Love Is Stronger Than Fear* - the short version of the film *Voices of the New Belarus* by Oksana Mysina and John Freedman.
- Nadzeya Luchanok's introduction and a statement dialogue about her father, who has been imprisoned in Belarus since 2021.
- Playwright and screenwriter Andrei Kureichik, the author of the play *Voices of the New Belarus* - his experience with collaborative work with Oksana and John and generally about his present work and activities in US.
- FOCUS BELARUS PLAYWRIGT - contemporary Belarusian author Diana Balyko, currently living in Prague, on site. A dialogue with her about her present living and working situation, a presentation of her work and a focused future.
- Discussion with guest on Zoom and on site.

Author of the concept and moderator: Tatjana Ažman

**Link to the youtube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GPb4qY6FgE&t=525s>

**Link to the web page of the event:**

<https://www.tsd.si/en/other-events/the-voice-of-the-new-belarus/>

<https://www.tsd.si/aktualno/utrinki-z-okrogle-mize-glas-nove-belorusije/>

**Event photos by Maša Pirc**



