

## Portfolio/Press

Arthur Makaryan | Theatre and Opera Director

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I believe that by de-centering any individual's voice  
—in the work and in the process—  
we can create something borne of many perspectives that challenges us to expand our thinking.

NYC 2020



## *SIMULACRUM* Multimedia Contemporary Opera

Music by Longfei Li, Yangzhi Ma,  
Peter Kramer, Meng Wang, James Diaz,  
and Reiko Fütting  
Libretto by Marianna Staroselsky  
Choreographed by Evita Zacharioglou  
Directed by Arthur Makaryan

*Simulacrum* is a chamber opera combining new music, contemporary dance, interactive performance, and scenic design. *Simulacrum* is based on the original play *Loved for Parts* by playwright/librettist Marianna Staroselsky. It centers around dialogues between a woman's disabled leg and her bionic leg. The opera is divided into six scenes written by six different composers.

"*Lucy Dhegrae kept up with the opera's fierce pacing and was convincingly agile in her response to the Arthur Makaryan's abstract, grinding and highly charged direction.*"-- [Schmopera](#)

Click [HERE](#) to see the photos and the trailer of the *Simulacrum* opera.

Click [HERE](#) to read my interview on medium.com about opera and the *Simulacrum* project.

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## *BROKEN APRIL*

Based on the novel by Ismail Kadare  
Adapted by Ned Moore  
Music by John Carden  
Choreographed by Avery Sobczak  
Directed by Arthur Makaryan

Deep in the mountains a young man is caught up in a blood feud that has plagued his family for generations. With one month to live, he must make an impossible choice: break the cycle and fight for love, or surrender to fate. *Broken April* explores the true cost of forgiveness in a world of hate.



"*Unaided by mics, the actors' voices rippled through the theater with intensity. "Broken April" does more than provide a brief visual entertainment to its audience. It gives audience members something to pick apart, something to turn inward toward and reflect on long after they leave.*"

-- [Washington Square News](#)

Click [HERE](#) to see photos and the trailer of the performance.

Click [HERE](#) to read my interview on BuzzFeed about my passion for new work development and *Broken April*.



## HAMLET MACHINE

Based on W. Shakespeare's Hamlet and  
H. Müller's Hamletmaschine  
Adapted by Ani Vardanyan  
Music by Ashot Khachatryan  
Choreographed by Ani Abrahamyan  
Directed by Arthur Makaryan

Hamlet is immersed in an emotional and physical turmoil trying to reevaluate, justify and understand the motives of those he has killed. Hamlet, Ophelia, Claudius and Gertrude coexist in one person. They become the parts of one machine called human.

Hamlet Machine is in the selection of the world's largest solo theatre festival "2018 United Solo Theatre Festival". Before its Off-Broadway run, Hamlet Machine premiered at Armmono International Festival in Armenia and toured in Europe, including Russia (Golden Gates festival at Vladimir Drama Theatre) and Lithuania (Atspindys International Monoperformances Festival). Shortly after NYC, it will tour to Moldova (December 2018), Saint Petersburg (Spring 2019) and Paris (Spring 2019).

*"Hamlet Machine" is an odd delight that brings a new, distinctly modern depth to the famed Danish royal.* — [James Bartholomew, ALLABOUTSOLO NYC](#)

*"The process of transformations looks like a ritual [...] Hamlet of a completely different nature and breed arises in front of you."* -- [Polina Ofinogenova](#) (Golden Gates Festival critic, Russia)

Click [HERE](#) to see photos and the trailer of the performance.

Click [HERE](#) to read my interview on asbarez journal about *Hamlet Machine* performance.

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## WOYZECK musical

by Georg Buchner  
Songs by Tom Waits (Blood Money album)  
Conducted by Anna Terteryan  
Choreographed by Gohar Hovhanissyan  
Directed by Arthur Makaryan

In the underlying play, poverty turns Woyzeck into the plaything of faith, science and nature. A self-satisfied captain lectures him on morality; a doctor pays him to eat a wacky diet and treats him as a specimen; a friend named Andres, made up as a warped double of Woyzeck, touts the inevitability of instinct. Woyzeck himself, when pressed, envisions conspiracies and subterranean turmoil. But the opening song, "Misery Is the River of



the World," simplifies things: with a lurching carnival oom-pah, it contends, "If there's one thing you can say about mankind/ There's nothing kind about man." Woyzeck's worst problem is that his wife, Marie, is cheating on him with a self-satisfied drum major, eventually driving Woyzeck to madness and murder.

Click [HERE](#) to see the photos and the trailer of the performance.

Click [HERE](#) to read my interview on Arteria magazine about *Woyzeck* musical (in Armenian).

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## *BLACK GARDEN*

Written by Gordon Penn

Music by Jacob Sachs Mishalanie

Choreographed by Kristen Sandler

Directed by Arthur Makaryan



World Premier in Paris as part of “Pleins Feux” Festival at  
Théâtre de l’Opprimé.

Two warring nations, Armenia and Azerbaijan, cling to a legacy of mutual hatred. But what does it cost to maintain the divide? What is the price of living inside the animosity?

Inspired by real historical events in Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan, where over 30,000 soldiers were killed between 1988-1994, *Black Garden* is a theatrical collage that portrays the harrowing landscape of an Armenian woman’s trauma. She is haunted by the memories of a lost lover, while two glutinous buffoons and self-serving leaders contrive to

abuse their countries for their own personal power, a man is imprisoned and interrogated for unknown crimes, and a handful of diaspora Armenians are looking for love and their identities.

*“The performers are terrific, the writing is quirky and the mise-en-scene has a pleasant lasting aura... many traditional nods to the untraditional.”* — [NY Phoenix News](#)

*“To capture the spirit of the audience with this bold text, the director Arthur Makaryan opted for a quite sober score.”*—[Syma News](#) (in French)

*“I believe this show can be a powerful vehicle to remind audiences what this conflict was and how it affects our modern society.”*-- [Broadwayworld.com](#)

Click [HERE](#) to see the photos (the trailer is in making).

Click [HERE](#) to read my interview about *Black Garden* on armenianweekly magazine (second half).

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