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Eugene Demenok is a writer, a journalist, and a cultural specialist. He has written multiple publications for newspapers and magazines in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, the USA, the Czech Republic and Greece. He is one of the founders of the literary studio «Zelenaya Lampa» (Green Lamp) and a philosophy club «Filosofsky Parohod» (Philosopher's Ships) under the auspices of the Worldwide Club of Odessites. Eugene Diemenok is the author of books *"Lovets Slov"*, *"New on Burliuks"*, *"Zanimatelno ob Uvlekatelnom"*, *"The Case of Benia Krik. Shorts Stories about Odessa and Odessites"* and a co-author of books *"3+3"*, *"The Legend of the Black Antique Dealer and other stories not for children only"*, and *"Five"*. He is a winner of the Paustovsky's Municipal Literary Prize for his book *«New on Burliuks»* (2014) and Korney Chukovsky's Award for his short story *«The Legend of the Black Antique Dealer»* (2013).

Irina Karlsohn holds a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Gothenburg (2010). Her thesis, *Poiski Rusi nevidimoi. Kitezhskaia legenda v russkoi kul'ture. 1843-1940* (2011), treats the legend of the invisible city of Kitezh and its place in Russian culture. Karlsohn is currently Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Uppsala University and Assistant Professor of Russian at Dalarna University, Sweden. In her ongoing research, Karlsohn examines different aspects of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's conception of history.

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Books: *Literature, History, Choice: The Principle of Alternative History in Literature*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013; *'A Small Prophecy': Sincerity and Rhetoric in Ir u-meloa by S.Y. Agnon*, in Hebrew, Bar-Ilan University Press, 2013; *Around the Point: Studies in Jewish Literature and Culture in Multiple Languages*, ed. by Hillel Weiss, Roman Katsman, and Ber

Kotlerman, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014; *At the Other End of Gesture. Anthropological Poetics of Gesture in Modern Hebrew Literature*, Begengung/השיגפ: Jüdische Studien, Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang GmbH, 2008; *Poetics of Becoming: Dynamic Processes of Mythopoesis in Modern and Postmodern Hebrew and Slavic Literature*, Heidelberg University Publications in Slavistics, Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang GmbH, 2005; *The Time of Cruel Miracles: Mythopoesis in Dostoevsky and Agnon*, Heidelberg.

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Yana Meerzon, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor, Department of Theatre, University of Ottawa. Her research interests are in drama and performance theory, theatre of exile, practical dramaturgy and adaptation, cultural and interdisciplinary studies. Her book publications include *A Path of the Character: Michael Chekhov’s Inspired Acting and Theatre Semiotics*, (2005); and *Performing Exile – Performing Self: Drama, Theatre, Film* (Palgrave 2012). She has also co-edited *Performance, Exile and ‘America’* (with Dr. Silvija Jestrovic) Palgrave, 2009; *Adapting Chekhov: The Text and Its Mutations* (with Dr. J. Douglas Clayton) Routledge, 2012; *History, Memory, Performance* (with Dr. David Dean and Dr. Kathryn Prince) Palgrave 2015; and *Routledge Companion to Michael Chekhov* (with Dr. Marie-Christine Autant-Mathieu), 2015.

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Prof. Sokolyansky is a member of the ISA (International Shakespeare Association), European Shakespeare Scholars' Association (ESRA), Association of Russian-American Scholars in the USA (ARAS), International Federation of Theatre Research (FIRT), a honorary member of the Ukrainian Centre of Shakespeare Researches.

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