

The Lydia Etudes

Created & Performed by Dawn Arnold

Adapted from the book, “Chekhov in My Life” by Lydia Avilova, translated by David Magarshak

Costume Design by Erin Gallagher

Sound Design by Dawn Arnold

The Lydia Etudes was created by Dawn Arnold with support from The Moving Dock Theatre Company. Rights for use of the source material, *Chekhov in My Life*, by Lydia Avilova, translated by David Magarshak, are by exclusive agreement between Dawn Arnold and the Magarshak estate.

The Lydia Etudes is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes in length and will be performed without an intermission.

These requirements are intended to facilitate the arrangements for the performance of *The Lydia Etudes- About Loving Anton Chekhov* and constitute a guideline to be adapted to each venue in consultation with the Host and technical staff.

TECHNICIANS: The Host will provide the support of at least one technician to Stage Manage and operate sound. Technician will be available for set up of any part of the show’s technical requirements not accomplished before the Artist’s arrival and for a put-in technical rehearsal. Host will provide for a full technical rehearsal to run the cues for the show for four hours in advance of the show that day. The Artist makes no guarantees about the length of the rehearsal if there are delays due to difficulty in the start up of or connections of the equipment, or arranging of the set. The technician must have an advance, working knowledge of the system.

STAGE SET: Host will provide a clean performing space, at least twenty feet wide and twelve feet deep. The playing area should be delineated by black velour curtains or other agreed upon set arrangement. The floor should be clean wood or black.

FURNITURE: Host will provide furniture for the set, of a style consistent with the show, late 1900s upper-class:

- A writing desk and chair (no arms)
(upstage center)
- One chair (no arms) or small settee or sofa
(stage right, downstage of desk)
- One chair (no arms) (stage left, downstage
of desk)
- A small side table (optional)
- A small vase stand (optional)
- A rug large enough to fill much of the downstage playing area, well secured (optional)



HANGING LETTERS: Host will arrange for the suspended letters that hang from the ceiling above the playing area, some slightly upstage of the writing desk, some slightly downstage of the desk,

and spread across the width of the playing area. Letters can be hung on thin rope, tie line, fish line, or wire. Letters are attached by paper clip hooked onto the end, at arms reach above the Artist. The exact positions of the eight functional letters should be arranged with the Artist during set up and before the put-in rehearsal. Additional letters to dress the set hang slightly higher and at varying lengths, as they are not removed during performance. If the Artist and Host have agreed to do the show without the hanging letters, additional furniture should be added to the set to provide places for the letters to be placed around the stage. Artist can provide the letters or Host can prearrange them. Letters are blank, folded sheets of parchment-looking paper in ivory, peach, or pink (not white).

PROPS: Artist shall provide practical books, telegrams, journal, and letters. Host shall provide additional items to dress the set as determined in consultation (optional).

SOUND SYSTEM: Host shall provide a sound system to play the soundtrack of pre-show and show sound design music. Speakers should be positioned upstage of the Artist so she can hear it even when the volume is low to not cover her voice. Artist shall provide the soundtrack either on laptop or on two CDs. A script with sound and light cues will be provided by the Artist prior to the performance date. The put-in rehearsal will largely concern the running of the sound cues and appropriate volume levels.

LIGHTS: The Host will provide lighting for the event which will illuminate the entire performance area. Specials should designate the main playing areas:

- The writing desk area upstage center (warm, soft) (L -DESK)
- The stage right area (cool but not too dim) (L-RIGHT)
- The stage left area (warm and cool combined) (L-LEFT)
- Downstage center (warm) (L-CENTER)

By arrangement with Host, the Artist will confer with technicians to create a more detailed light design than the basic version provided in the script. If this design is used, a second technician may be needed to run these cues, which will be rehearsed in the put-in technical rehearsal.

COSTUME: The Artist will provide the costume for this show. Host shall provide an iron and ironing board or costume technician assistance.

DRESSING ROOM: Host shall provide a dressing room or area and back stage washroom. Dressing area shall have a full length mirror. Host shall provide bottled water for the Artist's use during rehearsal and before the performance. The Host shall keep the performing space secure during the time that the Artist's props and costumes are in place.

RECORDING: Host and Artist can arrange for the videotaping and/or photographing of the performance. There can be no flash during the performance. If the Host makes a recording, one hard copy must be provided to the Artist. If one of the Host's technicians runs the Artist's camera, a hard copy of the recording will be provided to the Host. The Artist maintains the rights to any recordings

of the show and must give consent to use of clips, photos, or the recording for any purpose. The Artist may use such materials for publicity on web site or social media at her discretion.

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