

ABOUT

Pavel Serdyukov – a theater and film director, graduated from two most prominent theater and film education programs in Russia. His detailed portfolio can be found at pavelserdyukov.art.

Besides, he is an experienced and award winning researcher with a focus on AI, and various aspects of text processing and web search (e.g. modeling user feedback and personalization), and started his academic career at Max-Planck Institute für Informatik (his [publication record](#) and academic career based [CV](#)).

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Pavel had left Russia and is currently based in Tel Aviv, Israel. He is looking for opportunities for interdisciplinary joint work towards a performance or a film with European art and scientific research institutions.

EDUCATION

Master in Theatre Directing, [Electrotheatre Stanislavski, Moscow](#)

Under supervision by Boris Yukhananov within his [Studio of Individual Directing](#)
2022

Master in Film directing, [Moscow School of New Cinema, Moscow](#)

Under supervision by [Fred Kelemen](#)
2021

PhD in Comp. Sc., Twente University, Enschede, the Netherlands

2009

MSc in Comp. Sc., Max-Planck-Institut für Informatik, Saarbrücken

2005

PERFORMANCES AND FILMS

[Performances within MIRRIM project at Electrotheatre](#)

Developed during 2020–2021 and premiered in 2022

- The Tragedy of Cruelty
- Infernal Machine
- The investigations of a dog
- The dream of Coriolanus
- The last words of Cleopatra
- A small talk with Death
- Love and Lovecraft
- Bolero

[Human Voice](#) – film

2022

[The Investigation](#) – performance

2021

[Meetings. Episode 1](#) – film

2021

[A Lover's Discourse: Fragments](#) – performance

2020

[What did birds say to Francis of Assisi?](#) – performance

2019

[Theory of X](#) – performance

2019

[The Triumph of Time and Truth](#) – performance

2019

[Iowa Declaration](#) – film

2019

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

First Prize (Golden Taiga) at the “Spirit of Fire” Film Festival for the film “Meetings. Episode 1”

2022

number one experimental film festival in Russia

Nominated for the first prize at the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen with the film “Meetings. Episode 1”

2021

number one experimental film festival in the world

Meyerhold Center BlackBox Lab 2021 winner

2021

the most prominent Russian theater lab award and the grant for the production of the staged performance at the Meyerhold center.

“The Investigation” performance was staged and produced at the Meyerhold Center as the result of this grant

Meyerhold center had been the one of only two world-known experimental theaters in Russia until it was closed by the Russian government [for its anti-war position](#)

Artist Statement

Pavel's artistic work is usually inspired and driven by the issues regarding our relations and feelings toward the Other, ranging from love to hate, from fear to an urgent need of getting closer. Here, the Other may be a human or an animal, but also an everyday household object or an AI agent. In relation to that, Pavel is deeply concerned by the issues of the abuse of power and the nature of violence, which he touches on in his recent artistic practice, often drawing on contemporary philosophical and psychoanalytic (lacanian) thought.

In his theater practice he focuses on combining various, often quite orthogonal and usually participatory postdramatic approaches, sometimes in the scope of the same performance. He is especially interested in exploring novel ways of interactions between a performance and its audience, and in many of his projects the audience basically becomes an indispensable part of the performance itself. For example, in one performance, the actors actively involve the audience into "crime investigation" through interviews and investigative experiments, in another, the audience publicly share the outcomes of their "conversations" with animals, and there is even a performance where there is no division between actors and spectators and everyone is playing on stage in front of everyone according to certain instructions. He also experiments with degrees of freedom for spectators to influence what they see on the stage: for instance, in one performance, the audience decides when to end it, and, in another, the spectators are offered a choice to watch either the live or recorded variant of the performance. Pavel is devoted to using non-dramatic texts for staging, such as fictional prose, philosophical essays, personal diaries, dictionaries, etc., and the scripts of his performances often represent the mixtures of dramatic and non-dramatic texts, as well as verbatim and improvised dialogues and monologues born during rehearsals and workshops, or directly on stage. At the same time, his performances are usually anti-narrative and resemble landscapes rather than straight pavements. He tends to combine the approaches similar to those of Rimini Protokoll, Heiner Goebbels or Philippe Quesne, both in terms of using dramatic and non-dramatic texts, and in terms of organizing rehearsals and devising the structure and content of the performance. One of the recent performances that he directed, *The Investigation*, had been staged at the most prominent Russian experimental theater, Meyerhold center (that [was shut down](#) by the Russian government because of the theater's anti-war position).

In his experimental approach to cinema, he is largely influenced by late Godard's films with scripts mainly based on various quotes used in various ways to create a film dialogue. His film "Meetings. Episode 1" participated in the International Competition of Oberhausen Film Festival, the most authoritative experimental film festival in the world, and also won the main competition at the major Russian festival for experimental films "The Spirit of Fire".

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