



THEATER 86

The Dragon

By Evgeny Schwartz

Directed by Aleksey Burago

Translated by Di Zhu

Production Details

Company: Theater 86

Venue: Pushkin Hall, 165 West 86th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10024

Dates: November 13 – December 21, 2025

Schedule: Thursdays & Fridays at 8:00 PM | Saturdays at 7:00 PM | Sundays at 3:00 PM

Tickets: www.theater86.com

Synopsis

In a vaguely medieval town, a three-headed dragon has ruled for centuries, demanding food and the yearly sacrifice of a maiden. This year's victim is Elsa — whose mother and neighbors cheerfully accept the bargain, praising the dragon for his “kindness.” When wandering knight Lancelot arrives, he discovers the real challenge is not slaying the monster, but confronting a society that has grown too comfortable with tyranny.

A comedy, a farce, and a fairy tale with teeth, The Dragon skewers authoritarian rule, misinformation, and the dangers of surrendering freedom.

Cast

James Hallett (The Diary of Anne Frank with Natalie Portman)

Hazen Cuyler

Michael Donaldson

Ariel Polanco

Sarah O'Donnell

Mark K. Simmons

Tom Schubert

Di Zhu

Director's Note

“The Dragon is not only about the monsters who rule over us. It is about the dragon inside of us — our fears, our compromises, the ways we surrender our freedom. That is what makes the play so haunting, and so necessary today.”

— Aleksey Burago, Director

About Theater 86

Founded in 2004 (formerly The Russian Arts Theater & Studio), Theater 86 is a New York City–based company on the Upper West Side known for bold, imaginative productions of world classics and contemporary works. Its recent sold-out run of *The Master and Margarita* was a Critic’s Recommendation by *Vulture*. Writing in *The Wall Street Journal*, Charles Isherwood praised the company’s “ripe, antic and at times enjoyably over-the-top” performances.

Press Contact

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