

DRILLALIANS

Captured Live on Stage at Moscow's Stanislavsky Electrotheatre



DRILLALIA. A COSMOLOGY.

Welcome to Drillalia – the land of the drill, that is – a fantastic civilization that exists simultaneously in the present, the past and the future. Everything that has ever happened here will happen again. Everything that is yet to happen has already taken place. Well-worn paths, also known as “breaches in the heath,” lead back and forth between Drillalia and Earth. From time immemorial Drillalians visited Earth; they continue to do so today, as they will continue to in the future.



Such visits could not fail to leave marks. The presence of all manners of spirals in human civilization was initiated by none other than Drillalia. The Tower of Babylon was a sacred drill that once accidentally slipped out of the hands of a passing Drillalian. This wayward drill went mad and it ultimately became the axis around which human languages became unintelligible to each other. The leaning Tower of Pisa is an old Drillalian toy. The dual spirals of DNA, which carry all genetic information about you and me, are distant cousins of Drillalian drillicules.

Drillalia is a peaceful civilization, unified in the multiplicity of its manifestations. Drillalians planted the formula of “The Single One and Only” in the earthly consciousness. This formula was transmitted intact from Drillalia to Judaism and was transformed into the Jews’ central postulate about the Creator. Judaism is but one of the Drillalian manifestations that is equal in might and significance, for example, to the Mycenaean civilization or to Brahmanism.

Drillalia has two capitals. One is the Northern Capital, which, with certain provisos, may be compared to the Russian city of St. Petersburg. The second is Proto-Venice. This is the Venice that existed in the distant past. Today’s Venice is a special place, structured as a portal; it was formed thanks to special tectonic shifts that took place in space and time.

The civilization of the Drill exists in three time frames. It stretches back into the deepest past; it always exists in the present and in the future. Drillalia in antiquity initiated many human mysteries and cultivated archaic earthly civilizations. For example, the Mycenaean civilization, which gave rise to all antiquity, serves as proof of Drillalia’s existence. There on the island of Crete an enigmatic, peaceful and highly-developed culture existed for 500 years. Its greatest achievement was the Palace of Knossos. Now, however, the palace lies in ruins, for the Mycenaean civilization, which was structured to perfection, experienced a terrible catastrophe. Knossos buckled and perished. Other evidence of Drillalia perished as well - Pompei, for example. All of the Drillalian localities on Earth perish; they always meet disaster. Such cataclysms may come in the guise of great waves, monstrous lava flows, thundering earthquakes or virulent epidemics.

But such catastrophes wipe out not only the manifestations of Drillalia on Earth. The very civilization of Drillalia perishes. It perished in the past, it is perishing at this moment, this very moment in the present, and it will continue to perish in the future. Join us as we begin – or is it “continue” – that story...

Drillalians. Episode I. Prologue I.

It is hard to believe in this peaceful, beautiful place, but Drillalia is in danger. The future Drillalian prince, still a babe, is too young to know or do anything about that. He must first be educated in the ways of his people – its philosophy, mythology, science, mores and beliefs. The child sleeps as he is taught by his loving tutor. “When you wake,” his tutor coos, “you will know this all by heart.” Meanwhile, in calm, orderly fashion, his fellow Drillalians prepare to take seats in miraculous gondolas that will transport them through “breaches in the heath,” through space and in time, in order to reopen communications with the Last Drillaliet on Earth, the only one who can now save their civilization. It is a moment of high ritual, one that is dedicated to a world in danger, and one you are invited to join by opening your mind, your eyes and ears.

Drillalians. Episode II. Prologue II.

Earth. A typical Moscow kitchen. Morning. A cup of coffee. A bite to eat. A comfy robe. But something this morning is different. A tranquil, thoughtful young man in Moscow feels a pull and a tug from another place in the universe. What is it? Who is he? “I do live. / Though my city is dead.” And it comes to him: Drillalia, the past, the present, the future. He is the long-lost Last Drillaliet, and he senses a call to come home. “Hear ye!” someone intones. “The voice of the prophet / Appeals to you. / Hear it / In every warp / Of your destiny, / Recognize it.” Which prophet, though? Judean or Drillalian? Earthly or otherworldly? But isn’t it all the same? “I bleed / Meaning,” the Last Drillaliet declares, “And meaning / I pursue.” Isn’t that what composer Boris Filanovsky and director/librettist Boris Yukhananov did when creating this fantastical spectacle? Isn’t that what you are doing by having come to this cinema house today?



Drillalians at the Stanislavsky Electrotheatre in Moscow.

Drillalians, in the words of its creator, librettist and director Boris Yukhananov, is a blockbuster, a serial opera. In Moscow it is comprised of six parts that are performed over five nights. Were it made in Hollywood (as it should be, one wants to say), it would be a franchise: *Star Wars* meets *The Lord of the Rings* by way of *Siddhartha*. Stage Russia offers Episodes One and Two, the first composed by Dmitri Kourliandski, the second composed by Boris Filanovsky, both of whom are major figures in the booming genre of new opera in Russia. And don’t forget the cosmically beautiful sets by Stepan Lukyanov, and the wildly imaginative costumes by Anastasia Nefyodova. She won a Golden Mask national theater award for her out-of-this-world costume designs.

Presented with Russian and English Subtitles.

**THE FILM WILL RUN FOR 180 MINUTES,
INCLUDING A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION AFTER EPISODE 1**

Now in its second season, Stage Russia HD features productions from Russia’s most renowned theater companies, staged by its greatest directors and selected to showcase the full breadth of Russian theater’s styles and ideas.