



Maryna Ajaja: A Celebration of Life



“Maryna Ajaja’s poems are keen and defiant. They carry a dignified knowledge of enduring mysteries.”

– Lee Bassett, about “In Deep”











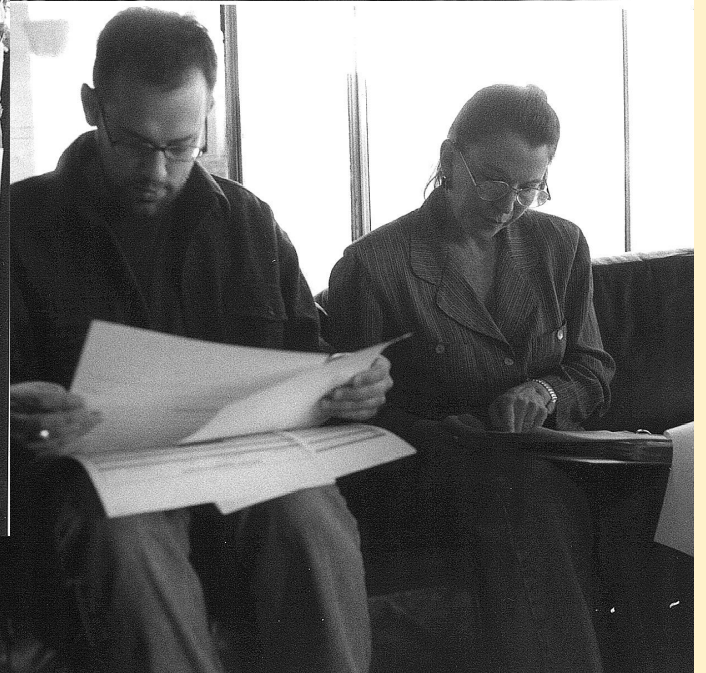


“We just learned that *Klondike* is Ukraine’s official entry for for Best International Feature category of the 2022 Academy Awards, and it was invited to Seattle IFF by Maryna Ajaja. I would have been very happy to meet her in person but even online our Q&A was deeply moving. I will watch the magic clouds in *Klondike*’s sky and I’ll think about our Seattle IFF angel.”

– Maryna Er Gorbach (director, *Klondike*)









“Maryna’s lust for life was contagious. She was intelligent, open-minded, light, yet determined, very determined. It’s hard to fathom today her joie de vivre wasn’t infinite. She felt ageless, enthusiastic, young, and full of life. I’m grateful for her early support of my film career - she inspired me to keep going with finishing *Crystal Swan*. She gave me a huge vote of support when I needed it most. I have no doubt she is making her feature debut up there, in the next chapter of her existence.”

– Darya Zhuk (director, *Crystal Swan*)













**Your look is deep and smile is cheerful,
Your tender voice makes me wonder.
Too, I have seen you being forceful,
And I know how you hated slander.**

**I admired you being doubtful,
Turning thoughts like a thunder.
I wished I was more powerful,
If that would be more suitable.**

**Your illness, all this noise,
None of it your choice.**

**Deaf drummer, sound of a walking bone
All this becomes a sweet thriller,
If only now I feel alone.**

— Andrea Shaffer













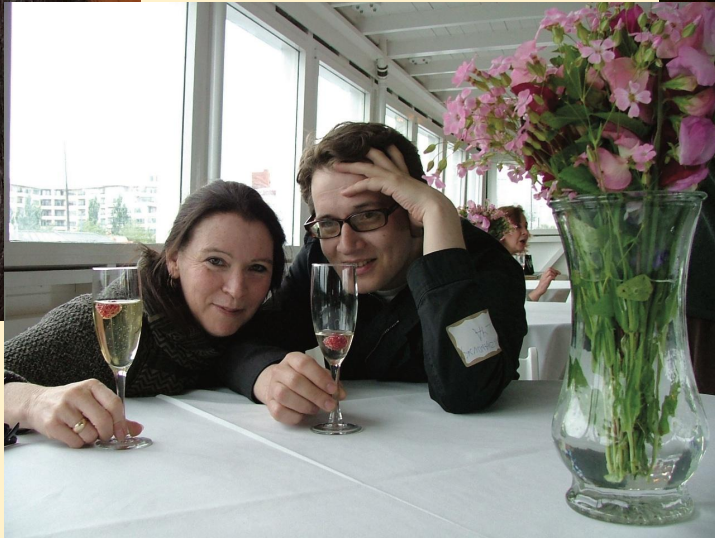


“Maryna Ajaja ‘embraces the quotidian for what it is, with no hierarchies or extraordinary moments, no pretentiousness or embellishment. While silently excluding grand, universal truths and their riddling sound, she engages with her own reference points that are as tragic as Greek myths, as complex as Plato’s philosophy, or as heavy as the burden of painful memories.’”

– Ileana Martin, from her review of “In Deep”, in *Entropy*

























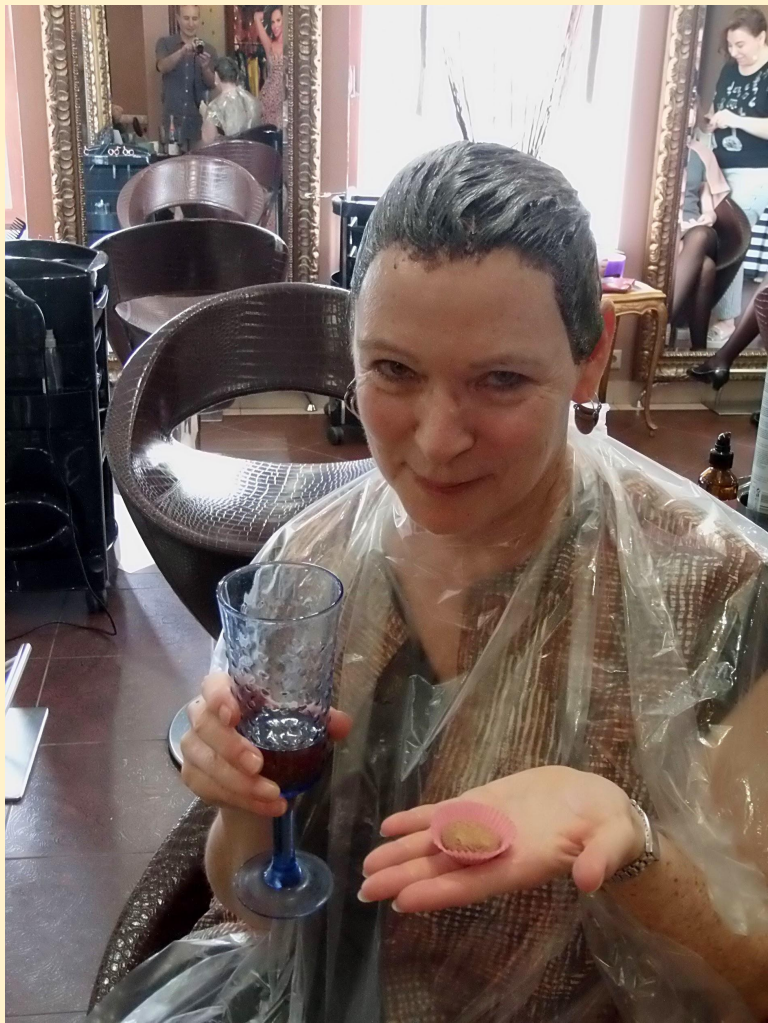














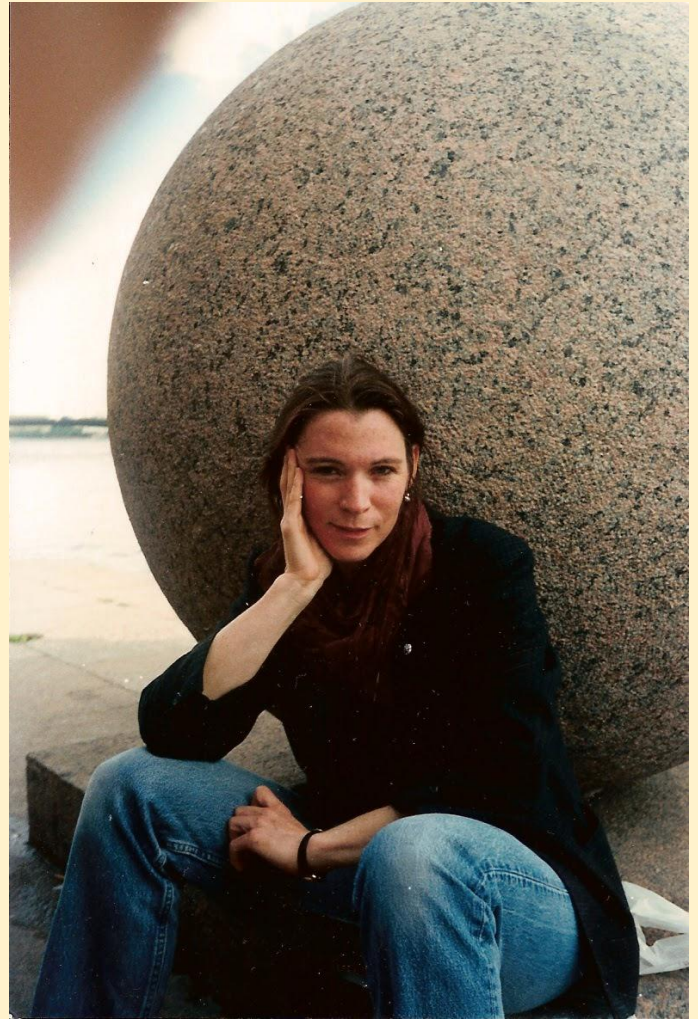
















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“....what holds Maryna Ajaja’s poems together like the fisherman’s multi-paneled net is Ajaja’s voice—original, personal, and not too afraid to dive.”

– Sibyl James, from her review of “In Deep”, in *Raven Chronicles*





“Maryna Ajaja’s poems ‘will remind you that love has a sense of humor and empathy waits in unexpected places.’”

– Nancy Rawls, about “In Deep”















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