

Natalia Zaitseva (b. 1983) is a writer and time-based media artist.

Natalia was born in Kirovsk, a town beyond the Arctic Circle in Russia. She studied history at the Petrozavodsk State University in Karelia and media art at the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig. She worked as a journalist until her early 30s, and then gradually began another career in the arts.

Natalia Zaitseva's interests include personal narratives, autofiction literature, and fringe dramaturgy.

Her theater plays have been staged at the Meyerhold Center in Moscow and other theatres. Her debut novel "Mortgage of Suffering" was published by "No Kidding Press", a young Kazan-based publishing house known for introducing significant European and American autofiction writers to Russian readers.

Since 2022, Zaitseva has been working as an artist in exile in Leipzig. In 2023, her performative essay *Die Autorin* premiered at the *Schaubühne Lindenfels* (Leipzig). Her video work *Interview with the Pistol* is on loan and presented in the permanent exhibition of Dresden State Art Collections (SKD). In November 2025, her participatory play *Christabel* premiered at the Schaubühne Lindenfels theatre, continuing her exploration of the transition between documentary and fiction.

Works in theater

Playwright:

2016 *Siri* (Meyerhold Theater and Cultural Center, Moscow)

2017 *Abuse / Абыюз* (Meyerhold Theater and Cultural Center, Moscow)

2019 *Mushrooms / Грибы* (Pervy Theater, Novosibirsk)

2022 *The Immersion* (The Theater Mastership Center in Nizhny Novgorod)

theatre director:

Theater director:

2018 *One Hundred Percent Love / Стопроцентная любовь огонь страсти полноценных желаний отношений тебе от меня* (Meyerhold Theater and Cultural Center, Moscow)

2020 *Wow! That's too much for me / Ого! Для меня это слишком много* (Theater.doc, Moscow)

2021 *Birthplace / Место рождения* (Yermolova Theater)

Interdisciplinary theater projects:

2020 *Spam* (zoom-videoperformance, Moscow School of Arts and Sciences)

2023 *Die Autorin* (Schaubühne Lindenfels, Leipzig)

2025 *Christabel* (Schaubühne Lindenfels, Leipzig)

Videoworks

2023 *Interview with the Pistol* (Dresden State Art Collections)

Exhibitions

2023 *Showing what we (don't) know – Images as research*. Japanisches Palais, Dresden State Art Collections)

2025 *Once We Were Trees, Now We Are Birds*, IFA Gallery, Berlin

Publications

2022 *Mortgage of Misery (Ipot'eka Stradanij)*, No Kidding Press

2024 *Stannaki Forum. Art and Research in Conversation*. Edited by: Dresden State Art Collections, Doreen Mende. Hatje Kants Verlag.

2024 *Along Unseen Rivers. Towards an Attentive Study of Urban Water*. Edited by Christina Pestova-Ejiksson and Anna Kozlovskaya. Shared Future programme by Swiss Cultural Council Pro Helvetia.

Collaborations

performer:

2018 *Motherland / Родина* by Andrey Stadnikov (Meyerhold Theater and Cultural Center)

2019 *Cavity of Capitalism / Кармеч капитала* by Ada Mukhina, Olga Tarakanowa, Daria Yuriychuk and Alena Papina (Meyerhold Theater and Cultural Center)

dramaturg:

2020 *Re-Locations* by Mikhail Tolmachev (The Moscow Museum of Modern Art)

2021 *One of the Most Beautiful Places* by Mikhail Tolmachev (Ural Industrial Biennale)

curatorial projects:

2016 *The Black Box Residence* (together with Elena Kovalskaya, Meyerhold Theater and Cultural Center)

Grants and scholarships

2021 Research grant, Foundation for Arts Initiatives

2022 Scholarship, Martin Roth Initiative

2022-2025 Student scholarship, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation

2025 Project Funding, Leipzig Office for Culture

2025 Project Funding, Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony

Education and jobs

Education:

2000-2005 Petrozavodsk State University, Faculty of History

2022-2025 Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig, expanded cinema class

Jobs:

2004-2006 news-reporter in Karelian TV Petronet

2006-2008 reporter in the newspaper Karelian Gubernia

2008-2014 reporter in the Russian Reporter Magazine

2014-2015 editor in the Stanislavsky Theater

2015-2018 press-manager in the Meyerhold Theater

2018-2022 chief editor in *She is an expert*

2021-2022 head of Dramaturgy and Theater Practices Department in Moscow School of Arts and Sciences.