

APRIL 26th APPEAL 2021

To women all over the world

This APPEAL follows on from the APPEAL of the 26/4/2016, which prompted 400 initiatives around the world

Context

On the 26th of April 1986, the Chernobyl disaster started. Despite having been analysed, commented on and filmed for 35 years, this major event in our contemporary history remains “*an enigma yet to be solved for the 21st century*”, according to Svetlana Alexievitch, winner of the 2015 Nobel prize for literature.

It is precisely her text, *The Chernobyl Prayer*, published in 1997 and since translated into many languages, which has helped many readers around the world become aware of the pernicious consequences of this technological and human disaster, a disaster from which there is no going back.



August 2019: Nathalie Vannereau
acting in Vallorcine (France)

Regularly adapted for the theatre, radio and cinema, this tragic narrative has inspired numerous symposia, articles, novels, interviews... and controversies.

Starting as an ordinary love story, the first excerpt from *The Chernobyl Prayer*, gradually transports us into the heart of a technological disaster that is unprecedented in the history of humankind.

The simple testimony of a young woman about her firefighter husband, soon turns into an epic story. On duty that night, her husband, with fourteen colleagues, attempted in vain to extinguish what they had been told was an "ordinary fire" in the fourth reactor of the Lenin Power Plant.

Irradiated from the very first minutes, the agony of his radiation sickness lasted for fourteen days, drawing him into the heart of irrationality, terror, and passionate love. Fourteen hallucinatory days that were not only devastating for him and his wife and for their families and friends but also for Medicine, Science, Political Power and Military Power. In the Soviet Union and the rest of the world.

This “Hymn to Love” deserves to be sung everywhere on Earth by a gigantic choir of women.

Do you enjoy reading or speaking aloud? If so, then wherever you are in the world, between 6pm on the 25th of April and midnight on the 26th of April 2021, at the time of your choice, **read or act the excerpt *A Lone Human Voice* from *The Chernobyl Prayer* by Svetlana Alexievitch.**

Editions and translations from around the world are listed on our blog:

<https://april26appeal.noblogs.org>



April 26th, 2006: Nathalie Vannereau acting in front of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

This ephemeral artistic act should be for an audience that will be invited for free in a bookshop, a library, a ruin, a flat, a theatre, a public park, a classroom, a derelict factory, in the middle of a forest, on the top of a mountain, in a courtyard, a bar, a car park, a cinema, a prison, a hospital...

- From 6pm on the 25th to midnight on the 26th of April 2021
- Reading or acting of the excerpt only
- Very simple interpretation
- Event must be free
- No recording permitted, only photos

Under the strict conditions outlined above, Svetlana Alexievitch authorizes and supports the initiative.

Starting from now, you can inform us of your participation on our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/977646358962204/>

Enter your name, the location (address and country) and the time of the event. If you wish, you can add a picture of yourself and/or the event location, an email address, a website or a telephone number.

You are in charge of the event. Organising it must be simple and should not cost much. You are responsible for publicising it, while mentioning that you are responding to the “APRIL 26th APPEAL 2021”.

As we receive them, we will list all the propositions on the Facebook group and blog of the APRIL 26th APPEAL 2021. Both platforms provide information and communication spaces for all journalists around the world and for anybody wanting to find out more.

You can contact the team of the APRIL 26th APPEAL 2021:

- in French with Bruno Boussagol: cokoller@bluewin.ch
- in English with André Larivière: andre.lariviere@laposte.net
- in Japanese with Yumi Célia: yumi.celia@gmail.com
- in Russian and Ukrainian with Nika Le Dantec: artnouv@gmail.com