



# Newsletter

## Events

After a short break the Bolshoi Theatre has opened its 243rd season on September 12th with the traditional performance of the legendary Boris Godunov on the Historic Stage. The production was created in 1948 by Leonid Baratov; the set by Fyodor Fedorovsky (revived in 2011).

The annual company meeting marking the **start of the 243rd season** took place on the Historic Stage on September 14th.



The Bolshoi Ballet first soloist Alyona Kovalyova was among those, who received the award.

Photo courtesy: Katerina Novikova



Irina Parfyonova not only won the Bolshoi Theatre Board of Trustees Award as a member of the choir, but also received the personal acknowledgement of the Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin for her book about the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra.

Photo courtesy: Damir Yusupov



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The Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin, the director of the Bolshoi Ballet Makhar Vaziev and the chief conductor and music director Tugan Sokhiev talked about the upcoming creative projects and introduced new artists. A member of the Board of Trustees Alexander Svetakov held the traditional award ceremony and gave out the Board of Trustees Award.

At the start of Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin's speech, he greeted artists of the Pokrovsky Chamber Theatre who have joined the Bolshoi company and thanked Irina Parfyonova for her book *The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia in Biographies of Musicians*.

The General Director said: "Today we have a very important event. Starting from September 12th the Pokrovsky Chamber Theatre is a part of the Bolshoi and is now to be called the Bolshoi Theatre Boris Pokrovsky Chamber Stage. Today the Chamber Stage company members are here with us and I would like to greet them".

The chief conductor and music director Tugan Sokhiev introduced new members of the opera company: Ekaterina Vorontsova, Behzod Davronov, Anna Kostyukhina, Albina Latipova, Ilya Selivanov, Anastasia Sorokina and Guzel Sharipova.

The Bolshoi Ballet artistic director Makhar Vaziev introduced new members of the ballet company: Pyotr Attikov, Denis Zakharov, Roman Mudragel, Nikita Oparin and Alexandra Trikoz.

During the company meeting the usual award ceremony of the Board of Trustees Award took place. A member of the Board of Trustees Alexander Svetakov gave out the prizes.

The following artists were recognized for their outstanding achievement in the 242nd season: Alyona Kovalyova, Denis Savin and Olga Marchenkova (Bolshoi Ballet), Dinara Alieva and Igor Golovatenko (Bolshoi Opera), Alexander Kalashkov (Bolshoi Orchestra), Irina Parfyonova (Bolshoi Choir) and Anatoly Strizhak (actors and extras ensemble).

The prize For personal contribution and highly professional work for the benefit of the theatre was awarded to the deputy chief engineer Vladimir Kuzinets, the head of the department of intellectual property Maria Ovsyannikova and the physiotherapy nurse of the Bolshoi Theatre polyclinic Larisa Sergeeva.

The prize For long service and devotion to the Bolshoi Theatre was awarded to the librarian of the Bolshoi sheet music library Marina Tsaryova, who has been working at the theatre for over 40 years.

The prize For outstanding achievement in creating visual images of productions and for personal contribution to the realization of the Bolshoi Theatre creative projects was awarded to Tatiana Zhavoronkova, the sound engineer of the radio and television department (the division of radio and television, video and information technologies of the artistic and technical complex) and Sergei Teleganov, the head of the artistic and technical service of the artistic and production complex.

## KEY EVENTS OF THE 243RD SEASON

The opera company will present five premieres:

September 29th 2018 – *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein on the Historic Stage will mark the 100th birth anniversary of the composer. Music director – Tugan Sokhiev. Stage director – Alexei Frandetti.

November 3rd 2018 – *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* by Gioacchino Rossini on the New Stage. Music director – Pier Giorgio Morandi. Stage director – Evgeny Pisarev.

December 12th 2018 – *Il Viaggio a Reims* by Gioacchino Rossini on the Historic Stage. Music director – Tugan Sokhiev. Stage director – Damiano Michieletto.

March 7th 2019 – *Rusalka* by Antonín Dvořák on the New Stage. Music director – Ainārs Rubiķis. Stage director – Timofey Kulyabin.

May 28th 2019 – *Eugene Onegin* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky on the Historic Stage. Music director – Tugan Sokhiev. Stage director – Yevgeny Arye.

The ballet company will present six new productions in the 243rd season:

November 20th 2018 – one-act ballets *Artifact suite* by William Forsythe to music by Eva Crossman-Hecht and *Johann Sebastian Bach* (Russian premiere) and *Petrushka* by Edward Clug to the music by Igor Stravinsky (world premiere). New Stage.

April 4th 2019 – *The Winter's Tale* by Joby Talbot on the Historic Stage. Choreographer – Christopher Wheeldon. Conductor – Anton Grishanin.

June 13th 2019 – one-act ballets *Gaîté parisienne* by Maurice Bejart to the music by Jacques Offenbach and *Symphony in C major* by Georges Balanchine to the music by Georges Bizet. New Stage.

July 19th – the ballet with the working title *Krasavin-Samodurov*. Music by Yuri Krasavin, choreography by Vyacheslav Samodurov, respectively. New Stage.

November 11th, the Historic Stage – the gala-concert marking the 70th anniversary of the Bolshoi Opera soloist and a People's Artist of Russian Federation Vladimir Matorin. The Bolshoi Theatre will also mark several other important dates. On November 20th the performance of the opera *The Queen of Spades* will mark the memory of the opera company soloist and a People's Artist of USSR Zurab Sotkilava (1927-2017). On February 1st 2019 there will be a gala-concert marking the 80th birthday of the prima-ballerina and a People's Artist of the USSR Ekaterina Maximova (1939-2009). The Bolshoi Theatre also continues its cooperation with the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, where the audience will have a chance to hear music by Sergei Prokofiev and Dmitri Shostakovich (December 6th 2018), Sergei Rachmaninoff and Alexander Borodin (February 4th 2019) performed by the orchestra and the choir.



The Bolshoi Theatre soloist and a People's Artist of Russian Federation Vladimir Matorin at the company meeting on September 14th.  
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On November 26th. Anna Netrebko and Yusif Eyvazov will present the concert Viva Verdi on the Historic Stage.

Cinema Transmissions in the 243rd season:

The Bolshoi Theatre together with the companies Pathé Live and Bel Air Media is going to continue showing ballet performances live in cinemas around the world, as well as broadcasting recorded performances.

November 11th 2018. Live transmission

La Sylphide to the music by Herman Severin Levenskiold

Choreography by August Bournonville. Production and New Choreography: Johan Kobborg

December 2nd 2018.

Don Quixote to the music by Ludwig Minkus.

Choreography by Marius Petipa and Alexander Gorsky. Version by Alexei Fadeychev. Recorded on April 10th 2016.

December 23rd 2018. Live transmission

The Nutcracker to the music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky

Choreography by Yuri Grigorovich

January 20th 2019. Live transmission

La Bayadere to the music by Ludwig Minkus.

Choreography by Marius Petipa. Version by Yuri Grigorovich.

March 10th 2019.

The Sleeping Beauty to the music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

Choreography by Marius Petipa. Version by Yuri Grigorovich.

Recorded on January 22nd 2017.

April 7th 2019.

The Golden Age to the music by Dmitri Shostakovich

Choreography by Yuri Grigorovich.

Recorded on October 16th 2016.

May 19th 2019. Live transmission

Carmen Suite to the music by Georges Bizet and Rodion Shchedrin.

Choreography by Alberto Alonso.

Petrushka to the music by Igor Stravinsky.

Choreography by Edward Clug

Live transmissions will be simultaneously transmitted for Russian users on the [Bolshoi Theatre channel](#) as well.

The schedule of the Bolshoi's guest tours includes not only performances at La Scala which closed on September 13th, but also visits to Riga with the ballet The Taming of the Shrew (October 8th and 9th), Brisbane (June-July 2019) and London (July-August 2019). The opera company will go on tour to Chelyabinsk (October 17th and 18th) and several cities in France (March 2019).

The main exhibition will be the large-scale project Museum and Theatre. 100 years Together marking the 100th anniversary of the Bolshoi Theatre Museum. The exhibition will take place at the New Manege from December 2018 till February 2019.

More information is available from the [booklet about the plans for the 243rd theatre season](#).  
[russcult.ru](http://russcult.ru)

The Bolshoi Ballet opened its season with guest performances at the La Scala theatre in Milan.

On September 7th the Bolshoi Ballet performed at the La Scala theatre after a break of over 10 years; the guest performances, which were a part of the international cultural project Russian Seasons, turned out to be a real triumph. The tour lasted until September 13th. The programme included [La Bayadere](#), a masterpiece by Marius Petipa (version by Yuri Grigorovich) and [The Taming of the Shrew](#) choreographed by Jean-Christophe Maillot.

The festival Russian Seasons is named in memory of the Sergei Diaghilev ballet company's guest performances; it was first organised in 2017 in Japan. The Bolshoi Ballet opened the festival with its performances at the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan.

Over the past eight months that the festival Russian Seasons has already been held, more than 3.5 million Italian spectators have visited 180 events in 49 cities, including the main cultural centers of the country, Rome, Bologna, Naples, Venice, Padua, Turin, Florence, Mantua, Modena ... More than 100 other events will be held by the end of 2018. The objective is "to present Russian culture in all its glory. It is extremely varied, since our country is vast and it is the heritage of 190 peoples and nations that account for the versatility of our culture", – Russia's Deputy Minister of Culture Alla Manilova stressed.

Apart from the Bolshoi Theatre 87 other cultural institutions, including the Mariinsky Theatre, the State

Hermitage, the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra and Nikulin's Circus are taking part in the festival Russian Seasons in Italy. More information is available on the [festival's official web site](#).



The playbill for the Bolshoi Ballet's La Bayadere at La Scala in Milan

The Bolshoi Ballet artistic director Makhar Vaziev, who was the head of the ballet company at La Scala for 7 years: "It is a great pleasure to return to Italy together with the Bolshoi Theatre. La Scala is a theatre with a great history; first and foremost, it is home to bel canto. Besides, it also has a wonderful ballet history. The Italian audience is very special, and it is always exciting to meet them. When we were talking about the selection of productions for this tour, we proceeded from the fact that the Bolshoi's company is a great classical company. Therefore, giving tribute to Petipa's anniversary, we decided to bring to Milan his true masterpiece, La Bayadere to the music by Ludwig Minkus, which is considered to be one of the best classical ballets in the world. We present the version by Yuri Grigorovich. Besides, we brought here a rather new performance, the ballet The Taming of the Shrew that was created by Jean-Christophe Maillot in 2014 exclusively for the Bolshoi Ballet. The Moscow audience loves this production; it has also been a great success during our tours to Monte-Carlo, Saint

Petersburg, London and New York. We hope that the Italian audience will also appreciate this entertaining and creative production".

The casts starred:

LA BAYADERE – September 7th, 8th and 10th

Svetlana Zakharova, Denis Rodkin, Olga Marchenkova, Olga Smirnova, Semyon Chudin, Margarita Shrainger, Alyona Kovalyova, Jacopo Tissi and Kristina Kretova.

Conductor – Pavel Sorokin.



Svetlana Zakharova and Denis Rodkin, La Bayadere, La Scala, September 7th. Photo courtesy: Teatro alla Scala

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW – September 11th, 12th and 13th

The casts starred: Ekaterina Krysanova, Vladislav Lantratov, Olga Smirnova, Semyon Chudin, Kristina Kretova, Denis Savin, Anastasia Stashkevich, Artem Ovcharenko, Alexander Smolijaninov, Vyacheslav Lopatin, Anna Balukova, Kristina Karasyova, Karim Abdullin and Anna Tikhomirova.

Conductor – Igor Dronov.

Officials of both countries attended the opening ceremony of the Bolshoi's guest performances: the Minister of Education of Italy Marco Bussetti and Russia's Deputy Minister of Culture Alla Manilova.

Long-lasting ties unite the Bolshoi Theatre and La Scala. The start of friendship and cooperation between these theatres dates back to the Moscow tour of the op-



Ekaterina Krysanova as Katharina,  
Vladislav Lantratov as Petruchio.

Photo courtesy: Elena Fetisova

era company from Milan, which took place in 1964. In 1965 the Bolshoi Opera company went on a return visit to Italy. In the 20th century exchange tours of the same scale (several performances and concerts) took place two more times, in 1973/74 and in 1989.

In the 21st century the cooperation of two great theatres that were founded just two years apart (the Bolshoi Theatre was founded in 1776 and La Scala – in 1778) continued. Cultural exchanges did not come to an end either, but rather expanded to include a new form of cooperation. So in 2002 the Bolshoi Theatre rented two productions from La Scala, namely *Adrienne Lecouvreur* by Francesco Cilea and *Falstaff* by Giuseppe Verdi. In 2006, the Bolshoi Theatre and La Scala signed a cooperation agreement. In May 2007, the Bolshoi Ballet went to Milan after a thirty-year break. In January 2008, the Bolshoi Orchestra and choir performed at La Scala, in 2009 the soloists of the opera joined the orchestra and the choir, and the famous *Eugene Onegin* staged by Dmitri Tcherniakov was performed in addition to concerts. In 2010, the Academy of La Scala soloists and orchestra performed at the Bolshoi Theatre. In the winter of 2011, the choir, orchestra and soloists of La Scala presented Verdi's *Requiem*, the ballet company performed Balanchine's masterpiece *Midsummer Night's Dream* and Manzotti's *Excelsior*, the ballet to the music by Romualdo Marenko, which the Italians call their national treasure.

In 2012, the artists of La Scala performed at the Bolshoi, where they presented a concert of Mozart's symphonies and *Don Giovanni* staged by Robert Carson. In 2016 the Italians performed Verdi's opera *Simon Boccanegra* and *Requiem*; besides, they presented the only symphony concert, the programme of which included works of Luigi Cherubini, Giuseppe Verdi and Gioacchino Rossini.

More information about guest performances is available in the article [La Scala: Russian Season and the Bolshoi Ballet](#) on the Bolshoi's web site.

September 9th, the Historic Stage – **Kálmán Operetta Gala**, which was an important cultural event for Russian-Hungarian relations.

The concert of the outstanding Hungarian composer Emmerich Kalman at the Bolshoi Theatre has long been a dream of his daughter Yvonne Kalman, who was personally present on that day in Moscow. The director of the concert Csaba Káel invited the best artists of Russia, Hungary and Austria to perform. They presented fragments from the works by Kalman and his classmates, the classical composers Bela Bartok and Zoltán Kodály.

Michail Jurowski conducted Moscow City Symphony Russian Philharmonic.



Kálmán Operetta Gala took place at the Bolshoi Theatre on September 9th. Photo courtesy: [the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation web site](#)



Yvonne Kalman and Mikhail Shvydkoy, the Special Representative of Russian President on International Cultural Cooperation, after Kálmán Operetta Gala. Photo courtesy: Katerina Novikova

Aniko Levai, the spouse of the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, and Mikhail Shvydkoy, the Special Representative of Russian President on International Cultural Cooperation attended the concert. That evening at the Bolshoi Theatre Olga Yarilova, Russian Deputy Minister of Culture, and Miklos Kasler, the Hungarian Minister of Human Resources, also signed a cultural cooperation agreement until 2021.

On September 14th and 15th Savonlinna Opera Festival presented *Otello* by Giuseppe Verdi on the Bolshoi's New Stage.

This production, staged by Nadine Duffaut, had its premiere at Chorégies d'Orange Opera Festival in France in 2014. This co-production of the French and the Finnish festivals premiered at the Savonlinna Opera Festival on July 14, 2018. Conductor – Antonello Allemandi.

**Savonlinna Opera Festival** (SOF) is the oldest opera festival in Finland; it has been organised annually since 1912 at the medieval Olavinlinna (St. Olaf's Castle).



On September 14th and 15th Savonlinna Opera Festival presented *Otello* by Giuseppe Verdi on the Bolshoi's New Stage

The festival has been collaborating with the Bolshoi Theatre for more than fifteen years already. It all started in 2002 with the tour of the ballet company that presented *Swan Lake* and *Don Quixote*. In 2006, SOF

performed the opera *The Horseman* by the Finnish composer Aulis Sallinen, which has been the first and so far the only production of the festival, shown at the Bolshoi Theatre. In 2007, two productions of the Bolshoi Theatre, *Boris Godunov* by Modest Mussorgsky and *The Children of Rosenthal* by Leonid Desyatnikov, were shown at the festival. In 2017, which was a double jubilee year for the festival (half a century after the resumption of its permanent work and the centenary of independence of Finland), *Iolanta* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and the concert version of *Eugene Onegin* were performed in the medieval castle). The President of Russia Vladimir Putin and the President of Finland Sauli Niinistö attended the performance of the opera.

The artistic director of the festival Jorma Silvasti notes: "The visit is an important celebration for the Opera Festival and a great continuation of our long cooperation. It has been a decade since the previous presentation of *Otello* at the Bolshoi, and so the interest in our production was naturally born". More information is available from the article "[Otello from Savonlinna: two evenings in Moscow](#)".

The Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin: "We are very happy to host Savonlinna Festival, our long-time friends and the oldest opera festival in Europe, here in Moscow. The Bolshoi Theatre has performed in Finland several times; we presented our opera productions at the St. Olaf's Castle. The tour in the summer of 2017 was very special for us, since presidents of both countries attended the performance of *Iolanta*. The production of *Otello*, which is the joint project of two festivals, Savonlinna (Finland) and Chorégies d'Orange (France), is the Bolshoi's first guest in the 243rd season. The Bolshoi has not had this masterpiece by Verdi in its repertoire for more than a quarter of a century. Without any doubt, the Moscow audience shall be looking forward to new artistic discoveries and unforgettable emotions. I hope our colleagues will also enjoy working at the Bolshoi's New Stage in Moscow. I am very happy with the fact that our creative cooperation continues to develop and is so fruitful. I wish our friends a great success with the audience".

On September 13th the press-conference about the opening of the Savonlinna Opera Festival guest performances took place at the Bolshoi Theatre's New Stage Foyer at 4:30 p.m.

The participants:

Vladimir Urin, the Bolshoi Theatre General Director

Jan Strandholm, the General Director of the Savonlinna Opera Festival;

Jorma Silvasti, the artistic director of the Savonlinna Opera Festival;

Nadine Duffaut, the stage director;

Antonello Allemandi, the conductor.



Vladislav Lantratov and Maria Alexandrova  
received Léonide Massine award

Vladislav Lantratov and Maria Alexandrova became laureates of Léonide Massine award.

Azari Plisetsky received the award in the “pedagogue” category. He is a world-famous pedagogue and cooperates closely with the Bejart Ballet. He has been a pedagogue-repetiteur at the Rudra Bejart School since 1992; he teaches all over the world and has given master-classes at the Bolshoi Theatre several times as well.

The Léonide Massine award is given out annually in Positano, Italy, to commemorate the Russian dancer and choreographer, who gained popularity in the West. This year the award ceremony and the gala-concert were organised for the 46th time. Brigitte Lefevre received the Positano-2018 Lifetime Achievement Award.

More information is available in the article [Our folks in Positano!](#)

The Minister of Culture of France Françoise Nyssen awarded the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres to Irina Chernomorova, the Head of the Department for Advanced Planning and Special Projects of the Bolshoi Theatre, “for the most important contribution to strengthening cooperation and cultural exchange between the two countries”. Chernomurova became an Officier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

For his great contribution to the development of Russian culture, art and many years of creative activity the music director and the chief conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre Tugan Sokhiev was awarded the Medal of the Order For Services to the Fatherland by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 488.

The leading soloists of the opera company Agunda Kulaeva and Igor Golovatenko, as well as the prima-ballerina Anna Nikulina were awarded the honorary titles An Honoured Artist of the Russian Federation.

On September 12th the theatre season traditionally opened at the Bolshoi Theatre with the performance of the opera [Boris Godunov](#) by Modest Mussorgsky on the Historic Stage.

On September 12th the cast starred: Rafal Siwek as Boris Godunov, Albina Latipova as Xenia, Ekaterina Vorontsova as Fyodor, Roman Muravitsky as Prince Vasily Shuisky, Igor Golovatenko as Andrei Shchelkalov, Oleg Dolgov as Pretender, Alexander Naumenko as Pimen, Elena Manistina as Marina Mnishek and others.

The Bolshoi chief conductor and music director Tugan Sokhiev conducted the orchestra on September 12th, 13th and 14th.

The casts are available [here](#).



Boris Godunov. Svetlana Shilova as Marina Mnishek.  
Photo courtesy: Damir Yusupov

September 15th and 16th, the Historic Stage – the opera [The Tsar's Bride](#) by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

Premiered on February 22nd 2014; the final productions on the Historic Stage took place on November 21st, 22nd and 23rd 2017.



Fyodor Fedorovsky.  
A sketch of the set for the first act of The Tsar's Bride

Several debuts in the main roles took place on September 15th and 16th:

Soprano [Guzel Sharipova](#)

On September 15th [Ilya Selivanov](#) performed the part of Lykov

Olga Seliverstova had her Moscow debut on September 16th. She first performed the part of Marfa at the Shanghai Grand Theatre (China), where the Bolshoi Opera and Orchestra were on tour in May 2018.

Conductor – Tugan Sokhiev.

The casts are available [here](#).

On September 15th the Bolshoi Theatre dedicated the performance of the opera *The Tsar's Bride* to the 90th birthday of the outstanding musician and the “Bolshoi Theatre honorary conductor” [Yevgeny Svetlanov](#) (September 6th 1928 – May 3rd 2002). In 1955 this opera was the first production that the maestro did at the Bolshoi at the age of 27. It is easy to recognise that version of the production in the modern one thanks to the wonderful sets by Fyodor Fedorovsky that have been re-created.

On September 16th State Academic Symphonic Chapel of Russia presented the concert version of Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Il Trovatore* on the Bolshoi New Stage to mark the 205th anniversary of birth of the composer.

Conductor – Valery Polyansky.

[The Boris Pokrovsky Chamber Stage](#) (Nikolskaya street, 17) opens its season on September 22nd with the opera *The Fair at Sorochyntsi* by Modest Musorgsky (the performances on September 22nd and 23rd).

Pages about the Chamber Stage on the Bolshoi Theatre's website are under construction. More information about the productions is available from the [Chamber Stage's own website](#).

On September 13th the Bolshoi's dancers presented duets from the ballets *The Talisman*, *Le Corsaire*, *Coppelia*, *Raymonda*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *La Esmeralda* (Diana and Acteon), *Flames of Paris* and *Grand Pas* from the ballet *Don Quixote*, as well as *The Swan* by Mikhail Fokine and the *Seventh Waltz* from *Chopiniana*, the variation of the Russian bride from *Swan Lake*, the monologue of Mekhmene Banu and the adagio from *A Legend of Love*. [The gala](#) starred Yulia Stepanova, Ruslan Skvortsov, Maria Vinogradova, Artemy Belyakov, Daria Khokhlova, Margarita Shrainer, Xenia Zhiganshina, Anastasia Denisova, Olga Marchenkova, Egor Gerashchenko, David Motta Soares and Igor Pugachev.

Since January 2018 Murat Karahan has been in charge of the festival; he is the head of the joint board of directors of six opera theatres in Turkey, a tenor and the Bolshoi's guest soloist (he performed such roles, as Rodolfo in *La Boheme*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Jose in *Carmen* and Des Grieux in *Manon Lescaut*).



The Bolshoi Theatre Ballet Gala took place on September 13th as a part of the 25th International Opera and Ballet Festival in Aspendos

The Third Festival of Russia's Music Theatres See the Music is taking place from September 18th till November 14th.

The press-conference marking the opening of the festival took place at the Atrium of the Bolshoi Theatre administrative building at noon on September 17th. Heads of the Ministry of Culture (which is the founder of the festival), the festival management and directors of regional theatres presented premiere performances and special projects of the festival.

The festival opens on September 18th with the opera *Eugene Onegin* of the Chelyabinsk Opera Theatre that will be presented at the Helikon-Opera. The closing gala-concert and the award ceremony *Legend of the Third Festival See the Music* will take place on November 14th at the Novaya Opera.

Information about the festival is available [here](#).

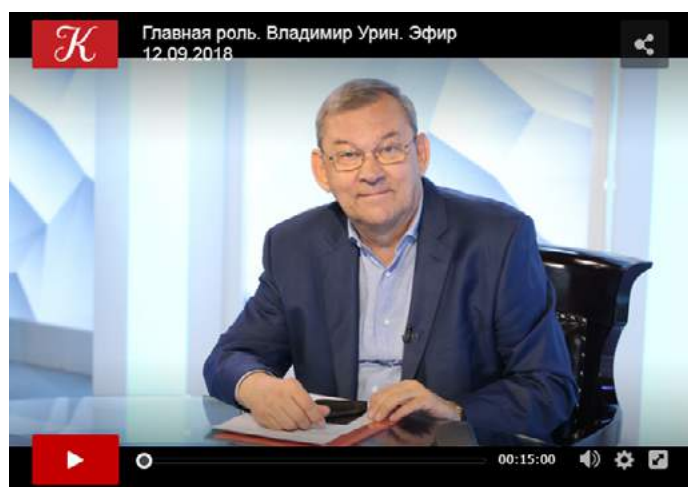
The festival's media relations officer – Nadezhda Daragan (ndaragan@mail.ru)

## Press analysis:

### Russian mass media

The Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin appeared in the programme [Glavnaya Rol'/Main Role](#) on the TV Channel Culture. He talked about the opening

of the 243rd season and the Bolshoi Theatre ambitions for the coming year. The programme was on air on September 12th at 7:45 p.m.



The Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin in the programme Glavnaya Rol'/Main Role on the TV Channel Culture

[TASS](#) reports about the opening of the 243rd season.

As the Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin told TASS in his interview, the new season will be special because the theatre extends its horizons and will now present productions on three stages.

Mr. Urin said: "Today we open our 243rd season with the performance of the opera Boris Godunov. As for the ballet company, it opened its season with the guest performances at La Scala in Milan. On September 13th the Bolshoi Ballet and the Bolshoi Orchestra presented a gala-concert at a large-scale festival in Aspendos, Turkey. So the ballet company starts performing in Moscow on September 18th : they will present Swan Lake on the Historic Stage".

TASS: [The traditional company meeting took place at the Bolshoi Theatre](#)

The following sources also reported the news:

[National news service](#)

[Radio Culture](#)

[BFM](#)

and other mass media.

Federal sources, news agencies, television channels, as well as printed and online sources reported about the Bolshoi tour in Italy. The media notes that the hall of La Scala was packed – all 2,800 seats were taken by the audience that gave the Bolshoi Ballet a very warm welcome.

The Bolshoi Theatre prima-ballerina Svetlana Zakharova admitted in her interview for [TASS](#) that she feels at home on La Scala Stage. She mentioned: "At the

same time, I did realise what a huge responsibility it is to perform at the opening of the Bolshoi Ballet guest tour. The responsibility is enormous. I was all nerves. Maybe, this is what helped me. I worried about it and I enjoyed it at the same time, so, in the end of the day, I am happy with the way the performance went".

The Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin also talked about the opening of the guest tour in his interview for TASS: "No words are needed. Today we witnessed a real success. The Italians appreciated our production; what can possibly be better?".

La Scala General Manager Maria Di Freda told TASS: "It could not possibly have been any other way". She said she has been working at the theatre for 45 years and added: "When I started working at La Scala, the theatre had been friends with the Bolshoi for nine years already".

[TV Channel Culture](#)

[Russia24](#) reports: "The Bolshoi guest tour is the highlight of Russian Seasons in Italy".



Svetlana Zakharova is being interviewed by the TV Channel Russia 1

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#): "The Bolshoi Ballet has performed at La Scala for the first time in ten years"

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) quotes La Scala CEO and Artistic Director Alexander Pereira: "We are very happy to host the Bolshoi Theatre. La Scala goes on tours to many theatres and we host different companies from all over the world here, but, I would say, it is only the Bolshoi that we have such special relations with".

The source also published a short announcement: on September 20th the Bolshoi management – the General Director Vladimir Urin, the chief conductor and music director Tugan Sokhiev and the director of the ballet company Makhar Vaziev – will attend the Business Breakfast organised by Rossiiskaya Gazeta.

[NTV](#): The Bolshoi Theatre opened its guest performances at La Scala in Italy and had a triumph.

[News agency Oreanda-News](#)  
[Moscow24](#)

The following sources announced performances of the Bolshoi Ballet in Milan:

[TASS](#)

[Vesti.ru](#): La Scala is anticipating the short, but bright guest tour of the Bolshoi Theatre that will astonish

[The portal of the Russkiy Mir Foundation](#)

[Radio Culture](#)

[Russkaya Planeta](#)

[Portal Teatral](#)

[The TV Channel Culture](#) presented an interview with Pasquale Terracciano, Italy's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Russia. On air on September 1st.

Sergei Biryukov (newspaper [Trud](#)) reports about the meeting with the organisers and the participants of the international project Russian Seasons that took place at the TASS press-office. The journalists were told about the events that had already taken place and were also given information about the coming projects, including the closing concerts that are to take place in Rome on December 18th and 19th.

Russian mass media report that the Bolshoi Ballet dancers Vladislav Lantratov and Maria Alexandrova were awarded the ballet prize Benois de la Danse-Positano. TASS was the first to report the news with the reference to the portal [Teatrionline](#).

The Bolshoi principle Vladislav Lantratov was awarded the prize Benois de la Danse-Positano. The Bolshoi ballerina Maria Alexandrova was recognized as the ballerina of the year. [TASS](#) reports. The Positano Premia la Danza Léonide Massine for teaching dance was awarded to the Russian-Swiss ballet pedagogue Azari Plisetsky.

The following sources reported the news:

[Radio Culture](#)

The portal [Kulturomania](#) and other sources.

Alexander Kolesnikov reported the dancers' first impressions:

Maria ALEXANDROVA:

– Naturally, I am very pleased and grateful to the management of the Positano Prize for the decision to award me with what is the oldest ballet prize in the world. This year it was given out for the 46th time. This award basically symbolises the general recognition of an artist, especially since I was nominated in the category "Dancer on the International Stage." It is very nice and prestigious. Last season I did a lot of travelling, I performed with eight different companies: the Bolshoi and the Mariinsky theatres, companies in Perm, Rostov, Yekaterinburg and Tbilisi, as well as English National Ballet and Tokyo Ballet, tours in Madrid and New York

where we presented the performance of Blanka Li, a very famous modern choreographer. In general, there was a lot of work, and it was diverse. I also performed new versions of parts I have known for a long time, for example, Aurora in The Sleeping Beauty in Perm and London, or Kitri in Don Quixote at the Mariinsky Theatre. But there were also completely new ones: Margot Fonteyn in Nureyev at the Bolshoi, the title role in Laurencia in Tbilisi, the part in the ballet of Blanka Li. / ... /

Vladislav LANTRATOV:

– I tend to regard the Russian-Italian prize Benois-Massine, Moscow-Positano as a certain new starting point in my career, in my artistic life. It is nice and prestigious, I am happy to be awarded, I am grateful to fate and the particular people who voted for me. But I think the importance of the event can be grasped fully only later, over the years. There are strange coincidences: the prize was awarded for the role of Rudolf Nureyev in the same-name production of the Bolshoi Theatre, which already caused such a reaction even before reaching the public. I was not particularly eager to dance this part, nor could I truly relate to the character. It was rather the case when an artist is invited for a particular part. The choreographer Yuri Possokhov and the stage director Kirill Serebrennikov not only cast me, but also persuaded me, told me they totally saw me doing this part. An attitude like that was not to be neglected. It is not often that choreographers see YOU as a part of their vision. That settled the matter — I began to rehearse and the production saw the stage. It first brought me the Benois de la Danse Prize, and now the Positano Prize. / ... /



Vladislav Lantratov.

Photo courtesy: Oleg Zotov/ Men's Health

Yaroslav Zabalyev (the magazine [Men's Health](#)) presents an article about the Bolshoi Theatre's principal Vladislav Lantratov. "When the work on the ballet Nureyev started, I was not thrilled about the production at all, because I am not a fan of this dancer. This is not the kind of character or a personality type I can relate to. His behaviour, his dancing – I can relate to none of that. To me, Nureyev is too shocking, the choreography in his versions of classical ballets is too different from the original. In my opinion, those changes were not for the good. There are too many difficult movements, so that the dance of the soul is not there anymore, I mean, they are too virtuoso. I like the Bolshoi Theatre traditions and the grand style of such dancers, like Lavrovsky, Liepa and Vasiliev, where there is a place for grand feeling, grand emotion, crazy male technique and male charisma". √

The dancer's photograph appeared on the cover of the August issue.

Pavel Yaschenkov ([Moskovsky Komsomolets](#)) summarizes the results of the previous seasons and calls the ballet Nureyev (stage director – Kirill Serebrennikov) the triumph of the season. "The scale of this awe-inspiring production is huge. There are over 200 ballet dancers and opera singers, musicians, drama actors, supernumeraries and performers; about a 1000 people took part in the production process". The article also mentions another important event of the season, the ballet Anna Karenina by the world-famous choreographer John Neumeier: "Both Nureyev and Anna Karenina prove the fact that rather complex theatrical productions where several genres are merged and which ballet fans are not particularly accustomed to, have become the trend of the season. This, in turn, proves that new forms of the ballet theatre are born in front of our very eyes".

The magazine Muzykal'naya Zhizn/Music Life also writes about the results of the previous season in its July edition. The top events include the premiere of the ballet Nureyev on the Bolshoi Theatre Historic Stage (December 9th 2017). Kirill Serebrennikov is called the person of the year.

The link is not available. The printed version of the article can be requested from the Bolshoi's press-office.

On September 7th the newspaper [Kommersant](#) published the message of the artistic director of the State Theatre of Nations Yevgeny Mironov who congratulated the artistic director of the Gogol-Center Kirill Serebrennikov on his birthday. Mironov wrote: "Dear Kirill! Congratulations from all of us! Congratulations on the birth of a miracle, an incredible talent, a strong personality, a true friend, an honest person and a real intellectual. Let God give you and your father health,

strength and patience. As King Solomon said, "this, too, shall pass". Hugs, your Mironov".

Pieces by Emmerich Kálmán were performed at the Bolshoi; Olga Enina ([Culture](#)) reports about the concert that took place on the Historic Stage on September 9th.

Yvonne Kalman admitted: "This is one of the greatest theatres in the world, and it is a great honour to hear the pieces by my father being performed here. I guess, the Moscow audience really enjoyed it. Russia is in my heart".

Andreas Schager told Culture: "Before I started singing Wagner, I had been doing operetta both in Europe and here, in Russia, although I performed not in Moscow, but in Saint Petersburg. It was then that I familiarised myself with Kalman's music, and I grew to love it a lot".



The portrait of Emmerich Kálmán on the Bolshoi Theatre's stage. Photo courtesy: the [website](#) of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation

The gala was inspired by Yvonne Kalman, the youngest daughter of the world-famous composer and the Russian actress Vera Makinskaya. [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) reports. Prior to the concert Yvonne Kalman gave an interview to the newspaper.

– Why did you choose the Bolshoi Theatre for the Kalman gala? This is not the place to be called the Mecca of the so-called light opera?

Yvonne Kalman: The Bolshoi stage makes this event really special and unique. Perhaps, this concert will give an impetus to the development of the operetta genre. Besides, this is a way to say "thank you" to my father. To me this gala is the culmination of my father's career. √

[The TV Channel Culture](#) reported about the press conference on Kalman Operetta Gala. "The boundaries are erased, and today the gap between the great classical operetta and the opera are not as huge as they used

to be half a century ago. The event that will take place on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre, reflects the new trends that exist in musical art”, — said Mikhail Shvydkoy, the Special Representative of Russian President on International Cultural Cooperation.

Yvonne Kalman mentioned: “It was my great desire that the best pieces from Kalman’s cultural heritage would be performed, and that they would be performed at the Bolshoi. This was my dream. The music of my father resonates with the Russian soul. He was a melancholic man, a very sad man; his family died during the war and, perhaps, it was for this reason that he wanted to create the music, full of love, energy and joy”.

The following sources report about Kalman Operetta Gala:

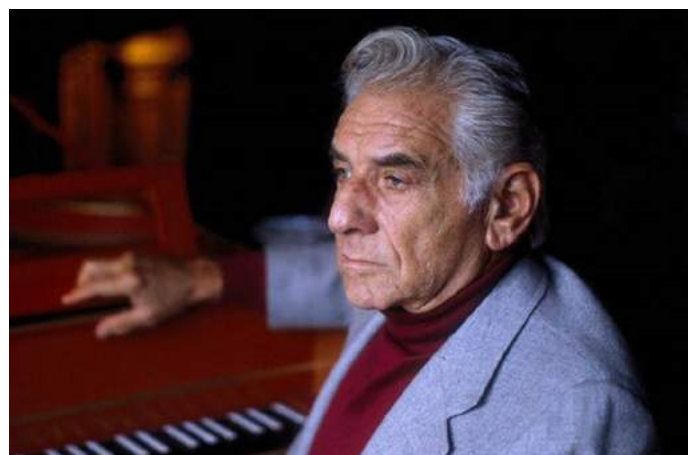
[Regnum](#)

[Classicalmusicnews.ru](#) and other sources.

First announcements about the coming premieres at the Bolshoi are starting to come out. Muzykal’naya Zhizn/ Music life (No.7) claims that the theatrical concert performance of *Candide* (premiers on the Bolshoi Historic Stage on September 29th and 30th) is the most anticipated event of this autumn. Music director – Tugan Sokhiev. Stage director – Alexei Frandetti. The article by Aya Makarova.

The memoirs of Sergei Yakovenko about the great conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky were also published in the same issue of the magazine. The article is titled Happy Years of Creating together.

Links are not available. The printed articles from the magazine are available from the Bolshoi’s press-office upon request.



Composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein  
(August 25th 1918 – October 14th 1990)

Sergei Sych ([Argumenty Nedeli](#)) considers it symbolic that Kalman Operetta Gala is next to the opera *Boris Godunov* in the Bolshoi Theatre’s playbill. Quote: “The majestic Boris Godunov and the Operetta Gala

are both performed on the Historic Stage of Russia’s main theatre; this fact highlights the new level that the Bolshoi has moved to. This tendency has the motto “To delight and to surprise!” and it will be continued, which is great. The marvelous *Alcina* by Handel, staged by Katie Mitchell, and the breathtaking *Anna Karenina* by John Neumeier were the main premieres and the main events of the previous season. The new season is about to bring many surprises and events as well. The operetta *Candide*, staged by Alexei Frandetti, is the first one of these”.



September issue of Sapsan tells tourists from China about the Bolshoi Ballet

The magazine *Sapsan* (September issue) also announces the premiere of *Candide* by Bernstein. There is also an article about the Bolshoi Ballet (in Chinese). Links are not available. The printed articles from the magazine are available from the Bolshoi’s press-office upon request.

*Vechernaya Moskva* (September 3rd) published the playbills for *Candide* (September 29th and 30th) and *Decembrists*, a production of Sverdlovsk State Academic Theatre of The Musical Comedy production that will be performed on September 25th as a part of the 3rd Festival of Russia’s Music Theatres See The Music

The printed copy of the newspaper is available from the Bolshoi Theatre’s press-office upon request

Alexander Firer (*Muzykal’naya Zhizn/Music Life*, No. 8, August) writes about the history of the revivals of the ballets *Coppelia* and *La Fille du Pharaon* at the Bolshoi Theatre.

On August 3rd Vyacheslav Gordeev, a ballet dancer, a pedagogue, a People’s Artist of the USSR (1995 – 1997 – the Bolshoi Ballet artistic director) celebrated a double jubilee – 70th birthday and 50th anniversary of his creative career.



The magazine Muzykal'naya Zhizn/Music Life, August 2018

influenced me a lot when I was young and who remained the perfect ideal of an artist. I am not creating an idol for myself. I simply love this person”.



Valery Levental. 1960-s.



Vyacheslav Gordeev on the cover of the magazine Muzykal'naya Zhizn/Music Life, August 2018

The newspaper [Screen and Stage](#) published a large article to mark the 80th birthday of Valery Levental (August 17th 1938 – June 8th 2015). The article by Yuliy Fait is titled Pictures from the Store Room: “1992. I am making a documentary Talks in the Workshop about Valery Levental, the Chief designer of the Bolshoi Theatre. It is so difficult to tell people about a person that you know almost everything about. To me he is not a Chief designer, but simply a dear person, who is very close to me, who

[Komsomolskaya Pravda, Moldova](#) presents an article about the Bolshoi Opera soloist Andrei Jilihovschi (baritone): “In 2006 he completed his studies in choral conducting at the Ștefan Neaga Music College in Chisinau. Following his graduation, he continued his studies at the Rimsky-Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatoire. At the moment he is a soloist of the Bolshoi Opera company. His career is developing rapidly. Andrei Jilihovschi sings in Paris and in London; he has also signed contracts with Metropolitan Opera”.

# Press analysis:

## international mass media

Italian mass media report about the Bolshoi Theatre guest performances in Milan.

Italian mass media presented numerous publications about the Bolshoi Theatre guest performances in Milan.

The Italian online specialised theatre news publication [Teatro.it](http://Teatro.it) (Italy) publishes a review by Sonia Baccinelli of Bayadere with Jacopo Tissi and Alëna Kovalëva in the leading roles “Jacopo Tissi is the veritable diamond of the Russians. Applauded Jacopo Tissi (Solor) paired with Kristina Kretova (Gamzatti). The twenty-three year old who trained at La Scala is in some ways following the itinerary already traced almost half a century ago by Liliana Cossi, Luciana Savignano and Anna Maria Prina for whom the Bolshoi had become their second home. Jacopo Tissi has a beautiful beat work in his legs, helped by a splendid ballon: the variations have been perfect and his young age helps him to give the impression of being able to overcome gravity. Kristina Kretova is technically very strong.”



The ballerina Carla Fracci greets the Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Jacopo Tissi on the stage of La Scala.

Photo courtesy: Corriere della Sera

[Corriere della Sera](http://Corriere della Sera) publishes another article by critic Valeria Crippa about the return of Italian dancer Jacopo Tissi who now dances with the Bolshoi to La Scala. “Bolshoi in name and in fact, at La Scala: the Milan-Moscow axis in the ballet has never been so “big”, welded by the fifteen minutes of applause for the cast of the young Alena Kovaleva-Jacopo Tissi, the day before

yesterday, after the rousing ovations (fourteen minutes) for the stars Svetlana Zakharova and Denis Rodkin, at the end of the first show last Friday, and the acclamations (thirteen minutes) for Olga Smirnova and Semyon Chudin, the couple of “mondovisioni”, on Saturday night. The sumptuous Bayadère by Yuri Grigorovich, the tsar of the Soviet choreography, has captivated the audience of the Teatro alla Scala with its elegant and virtuous dancers.”



The Taming of the Shrew by Jean-Christophe Maillot. Olga Smirnova as Bianca, Semyon Chudin as Lucentio.

Photo courtesy: [teatroallascala](http://teatroallascala)

The Bolshoi's trustees and sponsors, including Mikhail Kusnirovich and Roman Abramovich, attended the guest performances of the company. The Italian daily newspaper [Corriere della Sera](http://Corriere della Sera) publishes an article by Gian Luca Bauzano about the Italian fashion gala after the Bolshoi Ballet performance. “An event celebrated by a gala evening in which the great names of Made in Italy were not lacking in the stalls and on the stages. In addition to Prada, Alberta Ferretti, Gimmo and Jacopo Etro. Because this is not a simple routine tour, but a cultural exchange between world-renowned artistic institutions. “Thanks to fashion we can support culture. It is essential to invest in culture. This was affirmed by Mikhail Kusnirovich, patron of Bosco di Ciliegi and the historical Gum store in Moscow, thanks to which the exchange

between the two great artistic institutions, Bolshoi and La Scala, could take place.”

The Italian magazine [Amica](#) (Italy) publishes an article by Antonella Catena and a photo gallery about the Italian fashion cocktail in honour of the Bolshoi Ballet. “Exclusive cocktail for the tour of the Russian theatre. The occasion was the prestigious tour of the Teatro Bolshoi at La Scala, scheduled until September 13th 2018. Mikhail Kusnirovich, Founder and Chairman of the Board of the Bosco di Ciliegi Group, a main partner of the Bolshoi Theatre together with GUM, celebrated the performance The Bayadère by Marius Petipa with an exclusive cocktail at the La Scala Theatre Museum.”

[The Corriere della Sera](#)

The Corriere della Sera magazine IO Donna / Corriere della Sera also publishes [the article by Crippa and the interview](#).



Alyona Kovalyova as Nikia, Jacopo Tissi as Solor.  
La Bayadere at La Scala, September 10th.  
Photo courtesy: Foro Teatro alla Scala

The Italian daily newspaper [Il Giornale](#) (Italy) publishes an article by Piera Anna Franini

The Italian newswire [ANSA](#)

[SKY TV tg24](#) (Italy) broadcasts a video interview

with the Bolshoi Ballet’s director Makhar Vaziev and clips from the ballet Taming of the Shrew and La Bayadere as well as an article by Chiara Ribichini.

The Italian online arts publication [ArtsLife](#) (Italy) reports “The Bolshoi Ballet has been missing from Milan for 11 years.

The Italian online publication [Il Messaggero](#) (Italy) publishes a photo gallery and a report.



The Bolshoi prima-ballerina Olga Smirnova at La Scala.  
Photo courtesy: Sasha Gusov

The Italian newspaper [La Stampa](#) publishes a report by Sergio Trombetta

The Italian online events publication [L’Arena](#) publishes the earlier ANSA report “In politics there are different processes and I would not talk about them, but culture unites: there are many traditions that concern both Russia and Italy, this is a step to get to know each other better”. This was stated by Makhar Vaziev, artistic director of the Bolshoi Ballet”

The Italian online news publication [Tiscali.it](#) (Italy)

The Italian online publication [AskaNews](#) (Italy) publishes an article and a video interview with Jacopo Tissi the Bolshoi Ballet’s Italian dancer.

Turkish newspapers announce Bolshoi Ballet artists’ performances at the Aspendos Festival in Turkey.

The Turkish daily newspaper [Daily Sabah](#) announces the International Aspendos Opera and Ballet Festival is to take place between Sept. 4 and Sept. 18 at the ancient Aspendos theatre. “The star of the event will be the Bolshoi Ballet. The Russian Federation’s Bolshoi State Academic Theatre’s world renowned artists, orchestra and chorus will perform at the the Bolshoi Ballet Gala Night on Sept. 13.

The group will be performing sections from Swan Lake and The Sleeping Beauty by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Chopiniana by Chopin, Flames of Paris by Boris Asafiev, Le Corsaire by Adolf Adam, Coppelia by Leo Delibes and

Farhad and Shirin by Arif Melikov. Conductor – Pavel Klinichev.”

The Italian online news publication [Blasting News](#) publishes an article by Eleanora Gorgoretti and a video reporting “Marianela Núñez and Vladislav Lantratov, guests of honour for the production of The Sleeping Beauty. From 15 to 23 September, Teatro dell’Opera di Roma.” [Link to the article and the video](#)

The UK newspaper [The Sunday Times](#) publishes a review by dance critic David Dougill of the St Petersburg Ballet’s performances of Swan Lake with Irina Kolesnikova at the London Coliseum. Several Bolshoi Ballet stars appeared as guests. “Denis Rodkin, of the Bolshoi, dances his role with much detail and feeling. [Irina]Kolesnikova [from the Mariinsky Theatre] gives out more as the temptress Odile, when the pair both excel in virtuosity. An alternative cast brought Yulia Stepanova, of the Bolshoi, and Kimin Kim, of the Mariinsky, as stars, and they achieved far greater rapport in a performance that was much more satisfying. Stepanova was sensitive and affecting as Odette, and brought off some furious fouettés as Odile.”

Tatarstan online business newspaper [Business Online](#) published an interview with the singer. Andrei Jiliovski talked about working on his roles, working with opera directors and his love for Dmitri Tcherniakov’s productions:

– They say that singers either work with Tcherniakov only once, or become his permanent collaborators. Does it mean that you are one of Tcherniakov’s singers?

– I guess this is the case.

– What is most important for you about working with this director?

– This is what I tell everyone: the most incredible thing is the process itself, working with Tcherniakov for a month and a half. I do not really care so much about the final product, I mean, what kind of production it will be, a good one or a bad one; I mean, people always argue and they will argue, because he is a genius. Some adore him, some rip him to pieces no matter what kind of productions he creates. Still, there are people that will be criticising his production in advance and those that will praise his production in advance, even if this is not one of his most outstanding projects. For me none of that is important, because I am working with him before the premiere, and this month and a half is the time of absolute happiness”. //

## In brief

The famous modern choreographer Paul Taylor passed away in the USA on August 29th at the age of 88. [TASS](#) reported the news with the reference to the newspaper [The New York Times](#).

[The New York Times](#) publishes an article about Paul Taylor titled Paul Taylor Master of Light and Darkness by Gia Kourlas. Quote: “It wouldn’t be right to cherish Paul Taylor only for his Baroque masterpieces like Aureole, Esplanade (Bach) and Brandenburgs (Bach). These are not merely pretty but downright beautiful moments in an increasingly dark world. And as Mr. Taylor tried to teach us over and over again, you can’t have the light without the dark. So many choreographers feel a need to please. He never did. His dances were true.”



Paul Taylor (July 29th 1930 – August 29th 2018)

Paul Taylor founded his own dance company in 1954; in 1959 he became the guest soloist of New York City Ballet. In 1974 he finished his dancing career and focused on the career of a ballet master. In 1992 he received an Emmy for his production *Speaking in Tongues* (1988). In 2000 he was awarded France’s highest honour, the Légion d’Honneur.

More than 30 sources reported the sad news, including the following:

[TV Culture](#)  
[Kommersant](#)  
[Regnum](#)  
[Vesti.Ru](#)

The anniversary festival of the Russian National Orchestra opened on September 10th in Moscow. The agency [Regnum](#) reports. The orchestra of Mikhail Pletnev, which has existed for over 25 years, performed at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall together with the violinist Sergey Krylov. The programme included the Concert for Violin and Orchestra in D Major, op. 35 by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and the Symphony No. 9 in E-flat Major, op.70, by Dmitri Shostakovich. Conductor – maestro Mikhail Pletnev.

[Radio Rossii](#) reported about the playbill of the festival on September 8th in the news story Mikhail Pletnev Shares a Few Secrets.

[The First Channel](#) reported about the premiere of the ballet [The Crystal Palace](#) that took place on September 10th at the State Kremlin Palace.



A scene from the production  
The Crystal Palace

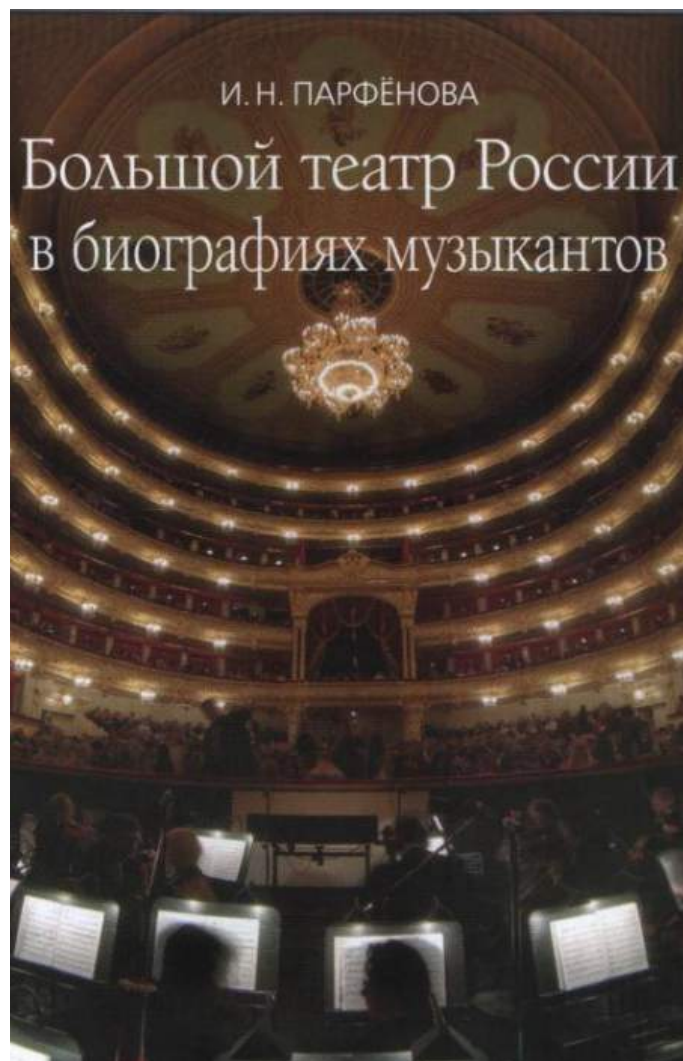
The cast starred the Bolshoi Theatre leading soloist Maria Vinogradova, an Honoured Artist of Russia Ivan Vasiliev, the Bolshoi Theatre prima-ballerina and a People's Artist of Russia Maria Allash and the Bolshoi Opera soloist Anna Nechaeva. Artists of leading music theatres of Russia, the Bolshoi Theatre Children's Choir and the School of Classical Dance headed by Gennady and Larisa Ledyakh also took part in the production. Conductor – Pavel Klinichev.

The specialised online-source about dance news [Giornale della Danza](#) (Italy) published an article by Lorena Coppola.

The garden Carmen was opened in Moscow in honour of Maya Plisetskaya. Designer – James Basson (UK). Elena Voroshilova ([TV Channel Culture](#)) watched the famous landscape designer at work.

The Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra opened a new season. The soloists of the Bolshoi Theatre and Novaya Opera performed arias from famous operas at the Moscow State Conservatory Great Hall. [TV Channel Culture](#) reports. The concert starred the Bolshoi Theatre soloist Agunda Kulaeva and the Bolshoi guest soloists Venera Gimadieva, Alexei Tatarintsev and Vasily Ladyuk.

The publishing house Nauka (Russian Academy of Science) presented the fundamental encyclopedic dictionary [The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia in Biographies of Musicians](#) by Irina Parfyonova.



The publishing house Nauka (Russian Academy of Science) presented the fundamental encyclopedic dictionary [The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia in Biographies of Musicians](#)

The book presents the results of many years of studying the history of the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra and makes up for a significant gap in the Russian music and theatrical historiography. The author considers it to be an encyclopedic dictionary; it is a research, completed within the framework of an individual hybrid genre. The three chapters present the events and facts of the three eras in the history of the orchestra: the Imperial Theatre, the Soviet and the modern periods. Each chapter is comprised of two sections: a review text and an alphabetical dictionary entry. The dictionary entry contains references about musicians of the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra. The appendices present data on instrumental groups that formed part of the history of the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra, brief information about the leading musicians, instrument workshop and music library; there is also the full list of the orchestra members as of spring 2017.



The third prize of Plácido Domingo's International Opera Competition [Operalia](#) that took place in Lisbon was awarded to the Russian dramatic tenor Arseny Yakovlev (the Bolshoi Opera soloist in 2016-17)



Jose Carreras and Natalya Ignatenko  
(the Elena Obraztsova Foundation).

Photo courtesy: [Elena Korolyova-Volochkova](#)

“The programme of the 70th festival in Aix-en-Provence was put together by Bernard Foccroulle, who was also the curator of the festival; he was supposed to resign from his position of the festival's General Director last year, but agreed to stay for one more year so that his successor Pierre Audi would have a chance to celebrate the 30th anniversary of being a director of the Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam”.

On September 10th International Tenor Competition of the Elena Obraztsova Foundation Jose Carreras Grand Prix opened at the Helikon-Opera. [TV Channel Culture](#) reports. The President of Russia Vladimir Putin sent his greetings to participants, organisers and guests of the International Tenor Competition of the Elena Obraztsova Foundation Jose Carreras Grand Prix. [TASS](#) reports.

On September 10th the press-conference of the Vienna State Opera General Director Dominique Meyer about the plans for the anniversary season took place at the [Embassy of Austria in Moscow](#). He has been the General Director of this opera house since 2010; this season, which will be the last one for him, coincides with the 150th anniversary of one of the world's most famous opera theatres. The press-conference was dedicated to this anniversary.

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#): The Vienna State Opera announced its plans for the season in Moscow.

The concert hall Zaryadye opened in Moscow. Dozens of mass media sources reported about this event.

The main ones are:

[The First Channel](#)

[The First Channel](#)

[TV Channel Culture](#)

[TV Channel Culture](#)

[Vedomosti](#) and many other sources.

Yekaterina Belyaeva (the newspaper [Screen and Stage](#)) reports about the details of the largest music and theatre festival in Aix-en-Provence that closed in the end of July.



Dominique Meyer mentioned that the coming season “will be of a particular importance for the theatre”, since the Vienna State Opera celebrates its 150th anniversary in May 2019



Instagram photo courtesy: [paolobesana](#)

In the summer the project [Big Ballet](#) was shot at Mosfilm; it will be released on the TV Channel Culture in November. Internet sources, including the portal LaPersonne, present the backstage video The Big Ballet that was created together with the project’s official partner, the company Grishko World.

#### VALENTINA LEVKO PASSED AWAY

On August 14th, next day after her 92nd birthday, the People’s Artist of the RSFSR [Valentina Levko](#) passed away. She was one of the singers that were considered to be “golden voices” of the Bolshoi Theatre. She worked at the Bolshoi in 1960-1982. She considered constant self-improvement to be one of the main objectives for every person, and for a creative person in particular. She was a devoted advocate of studying and teaching, and became a wonderful pedagogue herself. After finishing her singing career, she taught at the Gnessin Institute (Academy). In 2009 Valentina Levko Vocal Arts Centre was opened, which she became the artistic director of. The singer’s memoirs *My Destiny at the Bolshoi Theatre* were published in 2000.

## Social networks

Makhar Vaziev and Mikhail Kusnirovich backstage at La Scala after the third performance of *La Bayadere*, September 10th.

The Bolshoi Ballet principal Denis Rodkin uploaded a photo from Milan, taken during his stroll through the city.



Denis Rodkin. The dancer’s photo in [Instagram](#)



The great Carla Fracci came backstage after the performance of *La Bayadere*. Kristina Kretova wrote a post on her [Instagram page](#)



The Bolshoi Opera soloist Alexandra Durseneva posted on her [FB page](#) a photograph with Michail Jurowski and Eleonora Jurowski taken after the concert Kalman Operetta Gala on September 9th.

Instagram page makvala\_kasrashvili : “The family of Makvala Kasrashvili had nothing to do with art, but her mother sang very well, so the girl heard many Georgian songs from her. However, that was not the only musical experience of her childhood: Makvala enjoyed listening to opera singers on the radio, remembered arias by ear and sang them, usually not understanding a single word. She dreamed about becoming an opera singer. At the age of 12, after a successful performance at the amateur concert in summer camp, the girl told her mother that she wanted to study singing”.



A [photo](#) from Makvala Kasrashvili's family archive

On September 7th an enormous number of people congratulated Kirill Serebrennikov on his birthday.



[Sati Spivakova](#): “Happy birthday, my dear, my darling, my wonderful, my genius @kirillserebrennikov!!!

I miss you very much; I am very much looking forward to the end of this crazy absurd we all are living in. I believe and I hope. I will always be by your side, I will always be next to you, I will not let go...”.



The composer Ilya Demutsky gave Kirill Serebrennikov a [music postcard](#): “My music postcard for a dear person”

Sergei Antonov is excited about the production of The Crystal Palace at the State Kremlin Palace: “My friends, I am so thrilled that I cannot find the right words!!! It has been a looong time since I last saw something so incredibly beautiful! It is like I have been to a real fairy-tale! The symbiotic production of The Crystal Palace (incorporating ballet, opera singing and acting) had its premiere at the Kremlin Palace!!!” //



Photo courtesy: Ira Polyarnaya

# Debuts

On September 12th and 14th the Polish bass and the Bolshoi Theatre guest soloist [Rafał Siwek](#) made his debut with the title role. His repertoire at the Bolshoi includes the part of Philip II in Don Carlo, Vladimir Yaroslavich, Prince of Galich in Prince Igor and other parts.

## September 15th

Olga Seliverstova as Marfa (she made her debut with this part on May 14th 2018 during the opera company's guest performances in China).

September 16th

Guzel Sharipova as Marfa (accepted to the Bolshoi Opera in the season 2018/19)



# Changes to the casts

**Boris Godunov**, September 13th. Svetlana Shilova formed the role of Marina Mnishek. The performance Anna Bondarevskaya was cancelled.

# Birthdays

**August 8th** – the jubilee of the Bolshoi Theatre opera director Vera Karpachyova.

**August 22nd** – the jubilee of the actors and extras ensemble and an Honoured Artist of Russia Natalia Krasnovarskaya

**August 27th** – a choreographer, the Bolshoi Ballet artistic director in 2004 – 2009 Alexei Ratmansky – 50th birthday.



Alexei Ratmanský. Photo courtesy: Ralph Mecke

**September 4th** – the Bolshoi Ballet first soloist Maria Pogosyan (Semenyachenko)

**September 5th** – a public figure and a public official, a theatre historian and the Special Representative of Russian President on International Cultural Cooperation Mikhail Shvydkoy – 70th birthday

**September 5th** – the Bolshoi Theatre designer Sergei Samokhvalov

**September 6th** – a conductor, a pianist, a composer, the Bolshoi Theatre chief conductor in 1963-1965 and a People's Artist of the USSR Yevgeny Svetlanov (1928-2002)

On **September 15th** the Bolshoi Theatre marked the 90th anniversary of the birth of Yevgeny Svetlanov (September 6th 1928 – May 3rd 2002) with the performance of the opera *The Tsar's Bride*

**September 6th** – a ballet dancer and a ballet master, a pedagogue and an Honoured Artist of RSFSR Sergei Koren' (1907-1969)

**September 7th** – an outstanding theatre worker and a People's Artist of USSR Rostislav Zakharov (1907-1984). In 1936 – 1956 he was the Bolshoi Theatre ballet master and opera director, in 1936 – 1939 – the Bolshoi Ballet artistic director

**September 9th** – Head of the Bolshoi Theatre Perspective Planning and Special Projects Department, the artistic director of the festival DanceInversion Irina Chernomorova

**September 12th** – a violinist, a conductor and a People's Artist of USSR Vladimir Spivakov

**September 13th** – an opera singer (lyric and dramatic soprano), a People's Artist of the USSR and the Bolshoi Theatre soloist in 1958 – 1988 Tamara Milashkina



Tamara Milashkina as Fevroniya (in the middle) in the production of *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh and the Maiden Fevroniya*, the Bolshoi Theatre, December 1st 1959

**September 13th** – the Bolshoi Opera soloist Stanislav Mostovoy

**September 15th** – the Bolshoi Opera soloist and an Honoured Artist of Russia Mikhail Kazakov

**September 18th** – the Bolshoi Theatre guest soloist and a People's Artist of Russia Anna Netrebko (soprano)