



Newsletter

Bolshoi online

The Bolshoi Theatre has closed its 244 season with the online screening of the opera *Sadko*.

On May 11 the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia finished the second series on online screenings of the previously recorded productions from its Golden Collection on YouTube. Together with Google and Mezzo HD, the last premiere of the season was shown which took place shortly before the introduction of restrictive measures due to the coronavirus pandemic and was scheduled to be performed also at the beginning of May — was the opera *Sadko* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

The production staged by Dmitri Tcherniakov was presented to the global audience on the director's birthday — on May 11 Tcherniakov marked his 50th birthday.



Dmitri Tcherniakov at a rehearsal of the opera *Sadko* at the Bolshoi Theatre.

Photo by Damir Yusupov

Recording of the livestream of February 18, 2020, by Mezzo HD channel. The production features Bolshoi soloists as well as guest artists, 120 choir members and 40 extra players.

The premiere was at the Historic Stage on February 14.

Music Director: [Timur Zangiev](#)

Chorus Master: [Valery Borisov](#)



The last premiere of the Bolshoi season — *Sadko* staged by Dmitri Tcherniakov — on the theatre's [YouTube channel](#) May 11 was the director's birthday. Photo by Damir Yusupov



Опера "Садко"/"Sadko" opera

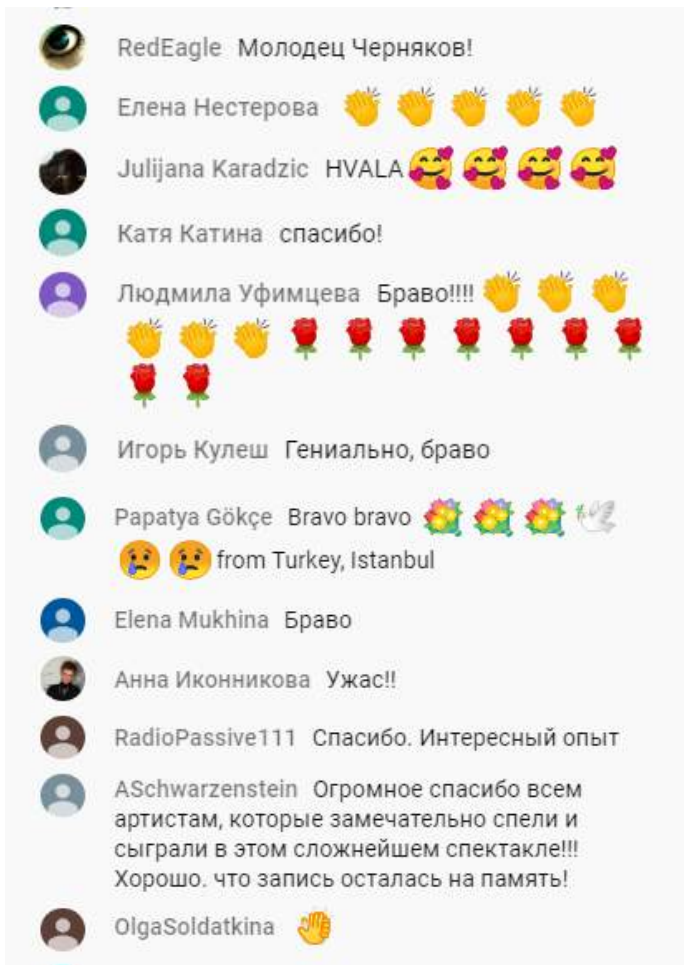
Сейчас смотрят: 3 775 • Премьера состоялась 2 часа назад

734 157 ПОДЕЛИТЬСЯ СОХРАНИТЬ

More than 45 thousand spectators saw the opera *Sadko* on the Bolshoi YouTube channel, and more than 3700 watched the streaming online

[YouTube](#) — livestream announcement

The Bolshoi streamed *Sadko* supported by its partner — the independent production company BelAir Média founded by Francois Duplat in 1994 and specialising in TV and video production of stage performances — opera, ballet and drama performances and concerts (BelAir Média branch BelAir Classiques focusing on issuing DVDs with recorded performances was created in 2004.)



Director of Sadko streaming – Andy Sommer, long-time and productive co-operator of Dmitri Tcherniakov.

DVD and Blu-ray collection Dmitri Tcherniakov on BelAir Classiques



On May 11 at 18:00, an hour before the performance, the director held an online talk with the audience on **Instagram**

The Bolshoi company, as well as his friends and colleagues all over the world, has wholeheartedly congratulated the director on his birthday.

Dmitri Tcherniakov – 50! – an article on the theatre [website](#)

May 7 – the “most Moscow” ballet [Don Quixote](#) by Ludwig Minkus, the recording of the livestream from the Historic Stage. Libretto by Marius Petipa after the novel of the same name by Miguel de Cervantes – choreography by Marius Petipa, Alexander Gorsky in 2016 version by [Alexei Fadeyev](#).

(The production was successfully performed last summer during the Bolshoi Ballet tour in London at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden – August 15, 16, and 17, 14:00 and 19:30, 2019.)

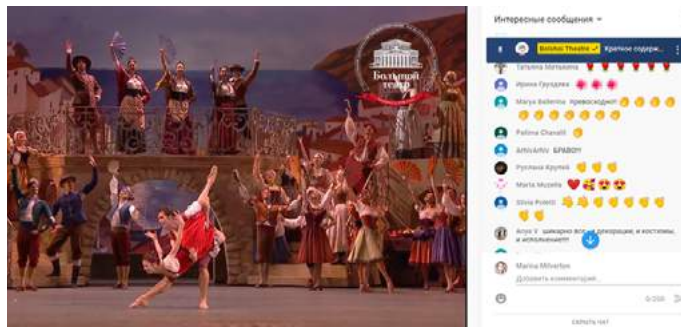
Conductor — Pavel Sorokoin.

Cast of April 10, 2016

The ballet Don Quixote at the website of the Bolshoi's partner Theatre HD



Don Quixote (photo by Dmitry Yusupov)
on the Bolshoi YouTube channel – May 7 (19:00 MSC)



Don Quixote gained more than 140 thousand views,
more than 13000 spectators all over the world
watched the performance stream online

The video announcement of Don Quixote on YouTube gained more than 23 thousand views.

May 3 – the Bolshoi presented [The Bright Stream](#) by Dmitry Shostakovich, choreographer Alexei Ratmansky, Set Designer – Boris Messerer (recording of the livestream from the New Stage, April 29, 2012.)

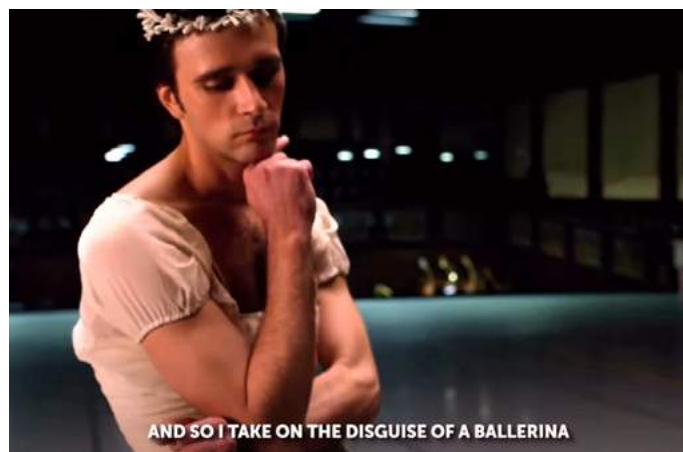
The performance details

Conductor — Pavel Sorokoin.

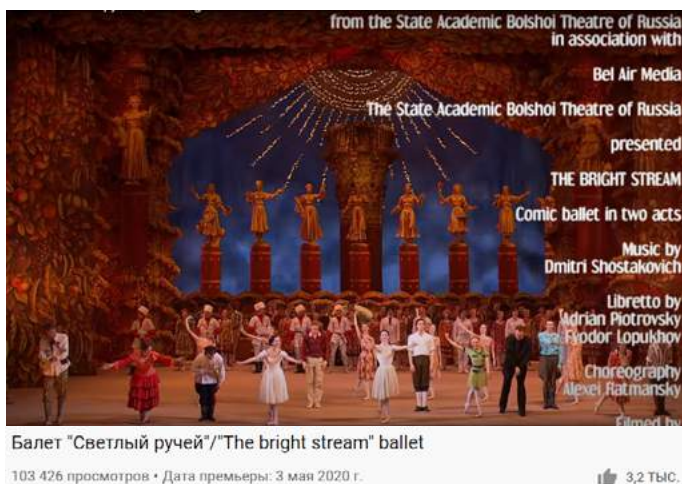
Cast



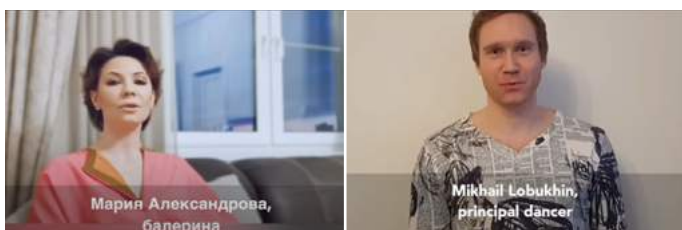
Alexei Loparevich, Olga Smirnova, Daria Khokhlova and Xenia Zhigznshina invited the spectators to the livestream in a video trailer on [YouTube](#)



Come To See the Ballet The Bright Stream
Ruslan Skvortsov (Ballet Dancer) and the performers of the main roles — [about the production](#)



The performers of the main roles held an online talk just before the livestream



The Bright Stream on YouTube — May 3! —
Maria Alexandrova, Mikhail Lobukhin, Anastasia Vinokur, Alexei Loparevich, Egor Simachev invited the spectators to the livestream in a [video trailer on YouTube](#)



Opera [Katerina Izmailova](#) was watched by 57 700 spectators from Russia, Ukraine, Germany, USA, Mexico and other countries

April 29 — opera [Katerina Izmailova](#) by Dmitry Shostakovich (recording of a livestream from the Historic Stage of November 12, 2016) was shown on YouTube.

Music Director — Tugan Sokhiev

Production Director — Rimas Tuminas

Cast

One of the most important Russian operas of the 20th century returned to the Bolshoi in its 1963 version staged by [Rimas Tuminas](#), the premiere was on February 18, 2016.



Tugan Sokhiev and the performers
[announced the opera livestream](#)

The video is available on [Instagram](#). Rimas Tuminas and Nadia Michael — in the video announcement of the opera Katerina Izmailova on our [YouTube channel](#).

April 25 — the Bolshoi offers the audience throughout the world and opportunity to see the ballet [The Hero of Our Time](#) by Ilya Demutsky (Choreographer — Yuri Possokhov; director, designer and author of libretto — Kirill Serebrennikov; recording of the livestream from the New Stage of April 9, 2017, by Pathé Live with participation of Bel Air Media; the livestream director — Vincent Batallion).

The production premiere which the Bolshoi had timed to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov (the premiere was on July 22, 2015) was seen by more than 128 thousand spectators on YouTube, and more than 11 thousand watching the livestream online.



The Hero Of Our Time — [A Special Invitation](#) — the ballet creators invite viewers to the show — choreographer Yuri Possokhov, composer Ilya Demutsky and director Kirill Serebrennikov

A video announcement on [YouTube](#): performers of the main roles — Igor Tsvirko, Ekaterina Shipulina, Artem Ovcharenko, Olga Smirnova, Kristina Kretova, Denis Medvedev and Alexander Vodopetov — reminisce about the preparation for the premiere.

[The Green Salon: Yuri Possokhov — via the link on YouTube](#)

[The Green Salon: Ilya Demutsky — a video conversation \(32'37"\)](#)



Igor Tsvirko, one of the performers of Pechorin role, met the audience online before the livestream of The Hero of Our Time on April 25; the Bolshoi Ballet first soloist held an online ballet class on [Instagram](#) on April 27

May 7 — the ballet Don Quixote by Ludwig Minkus. The show gained more than 140 thousand views on YouTube.

May 3 — the ballet The Bright Stream by Shostakovich, production by Alexei Ratmansk. The Bright Stream gained 115 thousand views.

April 29 — the opera Katerina Izmailova by Shostakovich was seen by almost 58 thousand spectators.

April 25 — the ballet The Hero of Our Time by Ilya Demutsky was seen by more than 128 thousand spectators.

April 21 — the Bolshoi presented the concert of its Youth Opera Program Bach at Church and at Home to the audience (recording of the livestream from Beethoven Hall of December 14, 2019.) More than 43 thousand spectators saw it.

April 18, on the 80th birthday of the National Artist of the USSR Vladimir Vasiliev, the first performer of the role of Spartacus, the Bolshoi presented the ballet Spartacus by Aram Khachaturyan. More than 243 thousand spectators saw the ballet.

April 15 — the ballet Le Corsaire by Adolphe Adam gained more than 220 thousand views.

The Bolshoi Theatre thanks Pathe Live, Mezzo and Google companies for their cooperation.

[Welcome to Bolshoi Online!](#) — a video announcement of the first screening series of the Bolshoi productions.

[Bolshoi Online Vol.2](#) — a video announcement of the second screening series.

May 8, on the eve of the Victory Day, the Bolshoi Director General Vladimir Urin recorded a video of congratulations for the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War on the [Bolshoi YouTube channel](#).



"Dear friends, on behalf of the Bolshoi Theatre please accept our most sincere congratulations on the Great Victory Day!
We wish you peaceful skies, bright hopes for future,
high spirits and creative inspiration.
We say Thank You and wish good health
to all our veterans! — [Happy Victory Day!](#)



The Bolshoi Youth Opera Program concert
We Will Never Forget timed to coincide
with the Victory Day. Recording of the concert
[on YouTube channel](#) by the programme
head Dmitry Vdovin

On May 13, Wednesday, Director General of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia Vladimir Urin addressed to the theatre workers with a letter informing them that the 244 theatre season is closing ahead of time due to continuing restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Dear colleagues and co-workers of the Bolshoi!

In discharge of my promise to inform you about our further life as soon as possible, I address you once again.

I am sure you watch the situation in the world, in Russia and in Moscow, attentively. So you must be aware that no cultural institutions of our capital will work in the near future.

Having discussed and taken into account all circumstances in place, we agreed on the following: we have to finish our 244 season now.

From June 1 the major part of the company goes on their annual vacation (this makes 56 days for art professionals.) I think that nobody would risk making



Artists of The Bolshoi Children's Choir Congratulate You
On The Victory Day! — a video (03'04'')
on the theatre [YouTube channel](#)



The Bolshoi wind quintet: Nikolai Poipov (flute),
Sergei Lysenko (oboe), Sergei Petrov (clarinet),
Andrei Rudometkin, Alexei Raev (horn)
performed [The War Correspondents' Song](#)
in honour the holiday

any prognosis concerning the further development of the situation. I hope that we will get a certain vision by the end of July and an understanding of what our future might be. I want to believe that by that time we will gain the opportunity to resume our rehearsals and start preparing for performances...”



[TASS](#) and other central media publish the full text of the letter with comments.

[AFP News Agency](#)

[TV Rain](#)

[«ClassicalMusicNews.ru»](#)

[«RuNews24.ru»](#)

[«The Moscow Times»](#)

On May 7, 2020, the world marked the 180th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

[The online marathon Let's Mark Tchaikovsky's Birthday Together](#)

Tchaikovsky and the history of the Bolshoi are inseparable. It is here where *Swan Lake* was heard for the first time and *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker* are also still performed. Four operas by Tchaikovsky were staged at the Bolshoi for the first time: *Voyevoda*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Mazeppa* and *Cherevichki*. *Undine* - the only opera by Tchaikovsky which has never been fully performed - can be counted among them, too, although with certain reservations. It was at the Bolshoi where its fragments were performed for the first time.

See more in the article on the website — [Our Tchaikovsky!](#)

Artists and musicians of the Bolshoi marked Tchaikovsky's anniversary by their posts in social media.

On May 11 the president of Russia, the head of the government and the chairman of the Theatre Professionals Association of Russia sent their congratulations to Dmitri Tcherniakov via the Bolshoi Theatre.

Vladimir Urin, Daniel Barenboim, Brigitte Lefèvre, Anatoly Smelyansky, Aida Garifullina, Mikhail Petrenko, Dmitry Vdovin, Calixto Bieito, Stefan Lissner, Vladimir



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(in the background the memorial museum-house)



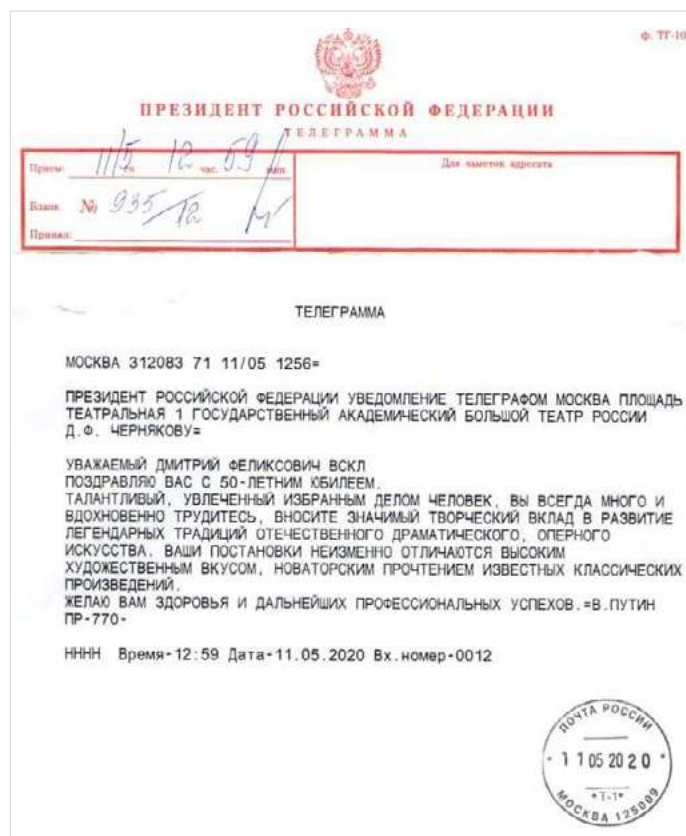
Principal dancer [Vladislav Lantratov](#)

Ballerina [Maria Alexandrova](#)

Principal dancer [Artemy Belyakov](#)

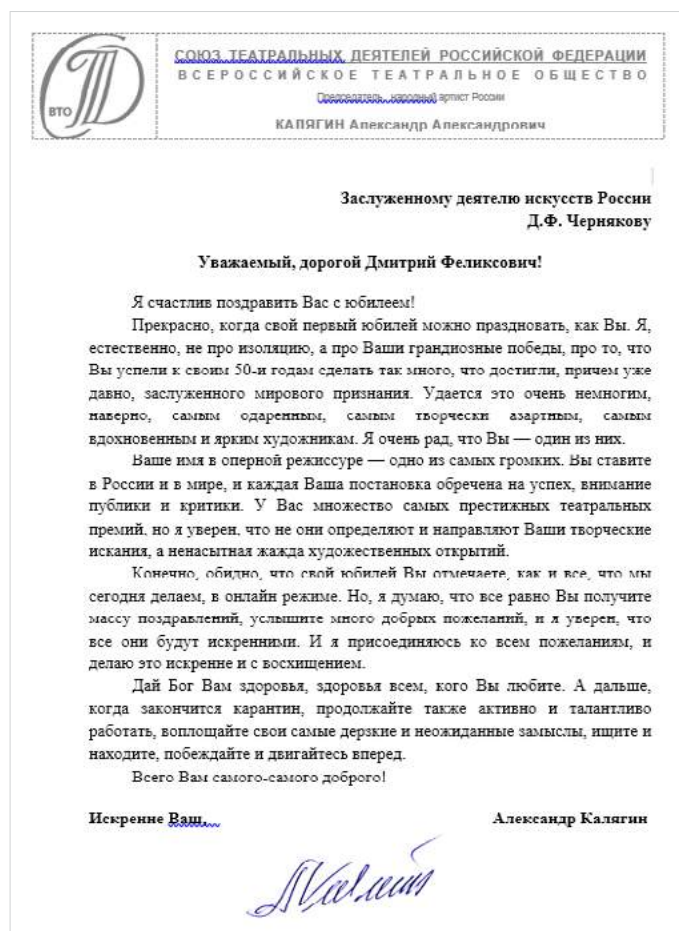
The Bolshoi Opera guest soloist [Ekaterina Semenchuk](#):

“Watch and listen to the opera *Mazeppa* by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in honour of the 180th anniversary of his birth”



Telegram of greetings to Dmitri Tcherniakov from the RF president Vladimir Putin

Yurovsky, Asmik Grigorian, Ekaterina Scherbachenko, Andrei Jiliovski, John Daszak, Albina Shagimuratova, Leo Dodin, Maria Revyakina, Ekaterina Semenchuk, Anton Getman, Olga Peretyatko, Serge Dorny, Peter Gelb recorded a big video congratulation (28'32'') on the Bolshoi YouTube channel [Dmitri Tcherniakov – 50!](#)

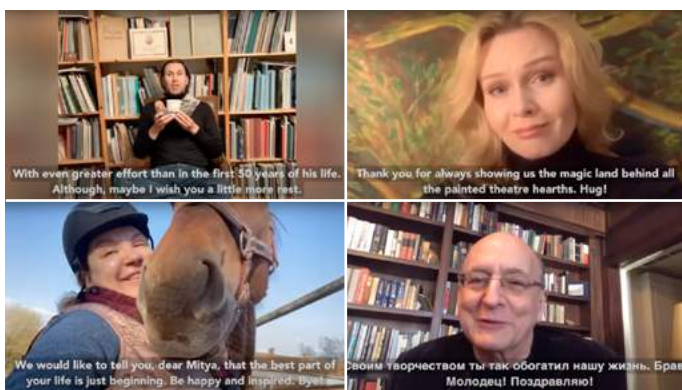


Congratulations to Dmitri Tcherniakov from the head of Theatre Professionals Association of Russia Alexander Kalyagin



Congratulations to Dmitri Tcherniakov from the head of Russian government Mikhail Mishustin





Vladimir Urin, Daniel Barenboim, Aida Garifullina,
Vladimir Yurovsky, Ekaterina Scherbachenko,
Ekaterina Semenchuk (with Dolly), Peter Gelb
[congratulate Dmitri Tcherniakov on his 50th birthday](#)

On April 29, the International Dance Day, the Bolshoi Theatre congratulated all colleagues and ballet fans — on this day the theatre [YouTube channel](#) presented the class by the Bolshoi ballet-master Alexander Vetrov.



The Bolshoi ballet-master Alexander Vetrov gives a class in Galina Ulanova Hall

Artists on Self-Isolation



Prima ballerina Svetlana Zakharova shared a training [video](#)



From the first days of self isolation Gennady Yanin gives online classes to the Bolshoi Ballet dancers helping them to keep fit — Svetlana Zakharova, Vladislav Lantratov, Olga Smirnova, Ekaterina Kaysanova, Kristina Kretova, Maria Alexandrova, Igor Tsvirko and others



Gennady Yanin's birthday On May 16. [Facebook](#)



The Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Ildar Abdrazakov reported the birth of his son on [Instagram](#)



On May 1 Yusif Eyvazov @yusif_eyvazov_official talked online with the Bolshoi Opera and Metropolitan Opera Elchin Azizov @elchinazizov — the project [Talking To Interesting People](#)

On May 4 Yusif Eyvazov held an [online programme](#) with Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Hibla Gerzmava.



Eleonora Sevenard shoots Dennis Rodkin training / [Instagram](#)



Anna Nikulina "creates painting on canvas" / [Instagram](#)



The Bolshoi Opera guest soloist [Vasily Ladyuk](#) arranges a weight routine at home



The Dark Night on [Facebook](#) of the Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Nazhimiddin Mavlyanov



[The Dark Night, Smuglyanka, I will get up before dawn today...](#)
and [Somewhere Far Away](#) —
on Facebook of Hibla Gerzmava



“The Bolshoi has given its ballet soloists the barriers for home class training, well and Atrém (Ovcharenko) shouldered a duty to distribute them,”
Agata Gotova reports on [Facebook](#)



“We congratulate the remarkable artists, the wonderful couple, the first graduates of the YOP Venera Gimadieva and Pavel Neblosin on the birth of their son Maxim!” — Dmitry Vdovin on [Facebook](#)

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

Major media widely covered the screening of the last premiere of the season of the Bolshoi.

[TASS](#) (May 11) announced the screening of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's opera Sadko and published fragments of a short interview with its director Dmitri Tcherniakov who accepted congratulations from the agency on his birthday.

A Birthday In Self Isolation.

“I will gladly hold an online dialogue with the audience before the Sadko screening,” said Dmitri Tcherniakov... “Yet I haven't decided if I will watch the screening... I know this production inside and out. If I start watching the screening and something goes wrong, I will get nervous... — I am used to controlling my productions...”

According to his words, he is much calmer about his birthday. “I have marked my birthday only a few times in my life,” Tcherniakov confessed. “And now I decided to celebrate the 50th birthday like all normal people, invite about a hundred guests, arrange a grand

affair. But everything was cancelled. /.../ Yet I don't feel sad, I don't permit myself this weakness, I feel good in isolation, it gives me some productive peace. I can look out the window for long, read long novels, feel the life around me properly. Generally, I try to stay positive..."

And though he treats his 50th birthday, as he says, like a "number" first of all, still he could not help admitting that he came to this Rubicon with considerable achievements. /.../

The screening of the opera *Sadko* staged by Dmitri Tcherniakov was announced by:

[RIA Novosti](#)

[Orfei](#)

[Teatral](#)

[Moya Moskva](#)

[Krasnaya Vesna](#)

and other sources.

Leading national media congratulated the opera director on May 11:

"One of the most sought-after directors, he has met with thunderous applause in the best theatre halls all over the world, Dmitri Tcherniakov marks his birthday today" — the afternoon report by Novosti and the [First Channel](#).

"The luminary of Russian opera has gained love and acknowledgement of his fans by his experimental approach to art. Prince Igor, Eugene Onegin, The Tale of Tsar Saltan.

Today his name is on virtual playbills of the world's leading theatres /.../ He has worked at 18 theatres in different countries and staged 35 operas. Known for his innovative approach to the classics, Tcherniakov turns his every production into a discovery. The latest big premiere was at the Historic Stage of the Bolshoi, it was the opera by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov *Sadko*. The director presented a really magnificent performance with moving sets like one giant meccano and the most complex arias for the choir consisting of more than 200 singers. /.../

"This man, whatever material he takes on, always necessarily tells a human story, clearing its legendary, narrative side, and he always speaks about things that trouble him. It is always a personal artistic statement!" Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin notes.

They call him the ambassador of Russian opera in the world and the only Russian director who managed to enter triumphantly onto the Western opera stage where Dmitri Tcherniakov struggles for the presence of Russian classics having staged *The Invisible City of Kitezh* in Amsterdam, *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* in Brussels or a fundamental work based on Russian heroic legends *Prince Igor* in New York. /.../

[A video \(03'56"\) on YouTube](#)

[Rossia-K](#)

"His style combines an unorthodox approach to works of music and delicate psychology in every scene. They call him the ambassador of Russian classics. Due to his name every Russian opera premiere becomes an

important event in the musical calendar of the world's leading theatres. /.../" Dmitri Tcherniakov had become the laureate of the national theatre award the Golden Mask six times and two times the first prize winner of the annual international award The Opera Awards in 2013 in the category The Best Director and The Best Production.

In the year of his 50th birthday Dmitri Tcherniakov plans six new productions. One of them — the opera *The Queen of Spades* by Tchaikovsky for the Paris Opera — is well under way already.

"Putin has congratulated the opera director Dmitri Tcherniakov on his 50th birthday," [TASS reports](#).

[Kommersant](#) — congratulations from National Artist of the RSFSR Alla Demidova: "This is a fulfilment of a great utopian dream. I am much interested in such things"

[Colta.Ru website](#) offers A Big Talk On The Day Of Dmitri Tcherniakov's 50th Birthday

"/.../Can you be friends with singers or does it meddle in your work?"

"When I began working — I was so afraid of actors! Terribly! It seemed to me that I just come - and they will unmask me at once."

The conversation of the music theorist tells about his "cooperation" with Kristine Opolais, Violeta Urmana, Asmik Grigorian, Ildar Abdrazakov, Bogdan Volkov...

"The multiple award winner of the Golden Mask, double laureate of the international prize The Opera Awards, innovator in live and on stage, Russian opera director Dmitri Tcherniakov has turned 50 on May 11," [Argumenty Nedeli](#) reports. The newspaper congratulates the director on his birthday and publishes several congratulations from his colleagues.

Artistic director of the Maly Drama Theatre (The Theatre of Europe) of St Petersburg, theatre director Lev Dodin:

"I was lucky: I saw one of the early, one of the first productions by Dmitri Tcherniakov — *The Double Inconstancy* by Marivaux at the small stage of Globus Theatre in Novosibirsk. And I saw it just in Novosibirsk, on that very stage, having not known even the name of Dmitri Tcherniakov yet. I remember how amazed I was by his surprisingly consistent aspiration to elegant perfection, to precision, to completeness, to the style of the form and its connection with the sense... All those qualities were very rare then for modern theatre, for contemporary young directors. Admittedly, they are still quite rare for the theatre nowadays. This production was nominated for the Golden Mask and I saw how happy the theatre actors were, both featured in the production and not, how they cheered. /.../

Intendant of Opéra de Lyon, director of Bavarian Opera Serge Dorny:

"Dmitri Tcherniakov is an incredibly interesting director. Or I'd rather say, extremely inquisitive one. Be it his *Don Giovanni*, *Onegin* or *Sadko*, he gives these works a new topicality, a new vision. And his interpretation

never leaves us indifferent, it lingers for a long time. Art is not for statement, art is to ask questions, and Tcherniakov's theatre is the one that asks them. Dear Dmitri! I congratulate you on your birthday! In these strange and incomprehensible times I contemplate everything you gave us. About your exceptional creative work and, as Oscar Wilde said, 'with winter wisdom comes'. And I am waiting only for the future. The future together with you and the one of many projects we will share with you. I wish you happy birthday on this remarkable day!"

Director of Paris Opera Stéphane Lissner sends his congratulations:

"My dear Dima, happy birthday!

I consider you to be one of the greatest directors of our days! It was you who managed to become a person capable of opening great Russian and world opera masterpieces — and first of all Russian operas - to the world through your work with dramaturgy, with actors, through your intelligence and interpretation. Your wish to be the pioneer for the world and for Europeans is wonderful and it moves me very much! I feel how excited you are, how you try to read the works anew the works you admired being still a child.

Together we staged opera productions in Milano, in Paris Opera... Every time, be it a Russian or a French opera (such as maybe *Les Troyens*,) you always bring - through your vision, through dramaturgy — something innovative yet all of it is born from the work. That's amazing! You are always longing to tell your story yet you handle the original work and libretto with great care.

I admire and respect your work! And among all meetings I had in my life (and I met a lot of directors, great directors) you take a very special, exceptional place! I give you a big kiss, Dimal!

Online screenings of the Bolshoi productions stayed in the focus of federal and regional media throughout the whole time of broadcasting.

Rossia-1 TV channel report of May 2:

"Contemplating time and space seems to be the main trend not only in literature but in art as a whole. Museums and theatres are closed for visiting, yet artists, philosophers, poets, art theorists continue their creative work and communicate with their audience. /.../ The Bolshoi Theatre keeps sharing its art with their spectators for free, too. Throughout April their productions were screened on YouTube. The first six online screenings gained more about 3 million spectators from 134 countries in the virtual auditorium. [A video on the channel YouTube](#)

[Argumenty Nedeli](#) prepared a guidebook for the most important cultural premieres and events which will help you to cope with the discomfort during the self isolation period.

"The Masterpiece of The Bright Stream. To make

definitely sure that there is much positive, vivid and unforgettable emotions during self isolation, watch the masterpiece by the Bolshoi — a comic ballet *The Bright Stream* to the music by Shostakovich staged in 2003 by the brilliant choreographer Alexei Ratmansky and set designer Boris Messerer — May 3 on the theatre YouTube channel.



Ruslan Skvortsov — the Ballet Dancer in *The Bright Stream* to the music of Dmitry Shostakovich.

Photo by Damir Yusupov

Humour, irony, merriment will dominate this evening on stage at the Bolshoi — and it is a rare occasion for ballet. *The Bright Stream* is a must see for the whole family, limitation if 12+... *The Bright Stream* was sold out in the USA, Japan, London, Paris and even Chelyabinsk. Here is what the English ballet critic Stephen Kiriazis of Express newspaper wrote about the performance of *The Bright Stream* in London: 'Russian superstars have brought to London a secret treasure, dazzling with sheer joy and masterful performance. Scrounge, steal or borrow a ticket — the production will be shown only once and that's all.' As they say, it speaks for itself."

The screening of *The Bright Stream* announced by:

[Moscow 24](#)

[Peterburg 2](#)

[The City](#)

[Cheremukha](#)

[Srayni](#)

The screening of Sadko announced by [Argumenty Nedeli](#). “Now this unexpected and long-awaited premiere that has turned, due to its director’s idea, into a quest, a contemporary theme park, will be shown on May 11. The show has become vivid and sometimes even fairylike. Elena Zaitseva (costumes) and Gleb Filshtinsky (lighting) have revived classical scenes and costumes creatively and carefully, using the legacy of Korovin, Vasnetsov, Egorov, Bilibin and Roerich who once worked on Sadko in their time. The spectators will experience delight and admiration at the Hollywood-Bollywood underwater kingdom. We hope that the riot of plastic fishes, jellyfishes, octopuses, shrimps and lobsters will not eclipse gorgeous opera parts by Nazhimiddin Mavlyanov (Sadko), Aida Garifullina (Volkhova), Ekaterina Semenchuk (Lyubava.)

The screening of Don Quixote on the Bolshoi YouTube channel covered by:

[Moscow 24](#)
[RIA Novosti](#)
[Moscow 24](#)
[Orfei Radio](#)
[Sobesednik](#)
[Teatral](#)

On Tuesday, April 12, the General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia Vladimir Urin expressed his gratitude via [TASS](#) agency to Russian government and Ministry of Culture for their financial support of culture institutions and the Bolshoi Theatre in particular which have been forced to suspend their work completely in the situation of the coronavirus pandemic.

“I know it firsthand that the Ministry of Culture has actively stood for the cultural sphere before the government, and we are grateful to the relevant agency for it,” Urin noted. “We speak about money meant to provide salaries, building maintenance and housing services. These payments come from state subsidies and partly from the income of the culture institution itself.” “Currently the Bolshoi has no income at all,” stated the head of the theatre.

Earlier, on May 10, we learned that the Russian government doled out 3.8 billion roubles to the Ministry of Culture, the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia and State Hermitage to provide support after the suspension of the work of culture institutions.

Following the Decree of the Moscow Governor, the work of all theatres in the capital was suspended. The Decree efficacy was prolonged till May 31.

The government has doled out money to support culture — announced on May 11 by:

[Interfax](#)
[RIA Novosti](#)
[Rossia-Kultura](#)
and more than 40 media.

Director of the Bolshoi Ballet Makhar Vaziev told [Gazeta.Ru](#) about how the dancers and tutors of the Bolshoi work during the pandemic period — an article Artists Throughout The World Unite And That Gives Hope.

“In there difficult conditions they have self organised and train actively at home. Our tutors and concertmasters hold classes on Zoom — Gennadi Yanin, Alexander Vetrov, Nadezhda Grachyova. It can be that in the morning the artists train with one tutor and in the evening with another. Online gives us an opportunity to ‘attend’ classes all over the world. I know that some artists train with a tutor from San-Francisco at 8 pm. Artists from Mariinsky Theatre connect to our tutors. Of course, such a moment of general unity and solidarity gives strength, faith and hope. /.../ I do not control artists in any way — now we don’t have the purpose of a performance within five days where everybody should be perfectly fit. Still, some of them send their videos and ask what I think. I say: ‘I don’t believe, perhaps it’s a paste-up.’ They are doing some technique miracles there. Turn three pirouettes en dedans, move into en dehors and turn another three. I’ve never seen them doing something like this in the theatre!”

Head of the Perspective Planning and Special Projects Department of the Bolshoi Irina Chernomurova speaks about the forced suspension of the cultural life, current challenges, plans and prospects on [Classical-musicnews.ru](#). Besides Irina Chernomurova, heads of different theatre and music companies answered questions from the publication. The big article was titled A Compulsory Standby.



Irina Chernomurova gave a big interview to the online publication [Classicalmusicnews.ru](#)

“How does the theatre cope with the forced suspension? What are the casualties?”

“The Bolshoi Theatre went to the quarantine at the height of work. The ballet company had just entered full dress run-throughs of two one-act ballets created by local choreographers Anton Pimonov and the young Arte-

my Belyakov specially for our theatre. Performance cycles with guest soloists ended almost immediately, and the opera administration revised all casts for a month and a half ahead when the process of the borders closing started. The opera was ready to resume performances without guest soloists from abroad if the quarantine would not last long. Thankfully, our opera company has rejuvenated in recent years and now there are world class soloists and many talented young singers. We kept hoping that maybe we would begin rehearsing the new version of Don Giovanni. Hoped, we would be able to rehearse at least. Yet life has made its harsh adjustments. Now everybody sees that we'll return back to work no sooner than the end of summer. I mean rehearsals and classes first of all — a theatre simply dies without continuous professional training.

The bigger part of an iceberg, as we know, stays under water. And we are the same, the 'underwater part' makes up three-quarters of all work and this part is crucial for all — artists, choir and orchestra. Otherwise we cannot lift the curtain before the audience at any of our three stages. /.../”

[Narodnye Novosti](#) publishes an interview with the Bolshoi press secretary Katerina Novikova. The publication asked her to comment on the future of the theatre's online programme after easing and the complete lifting of the self isolation regime for artists and spectators.

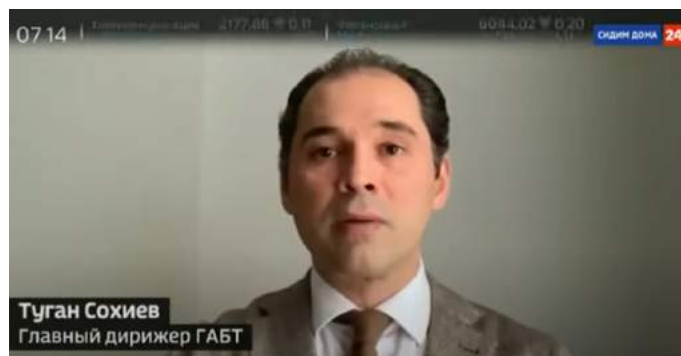
“I think, the programmes will not continue in their current scope. We have screenings in cinemas all over the world several times a year. Before the pandemic, thousands of people in cinemas in different countries watched us. And on the same day in Russia our productions stayed available for the Russian audience for 24 hours for free. So we have just altered our schedule a bit. And now we are showing the same screenings, recorded previously. And we are doing it for free not only in Russia but all over the world. Later, I think, we will keep on working in our previous mode. I want to believe in it,” said Katerina Novikova.

[Parlamentskaya Gazeta](#) republishes the material.

RT: “The Bolshoi has estimated the prospects of online programmes after lifting of the self isolation regime.”

The president of Russia Vladimir Putin gave grants to support creative projects in the sphere of culture and art, [TASS](#) reports. The grants were given out for numerous projects including the project to prepare a printed edition of Memoir About Memoir about the history of the Bolshoi Theatre and cultural life in the USSR, based on the memoir of the music theorist Olga Dobrokhotova.

On May 1 [Rossia-Kultura channel](#) showed a TV version of the 6th Charity Festival of Children's Dance Svet-



Tugan Sokhiev invites viewers to see the opera Sadko on May 11 on the Bolshoi YouTube channel / [Rossia 24](#)

lana. This year the celebration was timed to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the Great Victory took place on May 1 in Luzhniki. The author of the idea, organiser and artistic director of the project — National Artist of Russia, the Bolshoi prima ballerina, l'etoile of La Scala ballet company Svetlana Zakharova.

“Mikhail Shvydkoi: how to save the international cultural space during the pandemic” — the special representative of the RF president for international cultural cooperation told [Vesti.Ru](#) “about how Russia is preparing an unprecedented online marathon on the UNESCO platform. According to him, it will be ‘about problems but positive — not a marathon Requiem but a marathon The Wedding March’”

“Currently, a Russian spearhead group is working out the programme... /.../

We want to do it near September when there are some quarantine derogations and end the marathon with a gala at the world's biggest venues. Now we are discussing what to perform — it may be the 9th Symphony by Beethoven in parts, with sequential plug-ins from Moscow, Vienna, Berlin Paris. Maybe in the open air to reduce danger. And of course we will observe all pandemic regulations. So — not before September. We want to arrange in on the UNESCO platform with the participation of Kultura TV channel, OKKO, Medici, Arte, Mezzo. And there will also be a kind of cross-talk between the heads of culture institutions.”

May 2 — Maya Plisetskaya Memorial Day (1925 — May 2, 2015, Munich, Germany)

[Maya Plisetskaya. Well-known and Unknown](#) — a documentary of 1987 on Rossia-K TV channel (The 20th Century cycle).

Media prepared many articles.

[Five Incredible Roles of Maya Plisetskaya](#) — Moskovsky Komsomolets

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Gazeta.Ru](#) (a photo gallery)

[Esquire](#)



Maya Plisetskaya as Odette, Nikolai Fadeychev as Prince Siegfried, *Swan Lake*, 1963. Photo /[MK](#)

May 4 — the birthday of [Gennadi Rozhdestvensky](#) (1931 - 2018).

On this day, the prominent conductor is remembered by:

[Parlamentskaya Gazeta](#)
[Vesti NN](#)
[Belnovosti](#)

Construction of the Bolshoi branch in Kaliningrad covered by the online news outlet [Kaliningrad.Ru](#).

“It’s worth noting that they have started building the cultural-educational complex on Oktyabrsky Island already. The buildings of Moscow State Academy of Choreography, Central Music School of Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Moscow with concert halls and boarding schools are under construction at the ‘eastern site’ behind the Kaliningrad Stadium. The complex also includes a general secondary school and a hostel for students. Teachers, artists and other professionals of the cluster will live in the specially built houses. Construction will be completed by the middle of July to open the educational complex from September 1.

Besides, works are in hand at the ‘western site’ near the Second flyover. There will be a museum complex of the Tretyakov Gallery, the Bolshoi Theatre branch and Russian State Museum of Performing Arts there. All objects will be incorporated in a park zone which will become a place of relaxation for citizens and tourists - open spaces, recreation, amphitheatres, terraces.

The Bolshoi artists performed *Katyusha* while on self isolation, [Moscow 24 TV channel](#) reports.

A prominent Russian ballerina and tutor, public figure, National Artist of the USSR [Olga Lepeshinskaya](#) (1916 - 2008) is remembered in publications about artists’ battle-field days during the Second World War:

[Teatral](#) “The Bolshoi ballerina Olga Lepeshinskaya

performed together with a battle field brigade. A lorry cargo bed for a stage was half the trouble. Far more difficult was when the performances took place at forest clearings — the foot screwed into the sand during a fouette.

Olga Lepeshinskaya donated her savings to the battle front, too. They built an aeroplane with that money. By 1942 such donations became a common thing.”

[International NA CBS Media](#)

— Unlike many contemporary artists freaking out at the drop of a hat just to attract more attention to themselves, Olga prevailed by her talent and did not mind dancing in a village club, at a forest clearing or on a lorry cargo bed (during the war stages were often arranged that way.)”



“Ballerina Olga Lepeshinskaya.” A postcard

Vladislav Lantratov — a hero of the programme 2 Vernik 2 on Friday, May 15, [Rossia-K TV channel](#) “The Bolshoi Ballet principal dancer, Merited Artist of Russia Vladislav Lantratov was born into a ballet family and had no other options. Alexei Ratmansk, artistic director of the Bolshoi Ballet of that time, noticed the beginner dancer, graduate of Moscow Ballet Academy, immediately and Lantratov’s career rocketed. Now he dances all leading roles of the Bolshoi current repertoire.”

Artemy Belyakov: Holding Onto A Wardrobe Or A Sofa... The Bolshoi principal dancer told [Moskovsky Komsomolets](#) how dancers are saving their profession while in self isolation:

“The premiere of your ballet *Seasons to music by Glazunov* was scheduled for the end of March but then cancelled due to the pandemic...”

“Yes the production was ready to be shown and just at the moment we were having dress rehearsals this situation with the quarantine happened. We still hoped then that we would be able to show it in May when the second performance series of this production

was scheduled, just on those days, yet we did not realize the scale of the events. Given how it is developing now, of course, it is strange to make any forecasts. Yet the general director Vladimir Georgievich Urin has assured everyone that the premieres will take place and everything will be shown when the theatre is accessible for the audience. For me, of course, the situation was very unpleasant, there's nothing to hide. Because much effort was put in this work and not only mine as a choreographer but those of the dancers, too. The last run-through with leading couples of Daria Khokhlova and Mark Chino, Angelina Vlashinets and Ivan Alexeev was just marvellous. /.../ My ballet features many classy casts... Including the leading dancers of the Bolshoi: it was a great pleasure to work with Olga Smirnova and Jacopo Tissi too."



Artemy Belyakov: Holding Onto A Wardrobe Or A Sofa...

Photo / [MK](#)

[Ren-TV channel](#) made a report Russian Ballet In Self Isolation Conquered The World. On some shots there are the dancers of the Bolshoi — Gennadi Yanin, Vladislav Lantratov, Maria Alexandrova, Maria Vinogradova, Ivan Vasiliev.

"I adore Russian style. Russian ballet is very powerful, conscious, I learned from Russians. So I try to share this knowledge with my studio," says the tutor of Royal Ballet School in London Martin Howland.

"It's great that people can see productions of, say, Bolshoi Theatre staying in the USA, Swan Lake is very popular," noted the dancer of Mikhailovsky Ballet Adrian Mitchell.

[Vogue Russia](#) published a story Stars In Quarantine on its YouTube channel — about how the Bolshoi ballerinas Anastasia Vinokur, Alyona Kovalyova, Anastasia Meskova, Eleonora Sevenard, Anna Tikhomirova are training.



Anna Aglatova — on May 1 at the programme Concert Hall on [Orpheus Radio](#)

Anna Aglatova performed on May 1 on the programme Concert Hall on [Orpheus Radio](#) with a programme World's Best Waltzes. Works by Tchaikovsky, Rubinstein, Puccini, Sibelius, Glazunov, Khachaturyan, Delibes, Lehár and Johann Strauss performed by Radio Orpheus Symphonic Orchestra under the baton of Sergei Kondrashev.

Press analysis:

international mass media

International media continue to announce the Bolshoi's screenings of its most popular opera and ballet performances on the theatre official YouTube channel.

The online specialised arts news publication [The Arts Desk](#) (UK) publishes a review by Gavin Dixon of the Bolshoi's production of Sadko staged by Dmitri Tcherniakov and shown on the theatre official YouTube channel. He gives the production 4 stars of 5. "Medieval Russia meets reality TV. Tcherniakov re-imagines Rimsky-Korsakov's fairytale, without losing the magic. Tcherniakov

leaves many questions open, but he's found a satisfying way to experience this beguiling opera."

The online specialised classical music publication [Doce Notas](#) (Spain) also announces the growing number of MyOperaPlayer followers due to the incorporation of new productions including those of the Bolshoi Theatre. "Dance will see its presence reinforced with emblematic works such as Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake, performed by the dancers of the Bolshoi Theatre, and The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland by the London Royal Ballet."

[Diario Siglo XXI](#) (Spain) also announces Bolshoi productions on MyOperaPlayer
[Siete24](#) (Mexico)
[Europa Press](#) (Spain)
[Noticias De Madrid](#) (Spain)

Marina Harss in [New Yorker](#) The Bright Stream screening: "The Bright Stream In 2005, the Bolshoi Ballet came to New York under the direction of a young, little-known choreographer — Alexei Ratmansk. Amid a parade of blockbuster ballets, the company performed one of his works, The Bright Stream. This spoof of Soviet-era propaganda — a happy farce set on a collective farm — turned out to be a total delight. The score, by Shostakovich, was infectious (who knew his music could be so jolly?), and the plot was worthy of Beaumarchais. It put Ratmansk, now one of the world's leading ballet choreographers, on the map. Besides the wit of the choreography and the appealing clarity of the storytelling, The Bright Stream perfectly captures the exuberant dancing style of the Bolshoi."

[Limelight Magazine](#) (Australia)



The Bolshoi Ballet soloists Ekaterina Shipulina, Anastasia Stashkevich and Ruslan Skvortsov speak about The Bright Stream, about their work with Alexei Ratmansk and about the man en pointe in the [YouTube video](#)

The online culture news publication [Culture Whisper](#) (UK) publishes an article by Teresa Guerreiro: "Get the Best: Bolshoi Ballet is streaming ballets as varied and exciting as its traditional bravura Don Quixote and Alexei Ratmansk's reworking of the Soviet-era oddity The Bright Stream, which the choreographer has turned into a highly entertaining little gem."

www.youtube.com



A scene from Don Quixote [Photo](#) by Damir Yusupov

[Giornale della Danza](#) (Italy) includes nice photos and video trailer of the Bolshoi's Don Quixote. The article also announces: "Thanks to the #dancewithbolshoi hash tag it will be possible to follow dance lessons. A totally free and unique event, which was made possible thanks to the generosity of the dancers of the famous Russian Bolshoi Theatre. The video lessons "Dance with Bolshoi" will be published on YouTube and Instagram to allow professional dancers but also simple enthusiasts to follow classical dance courses, held by the great dancers of the first Russian theatre."

[Danza and Danza](#) (Italy) announces streaming of Bolshoi's Don Quixote and a republishes a long article by Silvia Poletti about the history of the ballet "Don Quixote of the Bolshoi Ballet scheduled on May 7th at 6pm Italian time with Semyon Chudin and Ekaterina Krysanova in the main roles, we propose this insight on the character of Kitri published in 2016 in our magazine."

The Mexican newspaper [La Verdad de Tamaulipas](#) announces the streaming of Bolshoi's Don Quixote "With more than 200 years of history, the most important theatre in Russia leaps into the digital world. Unfortunately, the Bolshoi Theatre, one of the archetypal cultural venues in Moscow and throughout Russia, had to close its doors due to the covid-19 pandemic." There is also a short history of the Bolshoi Theatre in the article.

A Mexican online publication [Milenio.com](#)

A Mexican online publication 20.minutos.com.mx

The Chinese daily newspaper [Huánqiú Shíbào](#) (Global Times) writes about how Russian people cope with self isolation. The reporter notes Russians' love of art and vacations in the country. The article mentions the Bolshoi online screenings, too. "Vladimir Urin, Director General of the Bolshoi Theatre, told Russian media the Bolshoi is closed for the audience since March 16 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Still, to help people keep their good humour during the self isolation period, the Bolshoi have started online screenings of its productions, for example, Swan Lake, for free."

The USA newspaper the Washington Post (USA) publishes a major article by Isabelle Khurshudyan titled "Bolshoi in the kitchen: Russian ballet is also working from home during lockdown" "With no clear end to the pandemic in sight, theatres and their performers across the globe wonder how long they can hold out without the ticket sales and other revenue that sustain them. In Russia, the performing arts — and ballet in particular — are so entwined in the national identity that theatres are unaccustomed to empty seats, let alone barren buildings. But now even some of Russia's most storied venues, including the Bolshoi Theatre, may be in danger." "Bolshoi Director Vladimir Urin told Russian newspaper Kommersant: "If we don't open in September, it's even scary to predict what may happen — up to destruction of the theatre. Not the buildings, of course." [Link to the article with photo and video](#)

The Italian newspaper [La Repubblica](#) (Italy) reports about the COVID crisis in Russian theatres and quotes the director of Bolshoi, Vladimir Urin, speaking to the Washington Post.

The French online specialised dance news publication [Dances Avec La Plume](#) publishes a link to the Bolshoi video Bolshoi Ballet — [Quarantine](#) — about Bolshoi dancers dancing at home. "The Bolshoi artists show that they do not lose their good humour."

The word media continue to republish the article by Anna Malpas and photo gallery of the international news agency Agence France Presse about the Bolshoi Ballet dancers keeping fit at home.

A number of media have republished the material [Asia Times](#)
[Le Libre](#) (Belgium)
[LiveMint](#) (India)

The May edition of the specialised monthly British magazine Dancing Times published several articles on Russian ballet.



[Bolshoi Ballet in Quarantine](#) / [Dances avec la plume](#)



The Week's Best on Social Media according to [Dances avec la plume](#) / Artem Ovcharenko with his daughter at "home class"

DT publishes an article titled CoronaVirus Update mentioning the COVID epidemic has led to the cancellation of the spring and summer season of all major ballet companies including the Bolshoi Ballet. "The lockdown has led to a new wealth of dance available online. The Royal Opera House (ROH) and the Bolshoi Theatre, which is closed until September, have been among venues broadcasting full productions through YouTube."

The American local newspaper [San Diego Tribune](#) republishes an article by Associated Press and a photo. "Here are some examples of how people find new ways to keep working: Bolshoi Ballet principal dancers Maria Alexandrova and Vladislav Lantratov are rehearsing their parts online. Regular training is essential for the profession that that requires daily practice. Bolshoi orchestra concert master Boris Lifanovsky also spends hours rehearsing his cello parts at home."



San Diego Tribune, referring to Associated Press, publishes the photo of Maria Alexandrova and Vladislav Lantratov doing a ballet class at home

The Polish daily newspaper [Gazeta Wyborcza](#) announces the Bolshoi's opera in four acts Katerina Izmailova by Dmitri Shostakovich. "The Bolshoi Theatre cares for ballet lovers and opera lovers."

The online specialised music publication [The Journal of Music](#) (Ireland) reports: "Wexford Festival Opera announced twelve singers who will take part in the inaugural Wexford Factory. Wexford Factory is a two-week academy for young Irish / Irish-based singers that is scheduled to take place in early September." "The Wexford Factory is designed to mentor young singers through master-classes led by artists and professionals. Guest tutors will include Dmitry Vdovin, head of the Bolshoi's Youth Opera program."

The international news agency Agence France Presse (AFP) publishes an article by Anna Malpas and a photo gallery by Kirill Kudryavtsev about how Bolshoi dancers are keeping fit at home. "In the middle of their bedroom, Bolshoi ballet dancers Margarita Shrainer and Igor Tsvirko have placed a linoleum mat and a barre." "As lockdown began, 'the Bolshoi gave very important and worthwhile advice: keep yourself fit and find a way to do ballet in self-isolation,' says Tsvirko." A video on [AFP YouTube channel](#).

A video by MBtv (Macau, China) on an English language online publication [Macau Business Media](#).

Republications:

[Yahoo News](#) (5 photos by Kirill Kudryavtsev)

[French international radio company/RFI](#) (France)

according to AFP

[Boursorama](#) (France)

[Corriere della Sera](#) (Italia)

[AFPBB News](#) (Japan) – 11 photos

[New Straits Times](#) (Singapore)

[The Jakarta Post](#) (Indonesia)

[Clarín](#) (Argentina)

[TVN](#) (Panama)

[El Comercio](#) (Ecuador)

and numerous other local media.

The Indian edition of the international travel magazine [Conde Nast Traveller India](#) publishes a photo gallery of events and people thanking doctors "How the world is thanking doctors (Photo Gallery) This includes "Bolshoi Theatre prima ballerina Svetlana Zakharova performs during a concert titled We Are Together, organised as an expression of gratitude towards Russian doctors attending to COVID-19 patients. Photo / Press Office of the Russia TV Channel"



The Italian version of the fashion magazine [Vogue](#) publishes an article by dance critic Valentina Bonelli who selects 10 ballerinas who changed the history of dance. "Today Svetlana Zakharova and Misty Copeland enchant us with their style and their steel temperament. But before them came big stars such as the divine Anna Pavlova and Maya Plisetskaya, the "passionaria" Alicia Alonso, the regal Margot Fonteyn and the romantic Carla Fracci." "Svetlana Zakharova (Lutsk 1979) Tsarina of the Russian ballet, Svetlana Zakharova represents its excellence in the world. Angelic beauty, temper of steel, for her talent as a student prodigy it was not difficult to predict a future as an étoile. Loaded with prizes and honours, star of the Bolshoi Ballet of Moscow, Russia is a prominent personality: in her curriculum also a polit-

ical experience as a member of the Duma (the Russian parliament), a ballet festival for children that carries the her name, the presentation of TV programmes. In Italy she is very popular: étoile of the Teatro alla Scala, she is a regular couple with Roberto Bolle, her favourite partner.” The article also includes a photo gallery of the ballerinas and their favourite designer fashion choices.

The UK newspaper [The Guardian](#) (UK) publishes a selection by their critics of the best opera and classical music to watch online. Tim Ashley chooses “Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse/Sokhiev Tugan Sokhiev and his Toulouse orchestra preface Shostakovich’s Second Cello Concerto and Fifth Symphony with the French première of Qigang Chen’s *Itinéraire d’une Illusion* in this striking concert, filmed during a visit to the Paris Philharmonie last November.” “Classy, as always, the ONCT play it superbly for Sokhiev, who also does fine things with Shostakovich here.”

Briefly

On April 29 Zizi Jeanmaire celebrated her birthday. The ballerina, singer, variety actress, the wife and muse of the distinguished French choreographer Roland Petit is now 96 years old.

The five-part radio report about Zizi Jeanmaire was aired by [France Culture](#).

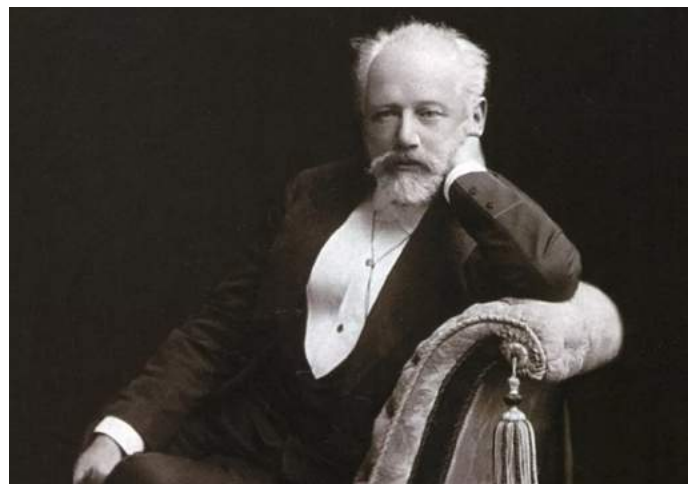
Le Temps des cerises performed by Zizi Jeanmaire on the [YouTube channel BelAirClassiques](#).



Zizi Jeanmaire in the show *Le Chanson de Zizi*, December 17 1963. Photo by [AFP](#)

On May 7, 2020, the entire world celebrated 180th anniversary of the birth of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

[The Tchaikovsky Museum in Klin](#) was getting ready to celebrate this date with new exhibitions, new concert programmes, traditionally, the composer’s concert piano should have been played, but for the first time in history, the house of Tchaikovsky was silent and empty on May 7. As an alternative, the museum, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, launched an online marathon called [Let’s Celebrate the Birthday of Tchaikovsky Together](#) and invited people to take part in any way possible: musically, poetically, or to read an excerpt from the letters or diaries of the composer, say or write a few words. Your congratulations can also be sent to the address gdmch@mail.ru



[The museum of Tchaikovsky in Klin](#)

The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia supported the online marathon [Let’s Celebrate the Birthday of Tchaikovsky Together](#), organised by the [Tchaikovsky Museum in Klin](#) with the support of the government of the Moskovskaya oblast, and timed to coincide with the 180th anniversary of the composer’s birth.

The Bolshoi’s participation in the online marathon reported by:

[RIAMO](#)

[360° TV](#)

[Podmoskovye Segondya](#)

and other media.

How Tchaikovsky Is Seen By The World's And National Cinema — material by Valery Kichin in the [Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#):

“The only large-scale Russian film where Tchaikovsky became the main hero /.../ The story of the film is centred mainly on the correspondence of Tchaikovsky and Nadezhda Von Meck /.../ Director Talankin did an amazing balancing act, where he managed to tell much about the tragedy of the composer without formally telling anything about it. Incredible artists participated in the film, acting out the people that surrounded Tchaikovsky, amongst them Maya Plisetskaya who played the role of Désirée Artôt. In the recording of the numerous fragments from the operas Eugene Onegin and The Queen of Spades, the ballets Nutcracker and Swan Lake, symphonies and grand piano concerts Irina Arkhipova, Valentina Levko, Galina Oleinichenko, Yuri Mazurok, Vladimir Atlantov, dancers of the Bolshoi Theatre and the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Theatre, conductors Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, Mark Ermler, Yuri Termirkamov all participated.”

May 3 — 150 years since the birth of Alexander Benois

“The artist was so great that practically every work he made became a masterpiece, whether it was a book illustration, a landscape, a special image of Versailles or the design of famous ballet productions. The talent, which in its time helped him become the ideologist of the Mir Isskustva group and the art director of the most well-known theatrical tours — Russian Seasons — is told by the video of the [First Channel](#).

/.../ The rarest chronicle of the beginning of the 20th century — the Russian ballet in Paris. Tours spanning one and a half decades — from 1906 to 1924. The organiser — Sergei Diaghilev, the main ideologist and inspirational force — Alexander Benois. The foreigners were shaken by the synthesis of music, dance, light and art. For the first time, stage settings became legitimate art forms. People were even eager to buy designs for costumes of Le Pavillon d'Armide as big pictures.

“He joined the art aspect of the performance with natural theatrical effects. This way, during the second act, the stage had an actual fountain, and the splash of the falling water worked in harmony with the music of Tcherepnin” says the general director of Bakhrushin Museum Dmitry Rodionov.

But everything started quietly. At the end of the 19th century the young lawyer Alexander Benois arrives in Versailles to make sketches. A series of unconventional forms is born. Versailles will become one of the most important themes of his life. And a coveted trophy for collectors all around the world. The first to buy the drawings was the patron Tretyakov. /.../

..In 1926, being an “obsolete figure of the old world”, Alexander Benois leaves Russia. He will go on to stage performances in Paris, he will be invited to Teatro alla

Scala, cinematographers will bury him in work. But the enormous work The History of Art of All Ages and Peoples will stay unfinished. 117 diaries still await their researcher. ...”

In the heading of [#TASSiskusstvo](#)

[Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#)

[Alexander Benois in the web portal Kultura RF](#)

There were plans to host the opening of the exhibition [A Joyful Doer](#) timed to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Benois at the Dom Russkogo Zarubezhya sometime around May 3, 2020.

Due to the pandemic, the exhibition will be moved to another date. In the meantime, the organisers offer a [video](#), showcasing some of the items of the future exhibition.



[Mariinsky Theatre](#)



On May 4 the Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet turned 282 years old. The oldest academic establishment

of Russia was founded in the year of 1738 by order of Empress Anna Ioannovna by an immigrant from France, dancing master of the St Petersburg First Cadet Corps Jean-Baptiste Landé, who became the first teacher of “Her Imperial Majesty’s Dance School”, which admitted 12 boys and girls from the families of court servants.

“The coronavirus pandemic has made its changes to the preparations for the Chekhov Theatre Festival” – [video report by the First channel](#) (May 5). — Akram Khan, Carlos Acosta and other artists change their plans.

The former chief conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre Vasily Sinaisky has taken on the role of leader of the Janáček Czech Orchestra. In his new role, he plans to perform Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring*, Verdi’s *Requiem* and the Shostakovich’s *Tenth Symphony*. There are also plans for a New Year concert with a programme of Strauss’ polkas and waltzes. The season opening of the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra in Ostrava is planned for September.

<https://orpheusradio.ru>

Within two weeks the virtual Dance Open was visited by over two million ballet fans, reports Pavel Ryzhkov, a correspondent of [NTV](#), in the TV channel’s plot.

The organisers of the International Festival Of Contemporary Choreography Context. Diana Vishneva announced the transfer of the summer part of the programme, which was planned to be in Moscow and St Petersburg in the end of June, to the beginning of July, due to the situation with the coronavirus. [TASS](#) reports. The corresponding message is published on the event [website](#).

[The Wiener Staatsoper](#) has held an online presentation of the 2020/21 season. The new director of the theatre Bogdan Roscic announced: in the coming season productions by Calixto Bieto, Simon Stone, Barrie Kosky as well as those of two Russian star directors, Dimtri Tcherniakov and Kirill Serebrennikov, will be shown in Vienna.

Teatro alla Scala is getting ready to open in September. The exact date is unknown yet, confirms [Muzikalnaya Zhizn](#). At the start of the season the artists will perform Giuseppe Verdi’s *Requiem* and Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony*. Riccardo Chailly will conduct the orchestra. It’s also known that spectators can expect to see the premiere of *La Traviata* (staging was done by Liliana Cavani, conductor — Zubin Meta)



Olga Kulchinskaya says in [Instagram](#) that in the new season of the Wiener Staatsoper she will play the role of Michaela in *Carmen*: “My debut in @wienerstaatsoper with Michaela in *Carmen*, new role and new opera house, and all-star dream cast. With all my patience, and love to this music, theatre, and opera art I’m waiting for this dream to come true.”

in September, as well as the revival of Franco Zeffirelli’s version of *Aida*.

The Paris National Opera showed three performances in May online including the opera *Boris Godunov* staged by Ivo van Hove. Screenings are available on the theatre [website](#).

From May 25 to May 31 there is a chance to see the opera *Boris Godunov* by Modest Musogorsky staged by Ivo van Hove. The leading role is sung by Ildar Abdrazakov. The cast includes Ain Anger, Evgeni Nikitin and others. The conductor of the orchestra and chorus is Vladimir Jurowski. The set and lighting design is by Jan Versweyveld — one of the most prolific stage designers of Europe, a long-time partner and co-author of Ivo van Hove. Until May 21 Prokofiev’s *Cinderella* can be viewed, with choreography by Rudolph Nureyev (the director is Isabelle Julienne). Also the May playbill includes: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* ballet by Mendelssohn with choreography by George Balanchine, Donizetti’s opera *Don Pasquale*.

The [TEATR](#) magazine continues to compile schedules of online screenings of Russian and foreign repertoires.

[VTB online](#): What to Watch While the World Is Paused

The website of the German broadcaster [Deutsche Welle](#) (Germany) reports “Teodor Currentzis goes digital: musicAeterna launches ‘virtual residence’ The Greek-Russian star conductor and his musicAeterna orchestra seek new ways to stay in touch with each other and their audiences. “Why is musicAeterna silent, some of you may have wondered,” said Teodor Currentzis when he announced the launch of the musicAeterna digital platform, the “virtual residence” of the star conductor’s musical family during the coronavirus crisis — and perhaps even longer. “We just wanted to wait and see, so that our voice wouldn’t get lost in the confusion of the new digital reality.” Initially delayed, the project started on April 23.”

“Opera in self isolation: what the best musical theatres of the world offer to the captives of the quarantine” — the newspaper [Kultura](#) tells “what can be seen through an open tab of the screen in contemporary opera theatre”

[Republication on ClassicalMusicNews.Ru](#)

“John Neumeier’s ‘Coronavirus’ interview’ was offered to the viewers by the public television and radio broadcasting company of the lands of Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony, Hamburg and Mecklenburg - Mecklenburg-Vorpommern [NDR/ Northern German Broadcasting](#) (The Hamburg Journal, aired from April 26):



John Neumeier’s interview on [NDR](#)

“John Neumeier has written the history of ballet in Hamburg for almost 50 years. He has a unique collection — over 50 000 exhibition items, each of which needs its own place” — the distinguished choreographer tells

of his collection and the current condition of the Hamburg ballet company.

[The event page on Facebook](#)

Birthdays

April 29 — ballet-master, Merited Artist of Russia Jan Godovsky

April 29 — a prominent ballerina and tutor, one of the leading teachers of classical female dance in the 20th century Russia Elizaveta Pavlovna Gerdt (1891—1975). She taught at Moscow Dance School in 1935-42 and 1945-60. Among her pupils there were Maya Plisetskaya, Raisa Struchkova, Ekaterina Maximova. Since 1935 (interrupted for evacuation to Tbilisi in 1942-45 where she worked at Paliashvili Theatre) she was a tutor and ballet-master of the Bolshoi Theatre. Merited Art Professional of RSFSR (1951). Daughter of the dancer Pavel Gerdt and spouse of Samuil Andrianov



Elizaveta Pavlovna Gerdt at the Bolshoi Theatre at the evening of the 50th anniversary of her stage and teaching career, 1963. Photo by Mikhail Ozersky

April 29 — Zizi Jeanmaire, ballerina, singer and variety actress; wife and muse of the outstanding French choreographer Roland Petit — 95th birthday.

April 29 — Zubin Mehta, conductor, director of Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra

April 29 — the International Day of Dance the date was offered by the choreographer and ballet-master Pyotr Gusev in memory of the French choreographer, dance theorist and reformer Jean-Georges Noverre (April 29, 1727 — October 19, 1810) who was born that day. Noverre led the Paris Opera Ballet in 1776-1781



Jean-Georges Noverre A portrait by Jean-Baptiste Perronneau, 1764, Louvre

May 2 — the Bolshoi Opera soloist, National Artist of Russia Vladimir Matorin (bass)



Vladimir Matorin

May 2 — guest soloist of the Bolshoi, Merited Artist of Azerbaijan Yusif Eyvazov (tenor)

May 2 — Bolshoi Opera soloist Denis Makarov

May 2 — conductor, artistic director and CEO of Mariinsky Theatre, National Artist of Russia Valery Gergiev

May 4 — Bolshoi principal dancer Vyacheslav Lopatin

May 4 — conductor, pianist and composer, National Artist of the USSR Gennady Rozhdestvensky (1931-2018)



Gennady Rozhdestvensky

May 5 — opera singer Konstantin Baskov (1929-2001); Bolshoi soloist in 1965-1995, head of the opera company in 1989-1992

May 5 — a prominent Russian conductor and tutor Mark Ermler (1932-2002). He worked at the Bolshoi in 1956-2001 and was the Bolshoi chief conductor and music director in 1998-2001.



Mark Ermler, 1987. Photo by Yuri Prostyakov / RIA Novosti

May 9 — Bolshoi Ballet soloist Yanina Parienko

May 10 — ballet dancer, ballet-master and tutor, the Bolshoi Ballet soloist in 1979-1997, National Artist of Russia Alexander Volchkov

May 10 — actor, choreographer, tap dancer Fred Astaire (1899-1987) admired by Roland Petit, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rudolf Nureyev.

May 11 — director and stage designer Dmitri Tcherniakov — 50th birthday. At the Bolshoi Theatre, he staged the operas Eugene Onegin by Pyotr Tchaikovsky (2006, revival of 2015); Wozzeck by Alban Berg (2009); Don Giovanni by Mozart (2010); Ruslan and Lyudmila by Mikhail Glinka (2011) and Sadko by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov in February 2020.



Three ballerinas were born on these May days: Svetlana Adyrkhaeva, Nina Sorokina, Nadezhda Pavlova



Dmitri Tcherniakov: Photo by Vladimir Yarotsky

May 12 — ballet master-repetiteur, prima ballerina of the Bolshoi in 1960-1988, Svetlana Adyrkhaeva. National Artist of the USSR — guest of the [Bolshoi Green Salon](#)

May 13 — ballerina, tutor of the Bolshoi ballet company, National Artist of the USSR Nina Sorokina (1942-2011)

May 14 — director Leo Dodin. He staged the Queen of Spades at the Bolshoi by Tchaikovsky (2017)

May 15 — ballet-master, National Artist of the USSR Nadezhda Pavlova, prima ballerina of the Bolshoi in 1975-2000

May 15 — Bolshoi Youth Opera Program soloist Maria Motolygina

May 16 — Bolshoi Ballet soloist (working under contract), Merited Artist of Russia Gennady Yanin

May 17 — ballerina, ballet-master, National Artist of the USSR Olga Chenchikova

May 17 — opera and symphony conductor Keri-Lynn Wilson; in 2008 debuted at the Bolshoi Theatre conducting La Boheme and later — Tosca, Iolanta, Don Carlo.

May 17 — opera and chamber singer (soprano), National Artist of the USSR Elena Stepanova (1891-1978). In 1908-1912 she sang in the Bolshoi Choir, in 1912-1924 and in 1927-1944 she was a Bolshoi Opera soloist.

May 18 — prima ballerina assoluta, Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, one of the greatest dancers of the 20th century Margot Fonteyn (1919-1991)



Margot Fonteyn and Tamara Karsavina at a rehearsal of the ballet Le Spectre de la rose

May 18 — prima ballerina of Covent Garden Royal Ballet and Mikhailovsky Theatre in St Petersburg Natalia Osipova, in 2004-2011 — Bolshoi ballerina.

May 18 — ballet dancer, artistic director of Australian Ballet (from January 2021) David Hallberg; the Bolshoi principal dancer in 2011-2014.



Natalia Osipova and David Hallberg

May 19 — choreographer, artistic director of Yekaterinburg Ballet Vyacheslav Samodurov. He debuted



Vyacheslav Samodurov at a rehearsal of the one-act ballet Dancemania, March 2020. Photo by Katerina Novikova

as a choreographer in 2006 at the New Choreography Workshop at the Bolshoi (“+/-” to music by Georg Händel.) In 2016 he staged the ballet Undine by Hans Henze. In March 2020 he was preparing to present the ballet Dancemania to music by Yuri Krasavin; the premiere was postponed due to COVID pandemic.

May 19 — Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1954-1982, lyric soprano coloratura, National Artist of the RSFSR Tamara Sorokina

May 20 — singer and tutor, the Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1976-1996 Raisa Kotova (1939 – 2019)



This year the annual Chelsea Flower Show in London — the oldest and the biggest in the world — is cancelled, so [BBC](#) launches a series of online programmes instead.

One of the new flowers that was to be presented this year is a beautiful pink fleur-de-lis named Ballet du Bolchoi — The Bolshoi Ballet.