



Newsletter

The Bolshoi creative team is back to work after a long involuntary interruption.

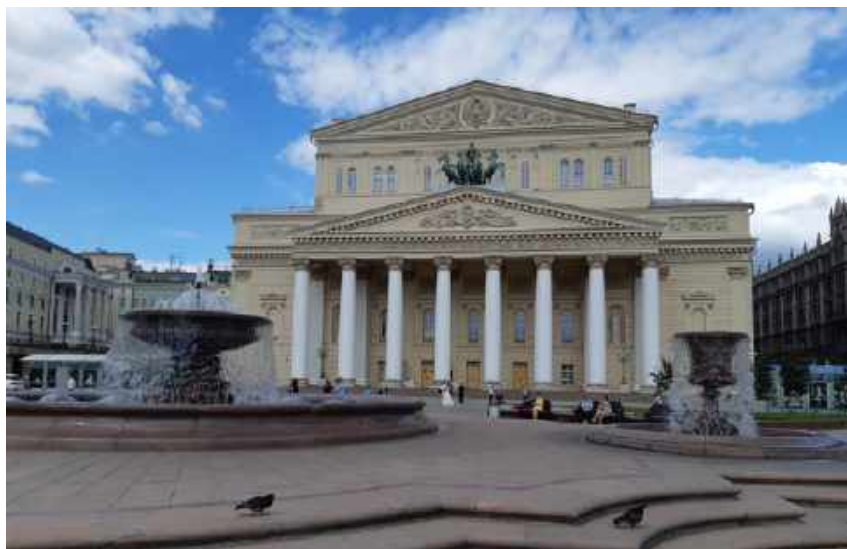
The Bolshoi Theatre announced its plans for the new 245 season which will open on September 6 with Verdi's *Don Carlo*, — [TASS](#) reports.

The agency quotes the Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin:

“Sadly, the current COVID situation prevents us from holding our traditional company meeting where we usually announce plans for the season. But these plans are prepared and communicated to the company by electronic means.”



Anna Netrebko will appear as Elisabeth of Valois in Verdi's *Don Carlo* at the Bolshoi 245 season opening (September 6, 8, 10, 2020) and in the title role in *Salome* by Richard Strauss (premiere on February 25, 2021), co-production with the Metropolitan Opera (Music Director - Tugan Sokhiev, Director - Claus Guth) as well as in a solo concert at the Historic Stage on February 7. Photo /Instagram



The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, August 7, 2020, Friday.
Photo by Ivan Semenyaka

Plans for the 245 season

The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia announces its preliminary [plans for the 245 season 2020/21](#). An electronic press release — with detailed plans — was sent to all media, instead of our traditional press conference in the theatre atrium at the beginning of the season.

September 6, 8, 10, the Historic Stage — the 245 season opening, *Don Carlo*. Main roles by [Anna Netrebko](#), [Ildar Abdrazakov](#), [Yusif Eivazov](#), [Agunda Kulaeva](#), [Elchin Azizov](#).



Opera *Don Carlo* (September 6, 8, 10) will open the Bolshoi Theatre 245 season at the Historic Stage



Ballet [Don Quixote](#) (September 12)
with Svetlana Zakharova and Denis Rodkin
will open the 245 season Photo by Damir Yusupov

The first ballet performance will take place in Moscow on September 12 — [Don Quixote](#) music by Ludwig Minkus in the choreographic version by Alexei Fadeychev, it will be a charity performance for the medical workers who are selflessly saving human lives.

Regardless of many economic and organisational challenges in the 245 season, the Bolshoi plans to present three ballets and seven opera premieres, to hold festivals and philharmonic concerts, to go on tours in Europe and Argentina and to host the International Ballet Competition by Yuri Grigorovich on its stages. Everything the Bolshoi has not able to accomplish because of the epidemic situation in the 244 season will be carried out in the two upcoming years. In the 245 season the premieres of one-act ballets by Russian choreographers to the music of Russian composers will take place on December 18, 2020 — [Dancemania](#) by Vyacheslav Samodurov, [Seasons](#) by Artemy Belyakov, [Made in Bolshoi](#) by Anton Pimonov.

The Chamber Stage will host operas [Les pêcheurs de perles](#) by Georges Bizet, [Anna Frank's Diary](#) by Grigory Frid, and [The White Rose](#) by Udo Zimmermann (May 6-8, 2021.)

Last season, the performance by the outstanding singer of our times Placido Domingo scheduled for April 2020 was cancelled. We managed to reschedule his tour for the 245 season: Maestro Domingo will conduct Manon Lescaut on October 21, and he will perform together with his friends and colleagues in a gala accompanied by the Bolshoi Orchestra at the Historic Stage on October 24.

In the first half of the 245 season Bolshoi will mark the anniversary of the prominent dancer, National Artist of the USSR [Vladimir Vasiliev](#) (November 15 – 22). The Historic Stage will host the three ballets in which he starred ([Don Quixote](#)) and which were staged for him ([Spartacus](#)), [The Nutcracker](#). The anniversary celebrations will end with the performance by the Tatar Opera Ballet Lux Aeterna to music by Mozart, staged and choreographed by Vladimir Vasiliev.



In the Bolshoi's 245 season Placido Domingo will conduct Manon Lescaut (October 21) and will perform together with his friends and colleagues in a gala accompanied by the Bolshoi Orchestra at the Historic Stage (October 24.)
Photo of 1984 / the singer's Facebook



Vladimir Vasiliev as Basilio, Ekaterina Maximova as Kitri (photo by Yuri Pchyolkin) – the Bolshoi will mark the anniversary of Vladimir Vasiliev with ballets [Don Quixote](#) (November 15) [Spartacus](#) (November 17) [The Nutcracker](#) (November 18), the performance by the Tatar Opera Ballet Lux Aeterna (November 22) and an exhibition from the Bolshoi Museum archives timed to coincide with the great artist's 80th birthday (September-December, 2020.)

On November 20, the birthday of the great ballerina Maya Plisetskaya, the Bolshoi will hold her 95th anniversary gala at the Historic Stage (the programme is to be announced).



Maya Plisetskaya as Kitri. On November 20, the birthday of the great ballerina Maya Plisetskaya, the Bolshoi will hold her 95th anniversary gala at the Historic Stage; there will be an exhibition from the Bolshoi Museum archives in the Imperial foyer.

In the 245 season, National Artist of Russia Sergei Filin will mark his 50th birthday. He was the head of the Bolshoi Ballet in 2011-2019. Among his brightest achievements are new ballets created for the Bolshoi company — The Hero of Our Time (by Yuri Possokhov, director Kirill Serebrennikov) and The Taming of the Shrew (by Jean-Christophe Maillot.) The ballet *La Fille du Pharaon* with Sergei Filin as Taor and Svetlana Zakharova as Aspasia is available on DVD.

In the year 2020: September-December all theatre venues will host Pyotr Tchaikovsky's 180th birthday anniversary festival. The programme will include the theatre's own opera and ballet productions of [Eugene Onegin](#), [The Queen of Spades](#), [Iolanta](#), [Cherevichki](#), [Swan Lake](#), [The Sleeping Beauty](#), The Nutcracker. Beethoven Hall — a concert cycle Anthology of Romances by Tchaikovsky, prepared by members of the Bolshoi Youth



Maria Alexandrova and Sergei Filin in *La Fille du Pharaon*.
Photo by Yelena Fetisova

Opera Program. The Bolshoi Orchestra musicians will present the composer's chamber works. The concert by Igor Golovatenko and Alla Demidova Tchaikovsky in Letters and Romances will mark a special event.

Exhibitions from the archives of the theatre museum, dedicated to the work of Plisetskaya, Vasiliev, Bessmertnova, Sorokina, Akimov, Kondratov, Sekh and Ognitsev, as well as marking the 130th anniversary of the birth of the 20th century genius Sergei Prokofiev, will be held in the foyers of the Historic and New Stages.

The Bolshoi Chief Chorus Master [Valery Borisov](#) will celebrate his 70th birthday this season. For seventeen years Valery Borisov has been leading the Bolshoi Choir preserving its best traditions and striving continuously for the best creative result.



The Bolshoi Chief Chorus Master Valery Borisov.
Photo: [Facebook](#)

The Bolshoi choir certainly belongs to the world's best musical companies — a year ago in London it received the prize of the International Opera Awards 2019. On October 25 a gala with the Bolshoi choir, orchestra and opera soloists will take place on the occasion of Valery Borisov's anniversary.

The Bolshoi Opera

In the 245 season there will be further progress on the Bolshoi's top priority — performing Russian music, turning to national classics.

June 23-27, 2021, the Historic Stage — the premiere of [Mazeppa](#) staged by [Evgeni Pisarev](#), sets by [Zinovy Margolin](#), costumes by [Olga Shaishmelashvili](#) (the same creative team that successfully produced *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* by Gioachino Rossini at the Bolshoi two years ago.) Conductor — Tugan Sokhiev (In the 244 season *Mazeppa* was presented in the concert version.)

[Ivan Popovsky](#) will stage a musical comedy titled *Moscow, Cheryomushki* by Dmitry Shostakovich at the Bolshoi Chamber Stage. It will be his second production at the Bolshoi where he has already staged the opera *War and Peace* by Sergei Prokofiev at the invitation of maestro Rostropovich. The set designer and music director for the project are to be announced.



Dmitry Shostakovich and Evgeni Mravinsky
in Paris (September, 1960)

A few years ago the Bolshoi officially announced three co-productions with the Metropolitan Opera. The first of them will be *Salome* by Richard Strauss. The premiere directed by Claus Guth will take place at the Historic Stage on February 25, 2021. A year after the Moscow performances the production will be presented to the New York audience. Music Director — Tugan Sokhiev.



Tugan Sokhiev - Music Director of *Salome*
by Richard Strauss, a co-production
with the Metropolitan Opera (Director Claus Guth)
and the Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin.
Premiere at the Historic Stage on February 25, 2021.
Photo by Vladimir Yarotsky

The theatre's repertoire will continue to be replenished with the best examples and renowned masterpieces of the world's music. One of the most popular opera titles — *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini — will return to our repertoire, staged by Italian director and designer Stefano Poda. Music Director — [Giacomo Sagripanti](#).

The premiere will take place on April 22, 2021, at the New Stage.

The Bolshoi believes it is important to present its audience with lesser known operas. In the last three seasons within its cooperation with the English National Opera and Aix-en-Provence Festival, operas *Rodelinde*, *Alcina*, and *Dido and Aeneas* were shown. This season will see the premiere of *Ariodantes* by George Frideric Handel (July 21, 2021, the New Stage) staged by the renowned opera director [David Alden](#) (his *Billy Budd* by Britten ran at our New Stage.)

Conductor — Gianluca Capuano.

The Bolshoi Ballet

Besides its primary task of preserving the classical heritage, ballet development is about creating new

works continuously, attracting contemporary maestros to make new full-scale productions. This is why the periods of prominent ballet masters' — Alexander Gorsky, Yuri Grigorovich and, later, Alexei Ratmanský — work for the theatre was so important. For many years the Bolshoi has done its best to enrich its repertoire with new works. Pierre Lacotte, Roland Petit, Jean-Christophe Maillot, Christopher Wheeldon, Edward Clug staged ballets for the Bolshoi company in the 21st century.

This season **Yuri Possokhov** will return to the stage the *The Seagull*. The partnership with Yuri Possokhov has become one of the Bolshoi's most successful endeavours. *Cinderella*, *The Hero of Our Time*, *Nureyev* were created by the choreographer especially for the Bolshoi. Director **Alexander Molochnikov** will be his co-author.

Composer **Ilya Demutsky** (the author of the scores of *Nureyev* and *The Hero of Our Time*) is writing the music for the ballet — all commissioned by the theatre.

A high point of the season is that all five ballet premieres are original. The renowned German choreographer, the head of Zurich Ballet, graduate of Cranko's Stuttgart Ballet School — Christian Spuck — will present the premiere of his ballet *Orlando* at the New Stage in March 2021. Moscow ballet fans already know works by Spuck. His production of *Anna Karenina* runs at Stanislavsky Musical Theatre. Also, Zurich Ballet has shown *The Nutcracker* staged by Spuck in Moscow and St Petersburg two years ago. The production will use music by Antonín Dvořák and Max Richter. A follower of Forsythe, Christian Spuck always tries to develop his own plastique language, mastering the big form freely at the same time.

Works of contemporary foreign choreographers — *Wave Nine* by Brian Aries, *Just* by Simone Valastro, *Fading* by Dimo Milev and *Silence* by Martin Chaix — will make a "rhyme" of a kind to this project.

10, 11 September (19:00), 13 September (12:00 as a part of The Bolshoi for Young People program): premiere of ballets under general name *Four characters in search of a plot* on New Stage of the Bolshoi Theatre.

Wave Nine to music by Mikhail Glinka and Nikolai Rimsky Korsakov.

Production choreographer — Brian Aries; Music director — Pavel Klinichev, Lighting designer — Lukas Widmer / Anton Pomorev; Costume designer — Bregje van Balen; Video designer — Tabea Rotfuchs.

Just to music by David Lang.

Production choreographer and Set designer — Simone Valastro; Lighting designer — Anton Stikhin.

Fading to music by Enrique Granados.

Production choreographer and Costume designer — Dimo Milev; Lighting designer — Anton Stikhin.

Silence to music by Arvo Pärt.

Production choreographer — Martin Chaix; Music director — Pavel Klinichev, Set designer — Tomas Mika; Costume designer — Alexander Noshpal; Lighting designer — Anton Stikhin.



Rehearsals of one-act ballets by contemporary foreign choreographers: *Silence* — Svetlana Zakharova with Martin Chaix; *Just* — Simone Valastro with Maria Vingradova and other dancers; *Fading* — Dimo Milev with Daria Khokhlova; *Wave Nine* by Brian Aries with Ekaterina Krysanova and Vladislav Lantratov. Photo by Damir Yusupov

Parts rehearsed by — Svetlana Zakharova, Ekaterina Krysanova, Anna Nikulina, Olga Smirnova, Artemy Belyakov, Vladislav Lantratov, Semyon Chudin, Maria Vinogradova, Alyona Kovalyova, Kristina Kretova, Denis Savin, Jacopo Tissi, Igor Tsvirko, Daria Khokhlova, Margarita Shrayner, Eleonora Sevenard, Dmitry Dorokhov, Mark Chino, and others.

Tours

Given the world's current situation, the theatre touring plans have changed, yet some tours will take place.

The Bolshoi Orchestra will go touring in Europe. Traditional orchestra, opera soloists and choir performances in Toulouse and Paris are scheduled to the first decade of March. The Tsar's Bride and Katerina Izmailova will be presented in the concert version in Paris, conducted by Tugan Sokhiev.

The ballet The Hero of Our Time will be presented in Israel.

The Bolshoi will visit Argentina for the first time in many years. The performances of the Youth Opera Program members and the ballet Swan Lake will take place in **Teatro Colón**, Buenos Aires.



Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires (photo / HalloweenHJB and Andrzej Otrębski /Wikipedia.) — This stage will host Swan Lake by the Bolshoi Ballet and the concert by the YOP members (May 31 – June 7, 2021.) The ballet company will present The Hero of Our Time in Israel on March 31 and April 1, 2021. Photo by Batyr Annadurdyev

The Bolshoi opened ticket sales on August 15, 2020.
See details of our creative life on the theatre website
www.bolshoi.ru/en

The Bolshoi of Russia plans for the 245 season (2020-2021)

OPERA	BALLET
September 2020	
6, 8, 10, the Historic Stage — the season opening Don Carlo by Verdi with Anna Netrebko, Ildar Abdrazakov, Yusif Eivasov, Agunda Kulaeva, Elchin Azizov.	12, the Historic Stage — Don Quixote by Minkus — a charity performance for doctors
The festival timed to Tchaikovsky's 180th birthday anniversary 16-20, the Historic Stage — opera Queen of Spades 18-20, the New Stage — ballet Onegin 23, 24, the Historic Stage — ballet The Nutcracker 26, 27, the Historic Stage — ballet The Swan Lake	
October 2020	
25, the Historic Stage — the concert timed to the 70th birthday of National Artist of the Russian Federation Valery Borisov (choir, orchestra, soloists)	
The festival timed to Tchaikovsky's 180th birthday anniversary 2-4, the Historic Stage — ballet The Sleeping Beauty 2-4, the New Stage — opera Iolanta 7-11, the Historic Stage — opera Eugene Onegin 19, the New Stage — Tchaikovsky in Letters and Romances	

November 2020

14, Tchaikovsky Concert Hall — The Bolshoi Orchestra concert
 The suite from The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky
 Rococo for chello and orchestra by Tchaikovsky (solo — Alexander Ramm)
 Symphonic Dances by Sergei Rakhmaninov
 Conductor — Tugan Sokhiev

Vladimir Vasiliev's 80th Anniversary | the Historic Stage
 15 — Don Quixote
 17 — Startacus
 18 — The Nutcracker.
 22 — a jubilee evening Lux Aeterna to music by Mozart (Tatar Opera Ballet named after Musa Jalil)
 20 — the Historic Stage — Maya Plisetskaya Jubilee Evening timed to her 95th birthday anniversary
 The programme of the evening to be announced

December 2020

3-6, the Chamber Stage — The premiere of Les pêcheurs de perles by Georges Bizet
 Conductor — Alexei Vereshchagin;
 Director and Set Designer — Vladislavs Nastavševs

8-17 — the orchestra simphonic tour:
 9 — a concert in Vienna
 10 — a concert in Nuremberg
 11 — a concert in Munich
 13 — a concert in Dortmund
 14 — a concert in Amsterdam
 16 — a concert in Cologne Conductor — Tugan Sokhiev

10-13 — the choir tour, Saint-Petersburg
 12, St-Petersburg Philharmonics Grand Hall — the Ninth Symphony by Beethoven
 Conductor — Nikolai Alexeyev

18, the New Stage — The premiere of Dancemania ballet to music by Yuri Krasavin
 (Production choreographer — Vyacheslav Samodurov, designer — Alexei Kondratiev, costume designer — Anastasia Nefedova)

The premiere of Seasons ballet to music by Alexander Glazunov
 (production choreographer — Artemy Belyakov, set designer — Anna Kostrikova, lighting designer — Anton Stikhin)

The premiere of Made in Bolshoi ballet to music by Anatoly Korolyov
 (production choreographer — Anton Pimonov, sets — creative team Bojemoi, costume designer — Tatiana Noginova, lighting designer — Konstantin Binkin)
 Conductor — Anton Grishanin

The festival timed to Tchaikovsky's 180th birthday anniversary
 25-27, 29, 30, the Chamber Stage — opera Cherevichki

January 2021

17, Tchaikovsky concert Hall —
 Concert for piano and orchestra by Ferenz List, soloist — Lucas Debargue

The 6th Symphony by Gustav Mahler
 Conductor — Tugan Sokhiev

February 2021

7, the Historic Stage — Anna Netrebko concert

25, the Historic Stage — The premiere of opera Salome by Richard Strauss (co-production with Metropolitan Opera)
 Conductor — Tugan Sokhiev
 Production director — Claus Guth
 Designer — Étienne Pluss
 Costume designer — Uschi Kudrna
 Lighting designer — Olaf Friss,
 Choreographer — Zoma Ulrichsson
 Dramatist — Ivon Getauer

March 2021

9-15 — Opera and orchestra tour, Toulouse, Paris:
10, Toulouse — The Tzar's Bride (concert version)
11, Toulouse — the 2nd Symphony
Three Russian Songs
by Sergei Rakhmaninov
Polovtsian Dances by Alexander Borodin
13, Paris — The Tzar's Bride (concert version)
14, Paris — Katerina Izmailova by Dmitry Shostakovich
(concert version)
Conductor — Tugan Sokhiev

18, Pokrovsky Chamber Stage
Director — Ivan Popovsky

24, the New Stage — The premiere
of the ballet Orlando
to music by Antonín Dvořák and Max Richter
Choreographer — Christian Spuck
Set designer — Rufus Didvisus
Costume designer — Emma Riott
Lighting designer — Martin Gebhardt

March 29 — April 3 — Israeli tour,
the ballet The Hero of Our Time
March 31 — performance
April 1 — performance

April 2021

22, the New Stage — The premiere of the opera Tosca
by Giacomo Puccini
Conductor — Giacomo Sagripanti, director,
set designer, lighting designer — Stefano Poda

May 2021

6-8, the Chamber Stage — premieres of operas
Anna Frank's Diary (music by Grigory Frid)
The White Rose (music by Udo Zimmermann)
Music director — Philipp Chizhevsky
Production director — Hans-Joachim Frey
Set designer — Pyotr Okunev
Lighting designer — Aivar Salikhov

June 2021

May 31 — June 7 — the YOP soloists and ballet tour in Buenos Aires, Teatro de Colón
The Swan Lake ballet, the concert of the YOP soloists

23-27, the Historic Stage —
The premiere of Mazeppa by Pyotr Tchaikovsky
Conductor — Tugan Sokhiev
Production director — Evgeni Pisarev
Designer — Zinovy Margolin
Costume designer — Olga Shaishmelashvili

July 2021

21, the New Stage — The premiere
of the opera Ariodantes by Georg Handel
Director David Alden
Conductor — Gianluca Capuano
Sets and costume designer — Ian McNeill
Choreographer — Michael Keegan-Dolan
Lighting designer — Wolfgang Göbbel

1-4, the New Stage — The premiere
of the ballet The Seagull by Ilya Demutsky
Choreographer — Yuri Possokhov
Director — Alexander Molochnikov
Conductor — Anton Grishanin
Set designer — Tom Pye
Costume designer — Emma Riott
Lighting designer — Davin Fynn

5-15 — Grigorovich International Ballet Contest
5, the Historic Stage — opening
5-12, the New Stage — tours
13-14, the Historic Stage — the 3rd tour
15, the Historic Stage — the contest closing
and the winners gala

Exhibitions of the 245 season (2020-2021)

The Historic Stage (museum foyer, chorus foyer)	The New Stage
September 2020	
Vladimir Vasiliev (to the 80th birthday)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Alexander Ognivtsev (to the 100th birthday anniversary)
October 2020	
Vladimir Vasiliev (to the 80th birthday)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Alexander Ognivtsev (to the 100th birthday anniversary)
November 2020	
Vladimir Vasiliev (to the 80th birthday) Imperial Foyer Maya Plisetskaya (to the 95th birthday anniversary)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Yaroslav Sekh (to the 90th birthday)
December 2020	
Vladimir Vasiliev (to the 80th birthday)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Yaroslav Sekh (to the 90th birthday)
January 2021	
The 20th Century Genius (to Sergei Prokofiev's 130th birthday anniversary)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Yuri Kondratov (to the 100th birthday anniversary)
February 2021	
The 20th Century Genius (to Sergei Prokofiev's 130th birthday anniversary)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Yuri Kondratov (to the 100th birthday anniversary)
March 2021	
The 20th Century Genius (to Sergei Prokofiev's 130th birthday anniversary)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Tamara Sorokina (to the 90th birthday)
April 2021	
The 20th Century Genius (to Sergei Prokofiev's 130th birthday anniversary)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Tamara Sorokina (to the 90th birthday)
May 2021	
Boris Akimov (to the 75th birthday)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Natalia Bessmertnova (to the 80th birthday anniversary)
June 2021	
Boris Akimov (to the 75th birthday)	From the cycle The Bolshoi Stars Natalia Bessmertnova (to the 80th birthday anniversary)

From July 29 to August 2 singers and dancers of Bolshoi performed at a specially built stage in Tauric Khersonessos conservation area within the 4th International Festival Khersonessos. The program included an opera gala and the one-act ballet Carmen Suite.



Photo / [Vesti Crimea](#)
and Tauric Chersonessos Museum Preserve



Sevastopol Waltz by the Bolshoi Opera artists.
Photo / Tauric Chersonessos Museum Preserve

Within the vocal part of the programme, Anna Aglatova, Dinara Alieva, Anna Nechaeva, Svetlana Lachina (sopranos), Yulia Mazurova, Alina Chertash (mezzo sopranos), Konstantin Artemiev, Bekhzod Davronov, Oleg Dolgov (tenors), Igor Golovatenko (baritone) performed arias, duos and ensembles from the works of Russian and foreign composers.

[The vocal part programme](#) (*.pdf)

Ballet Carmen Suite, parts by:

Carmen — Svetlana Zakharova (July 29 and 31,) Anna Nikulina (July 30 and August 2,) Ekaterina Krysanova (August 1.)

Jose — Denis Rodkin (July 29 and 31,) Egor Geraschenko (debut, July 30 and August 2,) Igor Tsvirko (August 1.)

Torero — Denis Savin (July 29 and 31,) Mikhail Lobukhin (July 30 and August 2,) David Motta Soares (August 1.)

Corregidor — Vitaly Biktimirov (July 29 and 31,) Alexander Vodopetov (July 30 and August 2,) Mikhail Kochan (debut, August 1.)

Fate — Olga Marchenkova (July 29 and 31,) Yulia Grebenshikova (July 30 and August 2,) Ana Turazashvili (August 1.)

Tobacco Girls — Eleonora Sevenard (debut,) Victoria Yakusheva (July 29 and 31,) Alexandra Trikoz (debut, July 29 and 31,) Margarita Shrayner, Elizaveta Krutelyova, Maria Mishina (debuts, July 30 and August 2, 1.)

The event held with support of the Ministry of Culture of Russia and Sevastopol City Administration — on the [theatre website](#).



Svetlana Zakharova as Carmen, Denis Rodkin as Jose, Denis Savin as Torero, Alexandra Trikoz, Eleonora Sevenard, Victoria Yakusheva as Tobacco Girls.

Photo by Sevastopol City Administration press office / [RG](#)

Minister of Culture Olga Lyubimova [read the address](#) of the RF President Vladimir Putin at the official opening ceremony and congratulated those present on returning to the theatre auditorium after the long period of restrictions.

Within the festival, Svetlana Zakharova held a creative meeting with students of Sevastopol Ballet Academy.

Rossia-K TV channel repeated the screening of The Bolshoi Youth Opera Program [Anniversary Gala](#) on August 9.

The Bolshoi Youth Opera Program (Artistic Director — Merited Art Professional [Dmitry Vdovin](#) — is one of the most interesting creative projects of the Bolshoi today — marked its 10th anniversary with a [gala of the Program artists and graduates](#) at the Historic Stage on December 8, 2019.

During the 10 years of its existence the YOP has trained a whole range of talented young singers now recognised at many international competitions and world venues. Previous years' graduates, singers with international careers, as well as students of 2019 performed in the anniversary gala. The gala participants: Venera Gimadieva, Oksana Volkova, Yulia Mazurova,



The Bolshoi Youth Opera Program Anniversary Gala on [Rossia-K TV channel](#)

Nina Minasyan, Bogdan Volkov, Ilya Kutyukhin, Andrei Kymach, Vasilisa Berzhanskaya, Olga Kulchinskaya, Andrei Zhilikhovsky, Maria Motolygina, Maria Barakova, Nikolai Zemlyansky, Elmira Karakhanova, Elizaveta Narsia, Igor Korostylov, Konstantin Suchkov, Giorgi Sturua, David Posulikhin.

The Bolshoi Orchestra and Children choir under the baton of National Artist of Russia Alexander Sladkovsky. Famous musicians, artists, theatre promoters and heads of international musical projects attended the concert.

The programme which included arias, duos and ensembles from operas by both Russian and foreign composers.

Video (01:55'46") is available on [YouTube](#)
[See more on the website](#)

In the new season 2020/21, within the festival timed to coincide with the 180th anniversary of Tchaikovsky's birth (from September to December, 2020, on all stages of the Bolshoi) the YOP will prepare and hold a concert cycle Anthology of Romances by Tchaikovsky at the Beethoven Hall. The YOP are scheduled to give concerts within the Bolshoi touring programme in Israel (the end of March — beginning of April, 2021) and in Argentina, in Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires (the beginning of June, 2021.)

The Bolshoi Youth Opera Program (YOP) announces a preliminary intake of students for the season 2021/22 (involuntarily postponed) for the speciality Singer Soloist.

Auditions will take place in Novosibirsk on August 21, 2020. The finalists will be offered the opportunity to join the members in 2021 right after the second series of auditions which will take place next summer.

Artists allowed to take part in competitive auditions should be born between 1987 and 2001, and be graduates or undergraduates of a music academy.

The competition procedure and the audition programme are available via the [link](#).

The Bolshoi Chamber Stage to undergo large-scale reconstruction in 2020-2025.

"The sum of 7.48 billion rubles assigned to the reconstruction of the Bolshoi Chamber Stage. <...> The funding will cover project works and restoration," — the RF government official website announced on Thursday, August 13. The RF Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin has signed the respective decree.

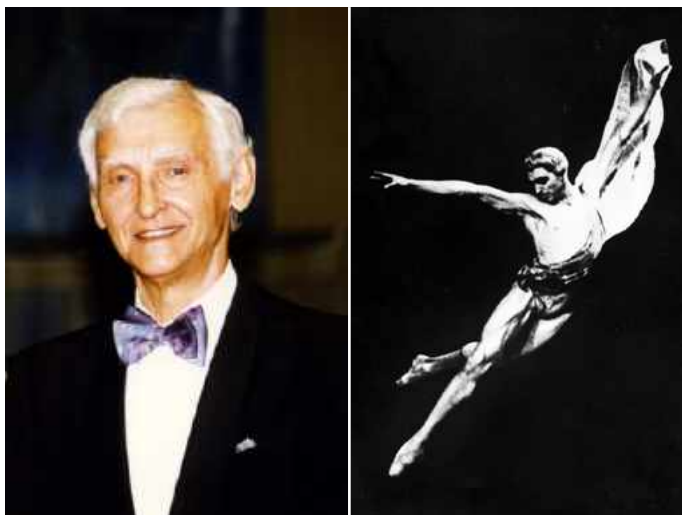
They plan to reconstruct the historical look of the building and to strengthen its structural supports. The rooms are to be fitted with modern equipment. They will get a new auditorium of 500 seats, a foyer, dressing rooms and wardrobes. The reconstruction also includes adaptation of the Chamber Stage for disabled persons. They plan to adjust the current room for rehearsals.

The renovated building is to open for the audience in 2025.

Sad news

Gennady Ledyakh — remarkable dancer virtuoso, the Bolshoi Ballet soloist in 1951-69, performer of leading roles and a wonderful and reliable partner — has passed away. The Merited Artist of Russia died at the age of 93.

Gennady Ledyakh was born on March 31, 1928. Since 1945 he studied ballet and performed at Novosibirsk Opera Ballet at the same time. In 1948, he joined the Moscow Ballet School. Graduated from the School in 1951, he was employed at the Bolshoi Ballet and danced there till 1968. He prepared his repertoire under Asaf Messerer and Alexei Varlamov. He danced with Olga Lepeshinskaya, Sofia Golovkina, Irina Tikhomirova, Raisa Struchkova, Marina Kondratieva, Ekaterina Maximova, Nina Timofeeva and other great ballerinas... He took part in the company tours performing classical and modern choreographic works in 32 countries.



Having finished his dancing career Gennady Ledyakh focused on tutoring and succeeded in it no less than on stage. In 1970 he was the ballet-master-repetiteur in Teatr Wielki in Warsaw, in 1971-76 — artistic director of Warsaw Ballet School. In 1978 he worked as a ballet-master in a ballet school in Bogotá, the capital of Columbia.

In 1992 Gennady Ledyakh founded the School of Classical Dance that has long become one of the leading ballet schools of Moscow.

The Bolshoi Theatre conveys sincere condolences to the family and students of the deceased.

The obituary on the [website](#) School of Classical Dance led by Gennady and Larisa Ledyakh

The passing reported by:

[IA InterMedia](#)

[Kultura newspaper](#)

[Kulturomania](#)

[Balet 24](#)

[Ballet Dancers Aid Fund For the Memory of Gennady Ledyakh](#) (video, 03'30")

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

The Bolshoi Theatre announced its plans for the new 245 season which will open on September 6 with Verdi's Don Carlo, — [TASS](#) reports.

The agency quotes the Bolshoi Director General Vladimir Urin:

".../ The 245 season will open on September 6 with Verdi's Don Carlo. The performance features Anna Netrebko, Ildar Abdrazakov, Yusif Eivazov, Agunda Kulaeva, Elchin Azizov, the most powerful cast of the Bolshoi Opera singers and guest stars. .../ while the ballet company will open its season with Don Quixote on September

12. The performance will be dedicated to doctors whose work we admire, whom we are proud of, who work heroically in the pandemic extreme conditions. The Bolshoi Theatre is honoured to invite medical workers to one of its best productions, — said the Bolshoi General Director." ("Anna Netrebko and Plácido Domingo will perform at the Bolshoi in the new season: .../ The 245 season will open on September 6 with Verdi's Don Carlo.")

[Ren TV](#)

[Govorit Moskva](#)

[Radio Sputnik](#)

[Orfei](#)

[RIA Novosti](#)

[Interfax](#)

[RBK](#)

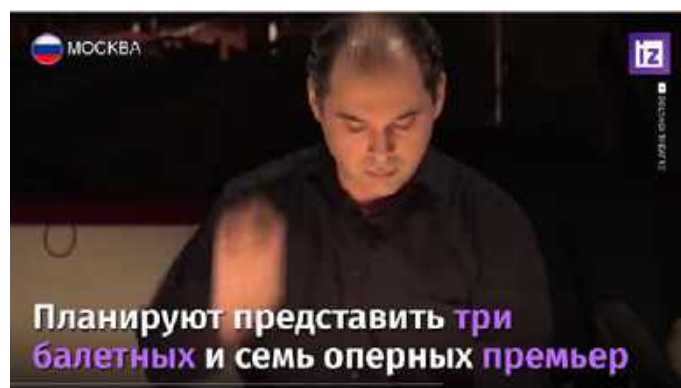
[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Kommersant](#)

[Moskovski Komsomolets](#)

[Izvestia](#)

and dozens of other media.



"The Bolshoi will open its new season with opera Don Carlo" — video (00'30") by [Izvestia](#)

The head of the Bolshoi Theatre Vladimir Urin: "We should return to usual life wisely, step by step" — an extensive interview with the Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin by [Kultura Newspaper](#) (Elena Fedorenko):

"A few days ago you returned from the International Opera Ballet Festival in Tauric Chersonesos Culture Preserve. How was the Bolshoi artists' first appearance on stage after the involuntary long pause?"

"The Crimean tour proved very important to all participants. It is remarkable that the performances took place in a summer theatre, outdoors. Contamination hazard is still far less in the open air. The stage, the stalls, the dressing rooms were in the open air (although covered from above) and that made the situation significantly less dangerous. Conditions were difficult enough, the schedule was tough: rehearsals and big evening concerts for 5 days in a row. ...The eyes of artists entering the stage after a long break shone with happiness — I am not exaggerating. Their joy on returning was boosted with an extraordinary welcome from the

audience — every evening the audience stood up twice: in the end of the first opera part and after the ballet Carmen Suite. Shouts ‘bravo’, long ovations, delighted smiles — the spectators accepted us enthusiastically!”

“When will you present the first performance in Moscow?”

“On September 6. We scheduled our work so as to ‘launch’ the season smoothly. We have a month ahead. Hopefully, the epidemic situation will improve during this time.” /./

“How are you going to seat spectators in the house?”

“The Department of Culture order is clear: a family may sit together yet there should be a chair between them and a neighbouring spectator. Of course, there will be no full house, occupancy will not be higher than 50%. Observing social distance for spectators and wearing masks are compulsory. We will measure everybody’s temperature at the entrance and will not let in those with more than 37 degrees. As well as people with respiratory symptoms. In a month we should seriously polish defence mechanisms for artists and audience to protect them from contamination risk. In all spectators’ areas and behind the stage disinfectants are placed. Of course, we will do our best to provide maximum protection to our ticket takers who are exposed to the stream of the audience.” /./

“When do you plan your traditional company meeting?”

“There will be no meeting in its usual form. I addressed the company with a letter in which I explained once again how we will work and observe safety measures. And, of course, I told them about the theatre’s plans. They are set and let’s hope no emergency will prevent us from fulfilling them.”

“Do you agree that the long quarantine did a great deal of damage to art? When will theatres return to normal life, and is it possible at all?”

“I am an optimist and I always believe in things getting better. Far more dreadful epidemics have hit mankind. A high-quality vaccine will appear, and the usual theatre life will come back. /.../ We just need to have patience. It is possible that coronavirus can cause theatre, and not only the Bolshoi, serious problems, up to cancelling performances. All is possible. Much depends on ourselves. I tell it to all employees and in my letter addressed to them I ask everybody to be patient, to avoid risk, to ‘slow-down the situation’, to return to usual life wisely and gradually, limit meetings if there is no professional necessity for them. /.../ We need a strong and efficient vaccine. /.../ I trust virologists because they are experts in their field. The coronavirus epidemic will end sooner or later.”

“A late end can bring serious trouble, especially to dancers and the ballet company.”

“It is a painful problem. /.../ Can you imagine what is half a year for a ballet dancer who has just about 20 years of stage life? It is a significant part of his creative career. /./

Besides artists’ own fate there are the theatre’s scheduled plans which were destroyed. Before the pandemic, I knew all premieres for three years ahead and could name works of 2022. And now? We haven’t released many announced productions of the last season... We had to postpone them to another time, and that was already scheduled, arrangements done. We looked for ways — we managed to include something in the upcoming season; others, sadly, will be turned back to only a year after.

There are no premieres in the nearest autumn plans. Foreign professionals cannot come — we would welcome them with a negative corona test, yet they would have to pass strict quarantine when back at home. A whole range of international projects was cancelled... /.../ We hope, the situation will settle down by spring.”

“Will ticket prices change? Since the theatre’s financial situation has wavered due to the pause and plans destroyed...”

“I think, maybe ahead of the situation, that funding will be reduced on a government level, too. I understand the situation... The government allocated certain funding to the theatre in light of underpayment. I am ready for possible cutting of costs. Yet what does it mean? Before changing the ticket price we should analyse the sales, watch how it would go. /.../ Sales have begun on August 15. Of course, we are not keen to drop the price but if we see the spending capacity of our audience has diminished and tickets selling poorly we will adjust the price.

“And will you raise the price if tickets are sold out?”

“No way. It is out of question.”

“Do you think the spectators will come and take precaution?”

“They will both come and take precautions. My colleagues and I did our best to arrange the beginning of the season so that there is one event after another in our repertoire. Spectators will hurry to see what attracts interest and seems extraordinary. I hope, the audience will still come.”



The head of the Bolshoi Theatre Vladimir Urin:
“We should return to usual life wisely and gradually.”

Photo by Sergei Vediashkin / [Kultura Newspaper](#)

“Estimation of large-scale scenes in theatre productions should be revised since they could hamper the work of the Bolshoi Theatre and of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre. This is the opinion voiced on Friday by special representative of the RF President for international cultural cooperation, artistic director of the Moscow Musical Theatre Mikhail Shvydkoi,” – [TASS](#) reports.

“Limits for mass scenes is currently 70 persons on stage. Guess, it is possible for the rehearsal period but then in may cause problems for the Bolshoi and Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre. We should find some right form here,” said Shvydkoi.

The musical theatre noted that theatre community is balancing between artists’ and spectators’ safety and the quality of performances. “Our task is to minimise risks on the one hand, and to give customers an opportunity to receive the same quality product as it used to be before the pandemic. We cannot skip, we cannot reduce performances,” he pointed out.

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Kommersant FM](#)

[TASS](#) (August 5): “Theatres, concert halls and circuses of Moscow are obliged to measure spectators’ temperature at the entrance: Visitors with more than 37C and respiratory symptoms will not be let in.”

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

Bolshoi prima Svetlana Zakharova told [WomanHit](#) magazine about how she spent self-isolation days, how she manages not to gain weight, if she visits cosmetologists and plastic surgeons – article Physical Exercises – That’s My Diet.

“Svetlana, please, tell us how you spent this summer. Have you realigned to a new way of life after self isolation?”

“As soon as it became possible my husband and I went on holiday. We spent a week in Altai, in a wonderful place. Then we returned to Moscow and I set to work. Gradually gaining my form I was preparing for the Crimean tour where I danced Carmen Suite in the end of July. It was my first appearance on stage after four months without performances. Also in July, the project Bolshoi Ballet was filmed where I appeared as a presenter for the second time already. Those were seven difficult yet unforgettable days, full of surprises.” //

The Bolshoi Ballet soloist Ekaterina Shipulina and the Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Veronika Dzhioeva gave interviews to [Black Tie Moscow](#) magazine.

Veronika Dzhioeva (pp 56-63 of the magazine) speaks about the high level of competitiveness in the professional sphere, her participation in the project Bolshaya Opera and the role of maternity, her performances at the Bolshoi that were cancelled due to coronavirus and parts she plans to perform during the sea-



Svetlana Zakharova gave an interview to [WomanHit](#) magazine



Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Veronika Dzhioeva and Bolshoi Ballet soloist Ekaterina Shipulina – guests of [Black Tie Moscow](#) magazine

son. “I have received an invitation from Zurich Opera already to sing with Anna Netrebko in Verdi’s Macbeth next year – production by director Barrie Kosky and conductor Fabio Luisi,” the singer says. “Malta Festival is waiting for me, too, in a gala. I invite everybody to my debut in Arena di Verona in the grand production of Aida by the legendary Franco Zeffirelli. My long-held dream is to sing in the production by this great maestro”. //

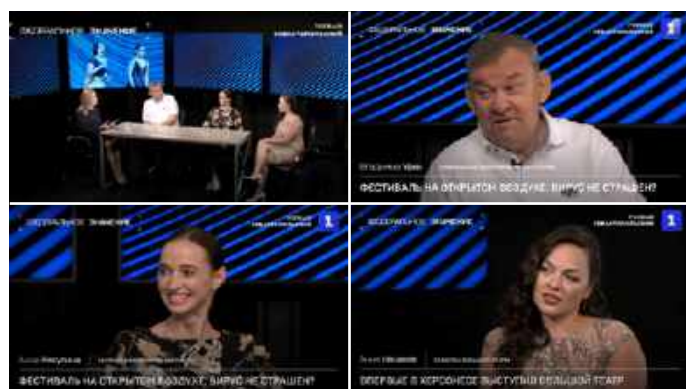
Ekaterina Shipulina's interview (pp 82-89) is titled A Perfectionist "One of the most charismatic ballet stars of our time, Bolshoi Ballet prima, National Artist of Russia Ekaterina Shipulina has recently appeared in another role — that of artistic director of the Central Ballet School in Moscow, — the article says. The ballerina speaks about her school and master classes she manages to give, about different generations of artists and stage traumas, about her family and teachers. "In the theatre, I was very lucky with my tutors. I adopted practices from Marina Kondratieva, Tatiana Golikova, Rimma Karelskaya, Narina Semyonova. Now I rehearse with Nadezhda Grachyova."

Interviews are available via the [link](#)

TV and other media widely cover the Bolshoi's participation in the 4th International Opera Ballet Festival in Chersonessos.

3A studio talk recording (17'01") with participation of the Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin, prima ballerina Anna Nikulina and opera soloist Anna Nechaeva on [First Sevastopol TV Channel](#):

[The programme on YouTube](#)



Vladimir Urin, Anna Nikulina and Anna Nechaeva in the studio of [First Sevastopol TV Channel](#)

"The Bolshoi Theatre came back to life: the first post-quarantine tour took place in Crimea," — [Kultura](#) Newspaper publishes a detailed story by Alexander Matusevich:

"The Opera Ballet Festival held in Crimea's most romantic city — Sevastopol is still young... /.../ For performances of the famous Moscow company on the territory of Tauric Chersonessos Culture Reserve they have erected a temporary stage with dimensions close to those of the Bolshoi's home stage in Moscow, and an auditorium for 1500 seats. An authentic antique amphitheatre preserved among picturesque ruins of the ancient settlement is not large and unlike similar venues in Verona, Epidauros or Aspendos fit only for chamber

performances. The Bolshoi's scale required more space although this solution had its flaws: they had to use sound amplification since the modern construction lacks natural acoustics.

The Bolshoi's performance in Crimea became the first since the beginning of the pandemic. The Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin addressed the audience before the performance and said how glad they were to appear before spectators at last. "The artists have not entered the stage since the middle of March, and returning 'home', to rehearsals, meant so much to us! The first performance here, in Chersonessos, on wonderful the Sevastopol ground — is very special. The artists are excited, although many of them have danced and sung on almost all the famous venues of the world."

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

Closing of the 4th International Opera Ballet Festival Chersonessos took place in Sevastopol, — [Vesti.Krym](#) reports.

[TASS](#)

[News-w.org](#)

[Nezavisimaya Gazeta](#)

[Evraziiskaya Pravda](#) mediaholding (Yerevan-Moscow)



Dance for Pleasure! — an interview with Yulia Stepanova in Autograph section of all-Russia children's magazine Studio Antre (2020, No 3 /104)

An all-Russia children magazine Studio Antre (2020, № 3 /104) published a vivid article about ballerinas of the Bolshoi (scanned copies available at the theatre press office):

“Svetlana is a beautiful name.

It belongs both to ballerina Zakharova herself and to the Children’s Dance Festival of her name. The prima gave the festival not only her name but ideas, organisation and her own active participation in the concert... For the sixth time spectators of all ages – from toddlers to grannies – fill the giant hall... /.../ The festival’s special feature is the dream come-true of the children to perform on stage in Moscow. Svetlana Zakharova says that it is her dream too – to give each performer their little happiness, because children’s dreams must come true. /.../ Joy, celebration, merriment – the right to happiness, yet who provides them in today’s life of generations. That was the topic of the festival this year – the year of the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War.”

Guest soloist tenor [Pavel Valuzhin](#), member of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program in 2013-16, Bolshoi Opera soloist in 2016-18, debuts in the season 2020/21 in Metropolitan Opera in New York, – [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) reports.



“Russian-Belarusian tenor Pavel Valuzhin debuts at the Metropolitan Opera.”

Photo by Vladimir Vyatkin / [RG](#)

“I am utterly happy with the invitation to the world’s biggest opera theatre...,” Pavel Valuzhin commented. This was my life-long dream. I polished my mastery long to gain success. Years of work on different venues, training with most renowned tutors of Europe and the world allowed me to accumulate enough experience and skills. I am glad of this estimation of my professionalism.”

In January 2021, Pavel will appear as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* staged by Franco Zeffirelli, in New York. He found himself in Minsk during the pandemic.”

[Rossia-Kultura](#) channel repeated the cycle Historical Concerts. Presenter – Tamara Sinyavskaya

August 5 (14:05) – [Bela Rudenko](#) recording of a concert from Moscow Conservatory Grand Hall, 1979.

National Artist of the USSR, Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1973-88 (artistic director of the opera company in 1995-99) [Bela Rudenko](#) performs romances by Sergei Rakhmaninov, vocal miniatures by Yuri Prokh, Stanisław Moniuszko, Felix Mendelson. Piano – Evgeni Shenderovich

August 6 – [Alexander Vedernikov](#) a recording from the Column Hall of the House of Unions, 1987.

August 7 – [Yuri Gulyaev](#) recording from the Grand Concert Hall, 1978. The programme includes romances by Glinka, Rakhmaninov, Rimsky-Korsakov, Borodin, Bulakhov, Glière.

August 9 was the 90th anniversary of the birth of [Yuri Gulyaev](#) Bolshoi Opera soloist, composer and singer.



Yuri Gulyaev

What Kind of Guy He Was – Maria Babalova of [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) about the famous Soviet baritone:

“Yuri Gulyaev was one of the most well-known performers of the Soviet era. He won the love of people of the giant country – now absent from the world’s map already – with lyric pop songs first of all. And they remember and cherish the singer still, in spite of all winds of change. /.../

Uruguayan singer and actress Natalia Oreiro – “...was enchanted by stage art of ballet at the Bolshoi Theatre,” [Zvezda TV](#) reports – “Uruguayan mentality is not different from the Russian one, and so she feels at home in Russia” (“I used to be Russian in my previous life”: Natalia Oreiro spoke of why she loves Russia.)

The Bolshoi Theatre Ballet School. Drilling the positions. Moscow, 1958 — the photo by Cornell Capa (1918–2008, younger brother of the great photographer Robert Capa) is published on the Japanese version of *Russia Beyond* [website](#) (an international multimedia project ANO TV-Novosti, published in 14 languages.) “These are rare photos you haven’t seen since 1940. Best photographers of Magnum Photo caught the atmosphere and live moments of Russian life” — the article covers the [exhibition](#) of the agency’s photographers (including famous names of Robert and Cornell Capa, Elliott Erwitt, Thomas Dworzak, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Eva Arnold) which took place in St Petersburg Manège this July.

The exhibition photos are available via the [link](#)



Cornell Capa, The Bolshoi Theatre Ballet School. Drilling the positions. Moscow, 1958 / [Russia Beyond](#)

Press analysis:

international mass media

The August/September edition of the specialised monthly dance magazine *Dance Europe* publishes obituaries of Zizi Jeanmarie and Nikolai Fadeychev.

Mike Dixon writes about the life of Zizi Jeanmarie “dancer, movie star, singer, cabaret star and French music hall legend who died on 17 July 2020 aged 96 in Switzerland.” “She moved to the South of France with Roland Petit in 1972 when he founded the Ballets de Marseille.” Petit and Jeanmarie eventually made their home in Switzerland.

Renée Marcellé “Zizi” Jeanmaire — a great ballet dancer of the 20th century, actress and singer. She became a world star immediately playing the title role in the ballet *Carmen*, produced by her husband Roland Petit.



Zizi Jeanmaire (April 29, 1924 – July 17, 2020)

Dozens of international media published articles on the artist’s passing.

[The Guardian](#)

[NYT](#)

[The Telegraph](#)

[The Times](#)

[France24](#)

[Vogue](#)

[Kommersant](#)

[Kultura](#)

Mike Dixon also writes about Bolshoi star Nikolai Fadeychev (27 January, 1933 – 23 June, 2020.)

“He was a hugely important figure in Russian ballet, the go-to partner for some of the Bolshoi Ballet’s greatest ballerinas over an important 25-year period.”

[The Times](#): “Fadeychev remained a mainstay of the Bolshoi, his repertoire ranging from the Mouse King in Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* and *Bluebird* in the same composer’s *The Sleeping Beauty* in the early 1950s, to roles that he created including Karenin in Rodion Shchedrin’s *Anna Karenina* in 1972, choreographed by Shchedrin’s wife, Maya Plisetskaya (obituary, May 5, 2015). He was one of Plisetskaya’s favourite dance partners and she once described him as “an artist who cannot be spoiled by praise”.

The August edition of the UK specialised dance magazine *Dancing Times* publishes an obituary of Nikolai Fadeychev written by Jonathan Gray. “One of the Bolshoi’s most illustrious and celebrated dancers

who was later a distinguished teacher and coach within the company.”



Nikolai Fadeychev as Prince Siegfried and Maya Plisetskaya as Odette in Swan Lake by the Bolshoi, 1972



Eleonora Sevenard and Denis Rodkin in Divertissement from Tchaikovsky's ballets (photo by Margarita Belskaya); Klin, August 1. — August 13-14 the Bolshoi Ballet stars perform their "Spanish Programme" in Sardinia within the international gala Love Pa De Deux

The Italian online news and events publication [Adnkronos](#) reports: "Dancers Maria Kochetkova and Sebastian Kloborg, among the étoiles guests of the international gala scheduled at the Lirico di Cagliari on August 13th and 14th." "Denis Rodkin and Eleonora Sevenard, the romantic couple of the moment on whom the eyes of the magazines, recently portrayed in a sweet kiss even on the cover of a famous Italian magazine, are expected from the Bolshoi in Moscow. Both Russians, young, beautiful and in love, will wear Iberian clothes to interpret the Grand pas de deux of the third act of Don Quixote (choreography by Marius Petipa, music by Ludwig Minkus.)" "For their second performance, an Iberian atmosphere, albeit with a completely different flavour, a pas de deux from the Carmen Suite ..."

The Italian regional newspaper [Il Messaggero](#) publishes a report by Simona Antonucci who writes "Dance starts again in pairs: from Cagliari to Palermo, the interpreters in love dance." "Dancers in pairs also at the international Gala "L'amore — Il passo a due" at the Lirico di Cagliari, on 13 and 14 August with live music, performed by the Orchestra del Teatro. On stage, from the Bolshoi in Moscow, Denis Rodkin and Eleonora Sevenard, the romantic duo on which the eyes of the magazines are focused."

The online culture news publication [Fjord](#) (USA/UK) publishes a review by Oksana Khadarina of the Bolshoi's Spartacus based on a broadcast on Mariinsky. TV, April 18, 2020. "A thrilling mix of energy, athleticism and drama, this ballet is widely regarded as the famed Russian company's most iconic work — the quintessential Bolshoi. Prominent dance critic Clive Barnes called it "the most successful Soviet ballet since Romeo and

Juliet." In April, Spartacus was streamed by the Bolshoi Ballet part of the company's online season, which also included Le Corsaire, The Hero of Our Time, The Bright Stream, and Don Quixote."



Spartacus, Crassus — Vladislav Lantratov
Photo by Natalia Voronova / [Fjord Review](#)

Azarii Plisetsky resumed his series of interviews with European broadcasting companies.

"Dancer, choreographer and ballet-master ... lives in Switzerland. He was born in 1937 and after his father's execution spent first three years of his life with his mother in Butyrka prison, then in Akmolinsk Camp for High Traitors' Wives and on compulsory settlement in Chimkent. He returned to Moscow in 1941 He joined the Bolshoi Ballet School in 1956. He achieved being employed at the Bolshoi Theatre although its administration thought that "there were too many Plisetskys already." We talked to Azarii about his lucky fate in art, about the most dramatic twists of this fate, about three

aspects of his creative career,” — Karina Arzumano of [Radio Svoboda](#) (Flights On Stage And In Real Life)



Alicia Alonso and the Bolshoi soloist Azarii Plisetsky in a scene from the ballet Carmen Suite in Moscow, 1969.

Photo by Alexander Konkov / [svoboda.org](#)

Briefly

Graduate of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program Daniil Orlov has been called the best pianist of the prestigious international competition The International Grand Prix of Romania Trophaeum Artis Cantorum. The results were announced on August 6. One of the members of the jury, who was watching the “competition” on-line, was the head of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program, Dmitry Vdovin.

[List of winners and laureates](#)

[The contest page on Facebook](#)

[The VI International Festival of the Arts of Pyotr Tchaikovsky](#) has opened in Klin. The [festival's program](#) includes the works of different arts that the composer held dear — music, drama theatre, ballet.

On August 1, the premier of the Bolshoi Theatre Denis Rodkin, soloist Eleonora Sevenard and ballet artist Alyona Lediakh took part in a Divertissement made of fragments of Tchaikovsky's ballets, which was a part of the festival (Nikolai Tsiskaridze – National Artist of the Russian Federation, art director, producer and host of the project). The concert's programme included fragments from the ballets Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker. Premier of the Mariinsky Theatre Xander Parish, prima ballerina of the Imperial Russian Ballet Theatre Lina Sheveleva, soloists of the Mariinsky Theatre Nadezhda Gonchar, Maria Khoreva, Renata Shakirova, soloists Ivan Oskorbin, Alexei Timofeyev, Merited Artist of the Russian Federation Mikhail Martynyuk, as

well as artists of Natalia Sats Children's Music Theatre took part in the concert.

[Programme of the VI International of the Arts of Pyotr Tchaikovsky](#)

The Moscow Oblast's Minister of Culture Elena Kharmalova told the publication [Snob](#) “of the nuances when working during a pandemic, of creating new cultural clusters and the image of the contemporary civil servant”. The material was made by Sergei Nikolaevich.

“// To this day not a single one of the key festivals in Moscow's adjacent areas has been cancelled. After the festival in Klin there are plans to host Igor Butman's jazz festival in the Gorkas. At the end of August – the festival New Names in Dmitrov, in September – another music festival Summer. Music. Museum. in Istra. There are many events. The next year is another anniversary – 200 years since the birth of Dostoevsky.



Malorossiyskaya Pesnia performed by Bolshoi guest soloist [Olesya Petrova](#). At the concert piano — Alexei Goribol; Music museum-reserve of Tchaikovsky in Klin, August 2 / [Facebook](#)

On August 7 the Moscow Philharmonic opened the doors of the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall for the public... The August theatre guide includes seven programmes, mainly chamber music evenings. However, the schedule will be expanded upon, — [MuzikalnoyeObozrenie](#) confidently writes.

On August 7 the concert series will be opened by Denis Matsuev and the Russian Youth Symphonic Or-

chestra under the baton of Valentina Uryupina. Matsuev was starting the philharmonic's project Home Season in March, and now he will be the first, who audiences will see. The evening's programme includes the music of Russia's greatest classic composers: Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture and Piano Concerto No 3 with Rachmaninoff's Orchestra. [The Concert's Guide](#)



Elena Vitman, Ekaterina Sergeyeva, Roman Burdenko, Nazhmiddin Mavlyanov and Ekaterina Semenchuk were the first to sing opera in Moscow after the quarantine.

Photo by Sergei Biryukov

On August 9, the Bolshoi Opera guest soloists [Ekaterina Semenchuk](#), [Nazhmiddin Mavlyanov](#) and [Roman Burdenko](#) took part in the concert performance of Pietro Mascagni's opera Cavalleria rusticana on the stage of the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, with the chorus and orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre under direction of Valery Gergiev, who performed in Moscow for the first time since quarantine.

[Programme](#)

Valery Gergiev's and the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra's concert during the 86th festival in Ravello, Italy (July 29) has left a stunning impression on the audience – reports [Orpheus](#):

"According to the newspaper [La Repubblica](#), from the very beginning of the concert – Rossi's overture to the opera Cinderella – "the Majesty of the Sound of the Mariinsky", despite the imposed sanitary restrictions, did not cease to impress. // It should be noted that the audience managed to "rip away" three encores from Gergiev – which is usually hard to do, and that the concert of the Russian Maestro – the newspaper calls him a "tsar" – will be hard to forget".

Performances in two Italian festivals – in Ravenna and Ravello on July 27 and 29 mark the first overseas outing of the Mariinsky Theatre after five months of a compulsory break.



"Valery Gergiev's and the Mariinsky Theatre's return to the villa Rufolo Belvedere was met with applause".

Ravello, July 29. Photo / [La Repubblica](#)

The Mariinsky Theatre, having postponed access to the public since March 18, has become the first amongst Russian Federal theatres to open its doors to spectators. On June 20 there were concerts which were a part of the Stars of White Nights festival. The festival has taken place annually since 1993 and is considered to be a major event in the cultural schedule of St Petersburg and Russia.

Of the opening of the historical building of Mariinsky Theatre after a four and a half month-long break due to the coronavirus pandemic restrictions reports [TASS](#).

"... The historical site will follow the same safety procedures that are followed in Mariinsky-2 and the Concert Hall, which both opened on June 20 and June 16 respectively. There is a 780 person restriction in each hall, which is two times less than maximum capacity. Viewers are seated in a checkerboard pattern. Upon entering the building, the guests will have their temperature checked with the use of specially placed thermal cameras, in the foyer and the rooms of the theatre social distancing is mandatory, as is wearing items of individual protection."

[Izvestia](#)

On August 1 the Salzburg Festival began its 100th anniversary celebration. [The programme](#) which has been changed due to the coronavirus pandemic, includes 110 performances – concerts, opera premieres and drama performances.

Richard Strauss' opera Elektra newly staged by Krzysztof Warlikowski was presented on the first day of the anniversary performances. The Chorus of the Wiener Staatsoper and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra was conducted by Franz Welser-Möst.

[Video report by Euronews](#) (01'05"):

"Two operas on the opening day, major concerts – despite the recent trend of cancelling cultural events,

it was decided to continue the artists' performances in Mozart's motherland with no social distancing, with full orchestras. However, all theatres of the festival will remain only half full."

[Video on YouTube](#)

[Website of the Russian Society of Salzburg Festival's Friends](#)

[Irish Times](#)



"The Salzburg Festival challenges coronavirus"

Report on the festival's opening [ArgumentiNedeli](#) and other national media

"The administration of the Astrakhan Opera Ballet Theatre has presented the new director of the ballet company to journalists. The job was given to the national artist of Russia, premier of the Bolshoi Theatre Dmitry Gudanov" — [ClassicalMusicNews.Ru](#) referring to the [theatre's press office](#).



Dmitry Gudanov was presented to the Astrakhan ballet company as their new director.

Photo / [Facebook of the Astrakhan Theatre](#)

Orpheus celebrated 130 years since the birth of Erich Kleiber in the programme Concert Hall. Keeper of Mahler's Tradition, Erich Kleiber won the hearts of both the conservative and progressive audiences with his interpretations of the operas of Mozart, Verdi, Strauss,

Weber, Wagner, as well as his stagings of the contemporary operas of his time: Krenek's *Die Zwinburg*, Berg's *Wozzeck*, Milhaud's *Christophe Colomb*, Janáček's *Jenůfa*, Prokofiev's *Love to the Three Oranges*, Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*.

Birthdays

June 26 — ballerina, ballet master, a prominent dance tutor, author of the book *Classical Dance Guidelines* (1934) Agrippina Vaganova (1879-1951)

June 26 — pianist, Merited Artist of Russia Alexei Goribol

June 26 — choreographer Edward Clug In the 243 season he staged the ballet *Petrushka* for the Bolshoi Ballet, and was to stage the ballet *Master and Margarita* to music by Shostakovich and Shnitke in this season, in May 2020.

June 30 — ballet dancer, choreographer Yuri Smekalov

July 2 — Konstantin Shushakov, the Bolshoi opera soloist

July 3 — Denis Rodkin, principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet — 30th birthday



Denis Rodkin. Photo by Natalia Voronova

July 3 — opera and chamber bass, mentor, National Artist of the USSR Mark Reizen (1895-1992); in 1930-1954 — Bolshoi Opera soloist (sang up until 1985)

July 4 — opera singer (bass), National Artist of the USSR Alexander Pirogov (1899-1964.) Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1924-1955.

June 5 — conductor, National Artist of the Russia Alexander Lazarev — 75th birthday In 1987-1995 — chief conductor and artistic director of the Bolshoi



Maestro Alexander Lazarev

July 6 — opera singer (dramatic mezzo soprano, National Artist of the USSR Tamara Sinyavskaya

July 6 — opera singer, National Artist of Russia Tatiana Erastova, in 1977-2017 — the Bolshoi Opera soloist

July 6 — Bolshoi Opera soloist Albina Latipova

July 7 — opera singer, National Artist of USSR Elena Obraztsova (1939-2015)



Elena Obraztsova at the Bolshoi Historic Stage

July 9 — ballet dancer, National Artist of Russia Dmitry Gudanov 1998-2004 — Bolshoi Ballet soloist, 2004-2017 — Bolshoi Ballet principal, new head of the ballet company of Astrakhan Opera Ballet

June 10 — singer (tenore leggero), tutor, National Artist of the USSR Sergei Lemeshev (1902-1977); in 1931-1957 — Bolshoi Opera soloist

July 12 — opera singer Olga Kulchinskaya (2013-2014 — Bolshoi YOP student, in 2014-2017 — Bolshoi Opera soloist)



Olga Kulchinskaya as Musetta (La Bohème, the Bolshoi Theatre) Photo by Damir Yusupov

July 13 — ballet tutor, choreographer Azari Plistesky

July 13 — ballerina Diana Vishneva, prima ballerina of Mariinsky Theatre (since 1996) and American Ballet Theatre (2005-2017).

July 18 — opera singer (baritone), Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1963-2001, National Artist of the USSR Yuri Mazurok (1931-2006)

July 19 — leading soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet, Merited Artist of Russia Anastasia Goryacheva — anniversary



Anastasia Goryacheva as Tatiana, Onegin

July 19 — ballerina, mentor, National Artist of the USSR Natalia Bessmertnova (1941-2008)

July 20 — Bolshoi ballet prima (working under contract), National Artist of Russia Maria Alexandrova

July 20 — Bolshoi principal dancer, Merited Artist of Russia Alexander Volchkov

July 20 — member of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program (baritone) Rauf Timergazin

July 20 — choreographer, Bolshoi Ballet ex-principal Yuri Possokhov; winner of Benois de la Danse for choreography of Nureyev (2018), Golden Mask for the Best Choreographer's Work (2019)



Yuri Possokhov

July 20 — ballet dancer, tutor, ballet master director, Merited Artist of Russia Yuri Burlaka, the Bolshoi Ballet artistic director in 2009-2011; since 2017 - chief ballet master of Samara Ballet.

July 21 — Bolshoi Opera soloist Elena Novak

July 22 — Bolshoi Opera soloist, Merited Artist of Russia Irina Rubtsova.

July 22 — choreographer, ballet-master, National Artist of Russia, artistic director of the St Petersburg State Ballet Theatre Boris Eifman

July 23 — Bolshoi Ballet firsts soloist Anastasia Meskova

July 27 — Bolshoi conductor (since 1960) National Artist of the RSFSR Algis Zuraitis (1928-1998)

July 27 — ballet dancer, mentor, National Artist of the USSR Maris Liepa (1936-1989)

July 27 — ballerina, tutor, silent-film actress Vera Karalli (1889-1972)

July 27 — outstanding ballerina and choreographer Pina Bausch (1940-2009) — 80th anniversary of her birth

July 29 — ballerina, Merited Artist of Russia Svetlana Lunkina, prima of the Bolshoi in 1997-2013, since 2013 dances with Canada National Ballet.

July 31 — ballerina, mentor, Merited Artist of the RSFSR Irina Tikhomirnova (1917-1984)

August 1 — ballet dancer, ballet master Stanislav Vlasov (1933-2017). Danced at the Bolshoi in 1951-1971;



Pina Bausch

in 1962 staged the revival of the ballet Firebird by Igor Stravinsky at the Bolshoi.



Stanislav Vlasov and Lyudmila Vlasova in The Firebird

August 1 — headmaster of the Bolshoi Theatre School in Joinville Pavel Kazaryan

August 3 — chief chorus master of the Bolshoi, National Artist of Russia Valery Borisov – 70th birthday

August 3 — ballet dancer, mentor, National Artist of the USSR Vyacheslav Gordeev (in 1995-1997 artistic director of the Bolshoi Ballet)

August 3 — Bolshoi Opera soloist Anna Nechaeva (soprano)

August 4 — Ballerina, Merited Artist of the RSFSR tutor Maria Reizen (1892-1969)

August 5 — conductor, tutor, professor, artistic director and chief conductor of Tchaikovsky Grand Orchestra since 1974, National Artist of the USSR Vladimir Fedoseyev

August 6 — ballet dancer, mentor, Merited Artist of the RSFSR German Sitnikov, Bolshoi Ballet soloist in 1951–1973

August 9 — dancer and choreographer Leo Massine. In 1915-1921 one of the main choreographers of Russian Seasons.

August 13 — National Artist of Russia, opera singer (contralto, mezzo soprano), Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1960-1982, professor Valentina Levko (1926-2018).

August 13 — Bolshoi Opera soloist (since 2008), National Artist of Azerbaijan baritone Elchin Azizov — 45.



Bolshoi Opera soloist Elchin Azizov marked his anniversary on August 13. — In the costume of Rodrigo, Marquis of Posa, after singing the part in the last performance series of Verdi's Don Carlo in the 244 season, with Yusif Eivazov (the title role); the Historic Stage, December 19, 2019 / Instagram

August 14 — conductor of the Bolshoi, Merited Artist of Russia Pavel Sorokin



Maestro Pavel Sorokin

August 15 — Bolshoi Ballet soloist Ana Turazashvili

August 16 — Bolshoi opera soloist bass Valery Gilmanov

August 18 — outstanding choreographer, reformer, tutor, ballet-master of the Bolshoi in 1902-1924, remarkable artist and photographer, Merited Artist of Imperial theatres Alexander Gorsky (1871-1924)



Alexander Gorsky Photo / MBA

August 21 — prima ballerina, classic ballet tutor, Merited Artist of the RSFSR Elena Ryabinkina