

A Symphony Night took place at Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow on May 18. **Lucas Debargue** (piano) and **Symphony Orchestra of Bolshoi Theatre of Russia**, conductor — the Bolshoi music director and chief conductor **Tugan Sokhiev** - performed *Concerto No. 1 for piano and orchestra in E-flat major* by Ferenc Liszt and *Symphony No. 6 in A minor* ("Tragische") by Gustav Mahler.



Lucas Debargue, Tugan Sokhiev and the Bolshoi Orchestra at Tchaikovsky Hall on May 18. Photo by Pavel Rychkov



- May 25 and 26, the New Stage - the Bolshoi together with MuzArts company presented *Postscript* a night of contemporary choreography.

Leading artists of the Bolshoi Ballet took part in the performance. Ekaterina Krysanova, Olga Smirnova (in three numbers), Anastasia Stashkevich, Anastasia Denisova, Artemy Belyakov, Vyacheslav Lopatin, Denis Savin, Jacopo Tissi, Artur Mkrtchyan.

The programme included works by famous choreographers who define the "face" of modern ballet in many ways. The evening opened with the Russian premiere of *McGregor+Mugler*, a combination of Wayne McGregor's choreography and costumes by "extreme" couturier Thierry Mugler (music by Holly Herndon and Nils Frahm with the participation of artificial intelligence) - the premiere of this ballet staged especially for Bolshoi prima Olga Smirnova took place in 2019 at London Coliseum.

The programme also included the Russian premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's ballet *Souvenir d'un lieu cher* to the music of the same-name pieces for violin and piano by Tchaikovsky, *The Faun* by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui to music by Claude Debussy and Nitin Sawhney (the premiere of the

Russian production took place in 2018 at the Bolshoi as part of the gala evening *A Play for Him*) and *Postscript*, directed by Sol Léon and Paul Lightfoot for the Dutch company



Olga Smirnova in the main role of Wayne McGregor's *McGregor+Mugler* (Russian premiere), sets and costumes by Thierry Mugler (photo / MuzArts.)



Curtain calls after the evening of modern choreography *Postscript*, July 26. Photo by Marina Milverton

NTD2, music by Philip Glass. Violin – Anna Yanovskaya, piano – Alexei Melentiev.

Anticipating *Postscript* — see more  
[See more](#)

• May 27 and 31, the Historic Stage - the traditional graduation [performance](#) of Moscow State Academy of Choreography.

The academy graduation concert takes place annually at the Bolshoi Theatre. Graduates perform well-known



The Waltz and Adagio of Aurora and Foreign Princes from *The Sleeping Beauty*. The Historic Stage, May 27.  
Photo by Katerina Novikova

fragments from outstanding classical productions and modern choreographic works.

There was no concert last year.

The concert of 2021 consisted of three parts. In the first part, the audience saw a classical grand pas from the ballet *Paquita* by Minkus (choreography by Marius Petipa, production and new choreographic version by Yuri Burlaka.) The second part - *Divertimento* (numbers from ballets from the classical and folkdance repertoire). The third part presented modern choreography - *Concert. Galynin* (to music by German Galynin (1922 - 1966), the Soviet composer whose work is a significant yet still underestimated phenomenon; choreography by Kirill Radev (born 1981)

The concert on the [Kultura RF website](#)

• On May 24, 19:00, an all-Russian gala dedicated to the *Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture* took place at the Bolshoi Historic Stage.

The *Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture* is timed to coincide with the *Day of Saint Cyril and Methodius*, the founders of the Old Slavonic alphabet and Church Slavonic language. The saints were honoured in tsarist Russia but the official decree on the annual holding of the *Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture* was issued in 1991. Since then, the holiday has become an annual event and is held in all cities of Russia, and since 2012 it has also been held in Russian science and culture centres abroad. This year, it is the 30<sup>th</sup> official celebration.

Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, Metropolitan of Pskov and Porkhov Tikhon (Shevkunov), Minister of Culture of Russia Olga Lyubimova attended the gala. Opera singers from the country's leading theatres performed works by Russian composers. Denis Matsuev performed the finale of Rachmaninov's *Second Concerto*. Maestro Valery Gergiev took the lead. The Bolshoi guest soloists [Hibla Gerzmava](#) (soprano) and [Vasily Ladyuk](#) (baritone); Dmitry Korchak (tenor); [Vasilisa Berzhanskaya](#) (mezzo); Polina Shamaeva (mezzo,) Russian National Youth Symphonic



[Moscow Ballet Academy](#) (photo by Mikhail Logvinov) presents its [traditional graduation concert](#) at the Bolshoi Historic Stage — May 27 and 31





An all-Russian gala dedicated to the *Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture* took place at the Bolshoi Historic Stage on May 24 / [Patriarch's Photo Service](#)



Maria Alexandrova as Mekhmene Banu, Vladislav Lantratov as Ferkhad — *A Legend of Love* by Arif Melikov, staged by Yuri Grigorovich, at the Historic Stage

Orchestra and Combined Choir (chief chorus master - Leo Kontorovich) took part in the gala.

The event was organised by the Government of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Government of Moscow, FGBUK Rosconcert, and Russian Orthodox Church.

Live broadcast of the gala from the Bolshoi Theatre on the [Russia-Kultura TV channel](#), recorded video is available on [YouTube](#)

## CURRENT EVENTS IN THE THEATRE LIFE

May 26, 28, 29 and 30, the Historic Stage — *A Legend Of Love*, the ballet by Arif Melikov, staged by Yuri Grigorovich.

The last time the renowned choreographic masterpiece of the 20th century was performed at the Bolshoi Theatre was two years ago. The Bolshoi performance on May 24, 2019 was dedicated to the memory of the composer of the music of this ballet, the outstanding Azerbaijani composer,

National Artist of the USSR Arif Melikov (September 13, 1933 - May 9, 2019).

A great heritage created by outstanding artists, the choreography by Yuri Grigorovich and sets by [Simon Virsaladze](#) returned to the Bolshoi Historic Stage in 2014, after being absent from the repertoire for five years.

[See more](#)

Casts for May 2021 — [details](#)

Conductors — Music Director - [Pavel Sorokin](#) (May 26, 28, matinee performance on May 29,) [Pavel Klinichev](#) (evening of May 29, 30)

An interview with Arif Melikov, in the Bolshoi Green Salon on the day of the premiere of the revived *Legend of Love*, available [here](#)

- June 3, 4, 5, 6 the Historic Stage – opera *Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky.

Libretto by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and Konstantin Shilovsky based on the verse novel of the same name by Alexander Pushkin

The premiere took place on May 15, 2019.

Music Director — [Tugan Sokhiev](#)

Production Director — [Yevgeny Arye](#)

Set Designer — [Simon Pastukh](#)

Costume Designer — [Galina Solovyova](#)

Lighting Designer — [Damir Ismagilov](#)

[Casts](#)



Ekaterina Morozova as Tatyana,  
Evgenia Segenyuk as Filippievna.  
Photo by Damir Yusupov

- May 22 and 23, the New Stage – one-act ballets [Etudes](#) and [Symphony in C](#).

The premiere of *Etudes* by Harald Lander (to music by Knudage Riisager after works by Carl Czerny) took place on March 19, 2017.

[Casts](#)

The capital revival of *Symphony in C* by George Balanchine to music by Georges Bizet prepared in cooperation with George Balanchine Foundation and conforming to Balanchine standards of style and technique set and provided by the Foundation.

Ballet Master - [Elyse Borne](#). The premiere was on June 13, 2019. The ballet premiered at the Bolshoi on April 21, 1999.

[Casts](#)

There were three performances of the ballets *Etudes* and *Symphony in C* within the programme [Bolshoi for Youth](#). Having been put on sale on May 19, tickets were sold out in 24 hours at a special price of 800 rubles.



Dancers and tutors after the performance  
of the [Symphony in C](#) on May 23.  
Photo from Denis Medvedev's archive

- May 28, 29, 30, the New Stage — opera [Don Pasquale](#) by Gaetano Donizetti.

Conductor - Music Director of the opera *The Idiot*, Music Director of the Polish Radio Orchestra [Michał Klauza](#) (all days)

The premiere took place on April 19, 2016.

Stage Director - [Timofey Kulyabin](#)

Set Designer - [Oleg Golovko](#),

Costume Designer - [Galya Solodovnikova](#),

Lighting Designer - [Denis Solntsev](#),

Dramaturge - [Ilya Kukhareenko](#)

[Production details](#).

[Casts](#)



Giovanni Furlanetto as Don Pasquale, Anna Aglatova  
as Norina (photo by Dmitry Yusupov.) —

opera by [Gaetano Donizetti](#) at the New Stage - May 28 - 30

- June 1, the New Stage — [La Sylphide](#) by Levenskiold, Libretto by Adolphe Nourrit and Philippo Taglioni based on Charles Nodier's tale *Trilby* (1822)

Production and new choreography by [Johan Kobborg](#)

Sets and costumes - [Peter Farmer](#)

[Production details](#)

[Casts](#).



*Sylphide* - Anastasia Goryacheva; James - Vyacheslav Lopatin.  
Photo by Lyudmila Safonova

- On June 1, *International Children's Day*, at the New Stage, the Bolshoi Theatre gave a traditional matinee performance for orphans, disabled children and children from socially disadvantaged families from Moscow and the



regions of Russia - *Sylphide* [https://www.bolshoi.ru/en/performances/234 / roles / # 20210601190000](https://www.bolshoi.ru/en/performances/234/roles/#20210601190000). All the creative teams of the Bolshoi worked at the performance for free. Forty Russian theatres gave charity performances for children. *International Children's Day* is celebrated annually. It was established in November 1949 in Paris upon the decision of the Congress of the International Democratic Federation of Women, and was first celebrated in 1950.

- May 2 and 3, the New Stage - ballet evening *Four Characters in Search of a Plot*, four one-act ballets by modern foreign choreographers —

*The Ninth Wave* by [Bryan Arias](#) to music by Glinka and Rimsky-Korsakov,

*Just* by [Simone Valastro](#) to music by David Lang,

*Fading* by [Dimo Milev](#) to music by Enrique Granados, and

*Silentium* by [Martin Chaix](#) to music by Arvo Pärt.

The premiere took place on September 10, 2020, with the support of Oleg Deripaska.

[Casts](#)



*The Ninth Wave* Ekaterina Krysanova, Vladislav Lantratov  
Photo by Natalia Voronova

- The Bolshoi Theatre is preparing the premieres of an opera and a ballet simultaneously.

June 23, the Historic Stage - opera in three acts *Mazeppa* by Tchaikovsky, libretto by Viktor Burenin based on Alexander Pushkin's poem *Poltava*.

It was staged for the first time at the Bolshoi Theatre in 1884. Subsequently, various stage versions of this work have constantly appeared in the theatre repertoire - in 1934, 1949, 1966, 1986. In the beginning of the XXI century, the production was staged by Robert Sturua at the Bolshoi Historic Stage with the sets by Georgi Aleksii-Meskhishvili, the last performance was on March 29, 2005. Fifteen years later, in March 2020, the choir, orchestra and soloists of the Bolshoi under the direction of Tugan Sokhiev presented the concert version of the opera *Mazeppa*.

Music Director – Tugan Sokhiev.

Stage Director — [Evgeny Pisarev](#)

Set Designer - [Zinovy Margolin](#)

Movement Director - [Alberts Alberts](#)

Costume Designer - [Olga Shaishmelashvili](#)

Lighting Designer - [Damir Ismagilov](#).

Chief Chorus Master - [Valery Borisov](#).

Choreographer - [Irina Kashuba](#)

There will be performances on June 24, 25, 26, 27 as well.



A rehearsal of *Mazeppa*: Movement Director Alberts Alberts, Stage Director Evgeny Pisarev, Music Director Tugan Sokhiev.  
Photo by Dmitry Yusupov.

- July 1, the New Stage - the world premiere of the ballet *The Seagull*.

Composer [Ilya Demutsky](#) wrote the music for the ballet which was specially commissioned by the Bolshoi.

Choreographer — [Yuri Possokhov](#).

Libretto by Alexander Molochnikov, Okga Khenkina.

Designer - Tom Pye.

Costume Designer - [Emma Ryott](#) (as a regular partner of choreographer Christian Spuck— the world premiere of his ballet *Orlando* with costumes by Ryott took place at the New Stage on March 24, 2021.)

Lighting Designer — David Finn

- May 26 and 28, Beethoven Hall - the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Program concert the *Evening of Italian Music*

Fragments of operas of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century were performed. The Golden Pages of Italian Operas - [concert details](#).



Yuri Possokhov rehearses the ballet *The Seagull* with music by Ilya Demutsky (photo by Elena Fetisova) - the world premiere will be at the New Stage on July 1

• May 27, Beethoven Hall — [Bolshoi Theatre Violin Ensemble Concert](#)

The programme included works by Schubert, Handel, Glazunov, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Dvořák, Sibelius, Smetana, Fauré and other composers.

Everybody Plays First Violin Here — [programme details](#).



The concert of the Bolshoi Theatre Violin Ensemble at Beethoven Hall. May 27 A still from Natalia Metelina's video / [FB](#)

• May 30, Beethoven Hall - concert of artists of the Orchestra [Music of the Last Century](#). Participants: Galina Erman and Stanislav Yaroshevsky (flute), Andrey Ykov (trumpet), Alexander Kalashkov, Kristina Avanesyan (violin),



[Music of the Last Century](#) - Mikhail Shvydkoi congratulates Andrey Ikov (trumpet) on his performance; Beethoven Hall, May 30. Photo by Natalia Vinogradova

Alexey Yanenko (viola), Boris Lifanovsky (cello), Gennady Borisov (double bass) and others.

• May 20, 21, 22, 23, the Chamber Stage - [La Périchole](#) by Jacques Offenbach.

Music Director - [Philipp Chizhevsky](#) (all days at the pulpit.)

Stage Director and Set Designer - [Philipp Grigoryan](#). [Casts](#)



[The Fair at Sorochyntsi](#) by Mussorgsky, staged by Boris Pokrovsky, at the Chamber Stage — May 27- 29

• May 27, 28, 29, the Chamber Stage — opera [The Fair at Sorochyntsi](#) by Mussorgsky.

Libretto by the composer after the novel of the same name by Nikolay Gogol. Completed version by Vissarion Shebalin.





Exhibition dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the birth of the National Artist of the USSR Natalia Bessmertnova - at the Bolshoi New Stage. Photos by Natalia Vinogradova

The premiere of [Boris Pokrovsky's](#) production (1912-2009) took place at the Chamber Theatre on June 14, 2000.

Music Director - [Lev Ossovsky](#) (1922-2012).

The revival of the production (Revival Director - [Igor Merkulov](#)) was in the Bolshoi 243 season, the first performance took place on September 22, 2018.

Revival Music Director - [Alexey Vereshchagin](#) (all days at the pulpit.)

[Casrs](#)

- An exhibition dedicated the 80th anniversary of the birth of Natalia Bessmertnova has opened at the Bolshoi New Stage. Thirty photographs from the funds of the Bolshoi Museum are presented.

The exhibition runs until July 31, 2021.

## SAD NEWS

**Outstanding ballerina Carla Fracci died on May 27 at the age of 84.**



Carla Fracci (20 August 1936, Milan - 27 May 2021)

The Bolshoi general director Vladimir Urin and the Bolshoi company:

Moscow, 27 may 2021

We deeply mourn the passing of the outstanding, brilliant ballerina Carla Fracci. A student of Vera Volkova, Carla Fracci became not only a star of La Scala and world ballet, she became a symbol of romantic art of the twentieth century.

She has embodied the brightest roles of the classical ballet, shone in *Giselle*, *La Sylphide*, and as Odette/Odille in *Swan Lake*. She was granted genuine creative longevity. Until very recently, enthusiastic audiences could see Carla Fracci on the stage of Teatro dell'Opera de Roma. Carla Fracci often visited Russia, performed and was friends with many Russian artists. Her life was completely devoted to art.

Always in white, it seemed, she was alien to the pressure of daily routine - grace, airiness, dreams - these were her elements.

Today, on this warm May day, when lilacs bloom in Moscow, with pain and sadness in our hearts we say goodbye to Carla Fracci, a great ballerina who managed to convey to millions of viewers the love of the high poetry of classical dance.

Vladimir Urin, Makhar Vaziev, Olga Chenchikova, and all the Bolshoi Theatre.

Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet Makhar Vaziev gave a comment to the [Kultura channel](#): "A person always longs for something true, not a fake, but purity. Purity is when there is a real talent. She was just a real bright talent, so Carla Fracci certainly entered the history of world ballet, well, as an individual planet."

National Artist of the USSR Vladimir Vasiliev: "For her, the art of dance was a religion. She came to the theatre as to a temple. And she committed herself entirely, completely, to her profession. She was a great actress, there was always a mystery and reticence about her, when I feel that behind

the actor there is a huge gut, too, which has not been fully expressed. I never wondered whether she was the first or second ballerina in Italy, for me she is the only and unique, and I am happy to have danced on the same stage with her."

National Artist of the USSR Lyudmila Semenyaka: "For me, Fracci is a symbol of a ballerina who seems to step over the century. She was the only one with such a magical sense of style. And her appearance, it is so mesmerising, truly beautiful, as if she came from an engraving. She will forever remain the ideal dancer of romantic style. There is no one like her."

The [Italian newswire ASKA](#) News presents a video interview (1:40) with "Jacopo Tissi, principal soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, under the guidance of Makhar Vaziev, and the first Italian in history to join the company of the legendary Moscow theatre." He calls Cara Fracci an "inspiration." He says, "I met Carla Fracci when I was very young, when I was still in the Academy of the Teatro alla Scala. And then I had the good fortune and the honour of meeting her again along my path. The last time was when we returned with the Bolshoi to Teatro alla Scala (July 2018)."

Here are some references to Russian media:

[Kultura](#)

[NTV](#)

[RT](#)

[Govorit Moskva](#)

**Violetta Prokhorova (Violette Alvin), the legendary Soviet and English ballerina, teacher and film actress has died in Naples at the age of 96.**

Violetta Prokhorova was born in Moscow. In 1942 she graduated from the ballet school of the Bolshoi Theatre (class of Maria Kozhukhova). Her career began with roles in such ballets as *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote* and *The Fountain of Bakhchisarai* at Tashkent State Opera and Ballet Theatre.

In 1944-1945 she danced at the Bolshoi; in 1945-1946 - at Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre. Violetta Prokhorova married the British diplomat Harold Alvin, who worked in Moscow, and in 1946 left for England with her husband.

From 1951 to 1956 she was prima of Sadler's Wells Theatre (now the Royal English Ballet).

Prokhorova moved to Italy with her second husband who was Italian and for some time performed at Teatro alla Scala. She also directed the ballet company of Teatro di San Carlo. In 1986, The Times called Alvin "Margot Fonteyn's only rival."



Violetta Prokhorova / Violet Alvin (photo of 2015) - November 3, 1924, Moscow - May 27, 2021, Vico Equense, Naples

Violetta Prokhorova in the documentary Lucho Dalla and Sorrento - [Places of the Soul](#) (2015) on [YouTube](#).

Prokhorova's passing is reported by:

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Izvestia](#)

[Moskovsky Komsomoletz](#)

[Argementy Nedeli](#)

[Napoli Today](#)

[Sorrento Press](#)

[Positano News](#)

and other media.

## RUSSIAN MEDIA

[Rossia-Kultura TV channel](#) showed the programme Sati. Entertaining Classics... With Dmitry Vdovin. "The guests of Sati Spivakova are the head of the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Program Dmitry Vdovin and his students.

He is one of the best teachers in our country. His students win the most prestigious competitions and sing on the stages of the world's major theatres. The talk show host ... talks about the secrets of pedagogical skills with the guru of Russian vocal teaching."

- Media actively cover the premiere of the modern choreography programme *Postscript* shown at the Bolshoi New Stage on May 25 and 26.

The Bolshoi prima Olga Smirnova gave an interview to the Main Role programme on [Kultura channel](#) - May 25. Presenter - Yulian Makarov.

The ballerina speaks not only about the evening of modern ballet - in her interview, she pays much attention to the recent premiere of the ballet *Orlando* staged by Christian Spuck. One can see the ballet at the New Stage on June 19 and 20.





Sati. Entertaining Classics ... With Dmitry Vdovin on [Rossia-K](#)

• [Rossia-Kultura TV channel](#) showed the programme Novosti Kultury with Vladislav Flyarkovsky on May 29:

"A ballet programme of contemporary choreographers was presented at the Bolshoi New Stage.

Three of the four ballets shown, I note again, were staged for Olga Smirnova. The first one by choreographer McGregor, danced in costumes by Mugler, was indeed the most spectacular. It impressed the audience and angered ballet critics: what is good for the catwalk, they write, looks flat and narrow-minded glamour on stage. Yet there were no complaints about Smirnova. She really copes with any form, she works with objects. In the recently staged ballet *Orlando* she hovers over the stage with an album in one hand and a quill in the other, and then changes such a number of costumes, both tight-fitting and loose, as one seldom sees in a drama theatre.

We talked in the dressing room. See the video for details".

• The *Postscript* programme, which brought together "the most famous choreographers of our time and the best artists of the Bolshoi Ballet / ... / became the highlight of the entire Russian ballet season," says Tatiana Kuznetsova. [Kommersant newspaper](#) publishes an article Choreographers of All Countries, Unite - "*Postscript* presented a whole

programme of Russian premieres and star choreographers, each of them can be an honour to any theatre."

• [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) offers a review by Anna Galayda, Dances for the Prima.

/... / "*The Faun* by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui has been successfully treading world stages since 2009 and looks significant for Vyacheslav Lopatin and Anastasia Stashkevich. /... / Iconic classics "in the main production" appear here as flowing substances entwining each other like vines and fluid like water.

The finale of the evening was the performance that gave the name to the entire programme - *Postscript* staged for the Netherlands Dance Theatre II back in 2005. This is also a work of the duo Léon -Lightfoot, recognisable without a signature: /... / This style, infinitely distant from the Bolshoi's traditional productions, looks native to Ekaterina Krysanova, Denis Savin, Vyacheslav Lopatin, and Olga Smirnova and Artemy Belyakov who embody it successfully."

• [InStyle magazine](#) publishes a playlist of the week: music for a relaxing weekend from prima ballerina Olga Smirnova, and a selection of photos of the ballerina as well.

[Muzykalnoye Obozrenie.](#)

[Orpheus](#)

[Kultura newspaper](#)

and other media.

• MuzArts founder Yuri Baranov (Bolshoi Ballet former soloist) spoke in his interview with SPEAR'S Russia about why the Bolshoi supports MuzArts, how to find sponsors for ballet projects and what makes the *Postscript* programme unique.

• The programme Ticket to Bolshoi (05.21.21) dedicated to the premiere of the opera *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini is available for viewing on the Bolshoi's official [YouTube](#) channel. "What new does the director want to find in a well-known plot? Why is it important to stage *Tosca* right now and how do opera artists prepare for the premiere? The answers to these questions are in the new film."



Olga Smirnova in the Main Role programme at [Kultura channel](#)



Ballerina Olga Smirnova - about the *Postscript* programme at the Bolshoi – Novosti Kultury with Vladislav Flyarkovsky

• [Kommersant](#) publishes a large conversation between Tatiana Kuznetsova and Alexei Ratmanský about his work on the reconstruction of the ballet *La Fille du Pharaon*. /.../

"... I adore Lacotte's *La Fille du Pharaon* and, when working in Moscow, I watched this performance with great pleasure - such a deposit of jewels! Yet this is Lacotte's original choreography, although there are some old fragments there. At the Mariinsky, the performance will be completely different, and the style of dancing, too. But the storyline, of course, will stay the same."

/... / "... The project *Postscript* at the Bolshoi New Stage includes your *Souvenir d'un lieu cher*. Tell us about this production, please."

"This ballet was staged in Amsterdam in 2012 for the Netherlands National Ballet. It lasts 14-15 minutes, with four performers, Tchaikovsky's music orchestrated by Glazunov. /... / This is an emotional story. And not even quite a story, but just a dance for four. But the dancers must show the whole range of feelings in a short time, as in a grand ballet."

/... / "In the spring of 2022, the Bolshoi Theatre announced the world premiere of your two-act ballet *The Art of the Fugue* to music by Johann Sebastian Bach. /... / Will it be a non-narrative ballet?"

/... / "Everything is in progress. /... / I share the generally accepted opinion that there is no such thing as purely non-narrative ballets."

"Why did you choose the non-narrative full-scale Bach specifically for Moscow which adores ballet stories, and for the Bolshoi where they love so much to act?"

"In my opinion, in Moscow, they love to dance. And they know how." ("You move your shoulder in the room and the artists have already understood".)



Alexei Ratmanský told Tatiana Kuznetsova about his upcoming production at the Bolshoi Theatre.

Photo by Mikhail Vilchuk / [Kommersant](#)

• On May 28, a special broadcast of the ballet *La Bayadère* from the Bolshoi Theatre took place at the Oktyabr Cinema Center. The KARO.Art project and the Bolshoi Ballet in Cinema by TheaterHD present the ballet *La Bayadère* to music by Minkus, choreography by Petipa, revised by Grigorovich, with Nikolai Sharonov's sets and costumes from the Bolshoi stage.

Main roles: Olga Smirnova, Artemy Belyakov, Olga Marchenkova.

A meeting with the Bolshoi prima Olga Smirnova and the Bolshoi principal Artemy Belyakov took place after the broadcast.

On May 30, viewers from 45 cities of Russia saw one of the greatest ballets of the world classical repertoire. Broadcast schedule is available on the [website](#)

• [Vechernyaya Moskva](#) has gathered summer theatre premieres in an article, *Mazeppa* is among the most anticipated ones. "On June 23, the premiere of the opera *Mazeppa* (12+) will take place at on the Bolshoi Historic Stage. The opera was staged by director Yevgeny Pisarev. Libretto by Victor Burenin based on the poem *Poltava* by Alexander Pushkin."

• The Bolshoi Theatre will resume its tour in Vladimir Region in July. The performance under the direction of the theatre's chief conductor and music director Tugan Sokhiev will take place on July 3 in Dobrograd. [Orpheus Radio](#) reports referring to TASS. The programme includes popular classical works. The concert will take place in an open area at a summer theatre located on a lake surrounded by a pine forest. The audience capacity is about 2.5 thousand people. This will be the company's third tour in the region. Last year the concert was cancelled due to the pandemic.



This year, the Bolshoi's traditional tour in [Dobrograd](#) will take place on July 3.

• The graduation gala of the Moscow Ballet Academy at the Bolshoi Historic Stage in a report by Elena Voroshilova on [Kultura channel](#).

The Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Olga Lyubimova says that the Moscow Ballet Academy was awarded the Diploma of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan "For the development of cultural exchange between Japan and Russia through ballet art": "This, of course, was also very honourable and long-awaited award. We know how they love and appreciate Russian ballet in Japan, how they love, know and appreciate the Bolshoi Theatre."

"The Academy rector Marina Leonova manages the administration three more branches. And students of her



own course. Six of her seven students joined the Bolshoi Ballet. "It is very difficult for children, but we decided on this graduation concert which we absolutely need. We need to take a step forward," said Leonova."

- Alexander Molochnikov stages the ballet *The Seagull* at the Bolshoi Theatre. The world premiere will be on July 1. The [Teatral Online](#) publication reports

The music for the ballet was created by Ilya Demutsky, and the choreographer of the new production is Yuri Possokhov (he staged *A Hero of Our Time* and *Nureyev* with Kirill Serebrennikov). /... / As a reminder, Alexander Molochnikov's cooperation with the Bolshoi Theatre began with the Young Artists Opera Program Cantata Lab. which took place at Beethoven Hall of the Bolshoi. The result of participation in the laboratory was the opera *Telephone. The Medium* which was included in the repertoire of Pokrovsky Chamber Stage."

- On the eve of the world premiere of *The Seagull* ballet at the Bolshoi, the Italian fashion brand Boggi Milano captured Merited Artist of Russia Artem Ovcharenko as Konstantin Treplev in a special photo project presenting a new collection of clothes in the context of ballet aesthetics. [Photos](#) were created by photographer Egor Berladin.



Artem Ovcharenko in the ballet photo session by Boggi Milano

- The online publication [Dagestanskaya Pravda](#) published an interview with Elmira Karakhanova. The soloist of the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Program talks about her participation in the second international vocal competition of Elena Obraztsova Foundation - *Jose Carreras Grand Prix*.

This year the finale was held as a concert in the Zaryadye Concert Hall. There I sighed with relief and sang the

programme with a little bit of positive excitement. For me, the larger the hall, the concert venue, the more people sit there - the easier, quieter, freer, happier I feel. /.../"



The YOP soloist Elmira Karakhanova and Bolshoi guest conductor Timur Zangiev after their performance at Zaryadye. Photo/ The singer's Instagram

- The media continue to talk about the book *Everyday Life of the Bolshoi Theatre from Fyodor Chaliapin to Maya Plisetskaya*.

"Alexander Vaskin knows how the meme "Space rockets roam the Bolshoi Theatre" appeared, why the Bolshoi artists stuffed their suitcases with salt when going on foreign tours, and why the Lemeshists threw a broom on the stage. The write told [Izvestia](#) about this."



Writer Alexander Vaskin — about the Golden Age of the Bolshoi/[Izvestia](#)

The Bolshoi Theatre took first place in terms of the number of mentions in the media in April.

The rating was made by the [Medialogia company](#).

The Mariinsky came second. The Sovremennik Theatre took the third place.

## INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

- An article from the French daily [newspaper La Croix](#) is available in full on [InoSMI website](#), titled Despite the Covid, the Bolshoi Thinks Big.

Inviting European directors, the Bolshoi even performs premieres. At the Bolshoi, European directors are smiling again. Singers, dancers, musicians and... spectators meet every evening. "Theatrical life continues despite the Covid. Far from closed Western theatres, Moscow is becoming the world capital of culture!" says Hans-Joachim Frey, the German director on the evening of a premiere in early May at the Bolshoi. "In one of the three halls of the flagship theatre in Moscow, he had just presented *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Weisse Rose*, two one-act operas, hard, beautiful and strong performances for the celebrations of the end of the Second World War. "It's not always easy with the sanitary restrictions. But, here, we are happy to be able to work", confides Hans-Joachim Frey, whose show in his city of Dresden has, on the contrary, been cancelled due to the pandemic.

In April 2021, the Italian Stefano Poda was in the spotlight at the Bolshoi with his impressive *Tosca* for which he created the staging and the costumes. In March, German choreographer Christian Spuck presented *Orlando*, a new ballet based on the eponymous novel by Virginia Woolf. "This season, we have ten premieres and, in total, some six hundred shows," enthuses Irina Chernomurova, project director of the prestigious Moscow stage. "For artists, it's dangerous to live too long away from the stage and the public. We prefer to continue the performances despite the problems of financial profitability and health hazards." /.../

"Like most Russian theatres, the Bolshoi manages to operate almost at full capacity. It has even just resumed its tours in the provinces. But it had to give up its tours abroad.

"One after another, our American and European partners have postponed or cancelled [the tours]. ... we preferred to put an end to the international tours until spring 2022," admits Irina Chernomurova. For the following season, she hopes to reconnect with traditions, and come on tour to Paris, Toulouse ..."

- The French online specialised opera news publication [Forum Opera](#) publishes a review by Max Yvetot of the Bolshoi's production of *Salome* giving the show three stars out of four. "The choice of Claus Guth for the production, after *La Bohème* at the Paris Opera, drew the imagination

towards the impossible. Finally, the *Salomé*, which the Bolshoi Theatre shares with the Met, is less unexpected than one might expect, less overwhelming too, although it does have some nice surprises in store." "Musically, success emerges from these white cellars, where the voice of Oliver Zwarg's Jochanaan resonates. Loose song, powerful projection, beautiful timbre, these qualities give the imprisoned prophet mystical accents, and his seductive interpretation tilts the scales towards the basement." "The Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra, under the direction of its conductor Tugan Sokhiev, keeps a cool head as the drama unfolds. No effusion or excess, the reading is intended to be precise, carefully articulated, tempering the ardour that the libretto seems to invoke. The sound of the orchestra is round, clear, the playing often virtuoso."

- [Danza Ballet](#) (Spain) announces: "The new season of the Bolshoi Ballet in cinema theatres marks the return of live broadcasts, which were suspended for more than a year due to the global pandemic. The Bolshoi Ballet presents its new season 2021/2022. The programme includes five essential ballets from the Bolshoi repertoire." The article includes the full schedule for the cinema programme.



[Danza Ballet](#) (Spain) announces Bolshoi in Cinema 2021/22

- [Culture 31](#) (France) publishes an article by Serge Chauzy. "The centenary of the death of Camille Saint-Saëns will be celebrated during the concert of the Orchestre national du Capitole on June 5. The programme of this next concert, conducted by Tugan Sokhiev, explores the lyrical, concertante and symphonic aspects of his production at the same time." "In this programme, Tugan Sokhiev reconnects with the Orchestra's affinity for the great repertoire of French music of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries."

[Culture 31](#) publishes another article by Serge Chauzy announcing performances of Tugan Sokhiev with the Orchestre du Capitole. "From May 19, the reopening of the concert halls finally gives all music lovers the hope of a return to an open and vibrant cultural and musical life. All the regional institutions working in this direction are working hard to achieve an end to the 2020-2021 season



worthy of everyone's expectations. The Orchester national du Capitole, the associations Les Grands Interprètes, Les Arts Renaissants, in particular therefore offer a set of musical events that cover a busy and tempting calendar!" ... Saturday June 12 at 8 p.m. (end of curfew!): Tugan Sokhiev and harpist Xavier de Maistre will perform a programme of Russian music: Alexandre Borodine (Overture of Prince Igor, Symphony No. 2) and Rheinhold Glière (Concerto for harp)."

The French newspaper [La Dépêche](#) du Midi announces: "The Orchester du Capitole has finally resumed its public concerts." "On June 5, Tugan Sokhiev will conduct the Capitole Orchestra in a Saint-Saëns programme (*The Yellow Princess*, *Concerto No.1 for cello*, and *Symphony No.3* with organ.) He will be back on June 12 to introduce us to *Misunderstood Russia* (Borodine and Glière)." General delegate Thierry d'Argoubet does not want to say anything about the next season, except that it will be "dense", that it will offer "a lot of original programmes" and that it will be "under the sign of travel". First concert from September 9 with Tugan Sokhiev at the desk."

- *La Bayadere* in the version by Yuri Grigorovich will be presented at [Teatro Real](#) de Madrid, which has published its plans for the next season.

The Mexican online theatre news publication [Cartelerade teatro](#) announces: "The Teatro Real de Madrid presented its 2021-2022 season lineup, which will show a journey through five centuries of music, made up of sixteen operas, three dance programmes and nine concerts, ten of them will be totally new titles." The programme will include "The National Ballet of Spain will celebrate the centenary of Antonio Ruiz Soler, with a programme composed of choreography by this mythical figure of Spanish dance. For its part, the Bolshoi Ballet will return with one of the most emblematic titles of classical dance, *La Bayadere*, in the version by Yuri Grigorovich based on the original by Marius Petipa."

[Teatro Real](#) de Madrid's plans for the season 2021 /22 (\*.pdf)

A video presentation (01'39") on [YouTube](#)

## BRIEFLY

The *All-Russian Competition of Ballet Artists and Choreographers* will be happening from June 15 to June 20 in Yaroslavl at the Millennium Concert Hall. The competition was created by the government of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. The artistic director of the competition is Yuri Grigorovich, master of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, president of the International Association of Choreographers.

[TASS:](#)

- The Novaya Opera has announced its plans for its upcoming 31 season.

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) publishes an article by Maria Babalova:

"And the most important news is that from September of 2021, the position of the main conductor at the Novaya Opera will be taken by the 35 year old Valentin Uryupin, who has earned the reputation of an intellectual and erudite." /.../ "By the laws of the repertory theatre, the line-up of the Novaya Opera will remain the same, as will the traditional *Epiphany Festival*, which the theatre has been hosting since the time of its founder, the famous conductor Evgeny Kolobov. But the festival will do without smash hits.

- Valery Gergiev and the symphonic orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre gave the final concert of the anniversary *XX Easter Festival* at the Grand Hall of Moscow Conservatory. An evening where works of Stravinsky, Prokofiev and other composers were performed, concluded the 26 day festival marathon. [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#).

- The only solo concert of Daniel Barenboim in Russia took place in Moscow on May 26, - [TASS](#) reports.

The programme of the [concert in memory of Dmitry Alexandrovich Bashkirov](#) included three sonatas by Beethoven.

The prominent conductor and pianist, six-time winner of the Grammy award performed on the stage of the Grand Hall of Moscow Conservatory with a concert dedicated to the memory of the pianist and teacher Dmitry Bashkirov (November 1, 1931, Tbilisi, - March 7, 2021, Madrid).

"For Daniel Barenboim, he was not just a master and teacher, they were tied by family relationships – the musician has been married to the daughter of Dmitry Bashkirov, another pianist, Elena Bashkirova, for over 30 years," reports [Rossiyskaya gazeta](#).



Pianist and Conductor Daniel Barenboim held a master-class for the students of the metropolitan conservatory.

On May 27, at the Beethoven Hall of the conservatory, Daniel Barenboim held a master-class for young pianists. Three pianists passed the selection. The master-class was livestreamed and also recorded by Kultura channel (Solo with Beethoven.)

- A new musical video album, recorded during the pandemic at the initiative of the young English conductor Oliver Zeffman at the reconstructed Raphael Hall of Victoria and Albert Museum in London, will be presented on June 4 on Marquee and Apple Music. The project is titled *LIVE AT THE V&A*.

Zeffman conducts music by Mozart, Pärt, Bach and Honegger performed by the orchestra of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and Viktoria Mullova, one of the outstanding violinists of our time. On the same day, an audio version of the concert will be available on these resources. The film was shot in one take to preserve a live performance atmosphere. Conductor Oliver Zeffman views digital reality not as a compulsory measure, but as a new artistic realm.

A year ago, Oliver Zeffman commissioned eight composers for new works (with one of the songs being written by Ilya Demutsky). The result was an internationally acclaimed film-opera called *Eight Songs from Isolation*.



June 4, *Live at the V&A* by conductor Oliver Zeffman at the renovated Raphael Hall of Victoria and Albert Museum in London - premiered via Marquee and Apple Music

Zeffman's project *LIVE AT THE V&A* is the subject of the Architecture of Sound programme on the Kultura radio channel (May 24). The recording of the programme is available via the [link](#).

- On May 28, Classics on Dvortsovaya gathered six of the best voices on the planet on one stage for the first time in the history of world opera galas, announced [Kommersant](#).

[There were](#) Erwin Schrott, Joseph Calleja, Charles Castronovo, Anna Goryacheva, Pretty Yende, Angel Blue, conductor - Denis Vlasenko. To become a spectator of the concert, it was enough to register on the event [website](#) and get a free ticket

[Stars of the White Nights](#) programme

[Vesti.ru](#): The Mariinsky Theatre Opens the *Stars of the White Nights Festival*.

Angel Joy Blue told the newspaper [Kommersant](#) St Petersburg about her family, her colleagues in opera, and why she is excited before her performance on the Palace Square.



Anna Goryacheva and Angel Joy Blue are getting ready to go on stage, May 28

Yekaterina Galanova, stage director, producer of *Classics on Dvortsovaya* and head of the *Dance Open* creative brand told [Nezavisimaya Gazeta](#) about how a grand show is prepared - "Producer of the Classics on Dvortsovaya gala concert reveals the secrets of the programme."

- The [Diaghilev Festival](#) returns to its traditional format. The festival will open on June 10 with the concert *The Rite of Winter 1949* by Leonid Desyatnikov, conducted by Teodor Currentzis, and will last 11 days. Besides the main events, there will be an educational programme and a festival club.



Teodor Currentzis and the musicAeterna orchestra turned the performance of Desyatnikov's *Rite of Winter 1949* into a premiere. [Photo by Alexandra Muravyova](#).



On May 25, Teodor Currentzis, the choir and orchestra of musicAeterna and soloists Agnieszka Adamchak and Andrei Nemzer performed the monumental concert opus *The Rite of Winter 1949* by Desyatnikov at Zaryadye Concert Hall in Moscow, preceded by the Richard Strauss' poem *Tod und Verklärung*. [Kommersant](#):

- The Union of Composers of Russia, with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, is launching a programme of commissioning of new works by Russian composers *Notes and Quotas*, which is designed to connect composers and performers with each other and give life to new compositions. - [TASS](#) reports. Creative teams and soloists can commission a work from a composer who is a member of the Composers' Union. If the application wins, then the new composition must be performed during the following concert seasons - from January 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023, and the composer of the music will receive their fee. Composers' fees will range from 160,000 to 800,000 roubles.

- The Italian online publication [Giornale della Musica](#) reports: "The Arturo Toscanini Foundation ... organises the 11th edition of the *Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition*..." "The competition will culminate on 23 October 2021 with a concert open to the public at the Teatro Regio in Parma, the three finalists will conduct a Rossini duet and an act from a Verdi opera. ... The international jury will be made up of artistic directors and superintendents of some of the major theatres in the world including Irina Chernomurova (Bolshoi Theatre Moscow)."

- The General Director of the Paris National Opera, Alexander Neef, has announced the 2021/22 season. The programme was drawn up in a short time. Mr Neef started his duties ahead of schedule.

Details in [Kommersant](#) – The Paris Opera Gives Its Third Act-Warning.

"The opera's musical plans for the next season include 21 performances, eight premieres among them. The programme of concerts and the academy performances are separate. "I would like to highlight the operas created especially for the Paris Opera, and those operas without which it is impossible to imagine three and a half centuries of the history of music and dance," Mr Neef states as he outlines the direction of the programme in his opening speech.

- [La Scala di Milano](#) was one of the first in Europe to announce the opening of its new 2021/22 season. - [NEWSmuz.com](#): "At the end of the concert programme, the theatre choir ... performed the famous work by Verdi from his opera *Nabucco* – *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves*. Meanwhile, outside the Teatro alla Scala, there was a rather dense crowd of protesters who demanded that attention be paid to their everyday problems and not to give performances in the theatre."



Alexander Neef, Aurelie Dupont, Pierre Lacotte in a [video](#) about the Paris Opera's plans for the new season

- The Italian regional news publication [Il Parmense](#) publishes a report by Chiara Corradi. "Anna Maria Meo was elected president of Opera Europa, the service organisation for opera companies and opera festivals, founded in 1995. The general director of the Teatro Regio di Parma is the first Italian president of the association which has hundreds of members including La Scala, the Paris Opera, the Edinburgh Festival, the Moscow Bolshoi and the Mumbai Centre for Performing Arts."

[Notizie di Spettacolo](#) (Rome) gives the same information.

- May 29 and 30, the Natalia Sats Theatre - the premiere of the children's fairy tale opera *Little Red Riding Hood* by Cesar Cui

[Nezavisimaya Gazeta](#).

- On May 26 the 34th [Sobinov Music Festival](#) opened in Saratov, It will continue until June 6. This year it is dedicated to the 130th anniversary of the birth of Prokofiev.

"The festival programme also includes the ballets *Super Cinderella* and *The Nutcracker*", the [Vzglyad-info](#) news agency reports. — On May 29, a ballet evening took place at Saratov Drama Theatre: a gala concert and Prokofiev's one-act ballet *The Jester* premiered at the festival of contemporary choreography in Voronezh. This will be only the second show of the production in Russia. Main roles were performed by leading soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet Igor Tsvirko and the prima ballerina of the Kremlin Ballet Yekaterina Pervushina.

- The [Firma Melodiya](#) is releasing the first domestic studio recording of Britten's vocal cycle *Les Illuminations* in

digital format with lyrics by Arthur Rimbaud — reports [ClassicalMusicNews.ru](https://classicalmusicnews.ru)

The recording was made in Kiev in 1979 by singer Maria Maidachevskaya and the Kiev Chamber Orchestra conducted by Anton Sharoev. This is one of the few surviving recordings of the remarkable chamber singer with French roots and European vocal school, who performed the cycle (a rare example for the USSR) in the original language. Then, for the first time in the Soviet Union, Britten's vocal cycle of the verses of the symbolist poet was recorded. And only 42 years later Melodiya returns it to its listeners.

Booklet ([\\*.pdf](#))



Iris Vermillion, Vincent Wolfsteiner, Malin Byström and Thomas Johannes Mayer backstage after the performance of *Salome* on May 20.  
Photo by Katerina Novikova



Benjamin Britten. *Les Illuminations*, recording: 1979

• The 4th edition of the *Ildar Abdrazakov International Music Festival* opened at Bashkir Opera Ballet in Ufa on May 26. [TASS](#) reports. This year, a concert was held dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the birth of Milyausha Murtazina..

## DEBUTS

### Salome

The Swedish romantic soprano [Malin Byström](#) debuts at the Bolshoi as Salome (May 20 and 22); prominent German opera singer [Iris Vermillion](#) debuts at the Bolshoi as Herodias (May 19, 20 and 22.) See more about the guest soloists via the [link](#)

### Symphony in C.

May 22 (12:00)

Klim Efimov - the soloist in part 4

May 22 (19:00)

Ivan Poddubnyak - the soloist in part 3

Danila Khamzin - the soloist in part 4



Mikhail Lobukhin as Vizier, Alyona Kovalyova as Mekhmene Banu, David Motta Soares as Ferkhad, Jacopo Tissi as Ferkhad - debut in the main roles in *The Legend Of Love* (photo/Instagram)



**Don Pasquale**

May 29

Marco Ciaponi - debuts  
at the Bolshoi as ErnestoMarco Ciaponi  
(photo / FB) debuts  
at the Bolshoi as Ernesto  
in the opera *Don Pasquale*

# CAST ALTERATIONS

**Don Pasquale**

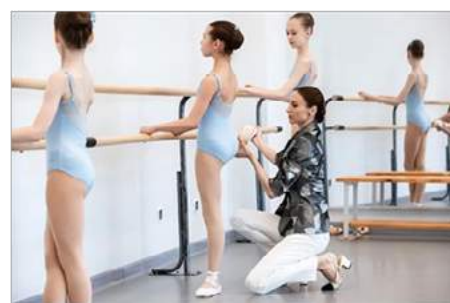
May 28 Ernesto - Ruzil Gatin (also May 30)

May 29 - Marco Ciaponi (debut)

**Trainee Group**

The Bolshoi Opera has a new trainee - soprano [Anna Shapovalova](#) (she graduated from the Rostov State Rachmaninov Conservatory with a degree in solo singing, class of Tatiana Shorluyan, in 2014; soloist of the Rostov State Musical Theatre opera company in 2014-2021.)

# SOCIAL MEDIA



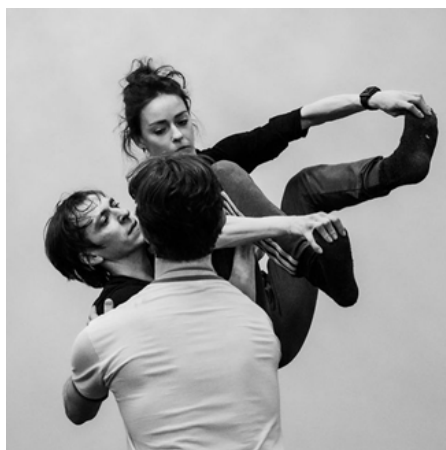
[Svetlana Zakharova](#), the founder of the Talent and Success Foundation of the Sirius Educational Centre: "I also did not succeed in everything at once. /... / Let each graduate meet their own teacher who will direct them and give the best knowledge. And we will contribute to this." – The National Artist of Russia held a lesson with students from Moscow and the Republic of Tuva and gave young artists recommendations on the technique of classical dance



55 years ago Makvala Kasrashvili debuted at the Bolshoi as Prilepa in Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*. Photo/the National Artist of the USSR's [Instagram](#)



[David Hallberg](#) and [Nataila Osipova](#) congratulated each other on their birthdays from both ends of the Commonwealth



Rehearsals of *Postscript* the focus of Batyr Annadurdyev: Vyacheslav Lopatin, [Olga Smirnova](#), [Artemy Belyakov](#), [Ekaterina Krysanova](#), Denis Savin, [Paul Lightfoot](#) and Sol Léon ...





Robert Stinnett, "Ballerinas Kyra Nijinsky (1914-1998) and Margot Fonteyn (1919-1881)", 1982 / [FB Krisztina Horeczky](#) for Ballets Russes. — "The first Dame of English ballet was born on May 18."



[Agunda Kulaeva](#): "...The sun is shining brightly."