



Newsletter

Events

The ballet **"A Hero of Our Time"** to the music by Ilya Demutsky was composed on commission from the Bolshoi Theatre and is exclusive to the repertoire of this theatre; on April 9th audiences all over the world had a chance to enjoy the live transmission from the Bolshoi.

This was the 30th cinema and on-line transmission that was also the final broadcast of the season.

Choreographer – Yuri Possokhov. Stage director, set designer and author of the libretto – Kirill Serebrennikov.

The world premiere took place on July 22nd 2015. The Bolshoi dedicated its production to the 200th birth anniversary of Lermontov that was celebrated in 2014. In 2016 "A Hero of Our Time" received the prestigious Golden Mask Award in the category of "Best Ballet Performance". On May 17th 2016 the choreographer Yuri Possokhov was awarded the Benois de la Danse prize for this production.



"Taman". Artem Ovcharenko as Pechorin,
Ekaterina Shipulina as Undine
Photo courtesy: Damir Yusupov

On the day of the transmission the cast starred:

BELA

Pechorin – Igor Tsvirko

Bela – Olga Smirnova

Kazbich – Alexander Vodopetov

Vocal solos – Svetlana Shilova and Stanislav Mostovoy

TAMAN

Pechorin – Artem Ovcharenko

Undine – Ekaterina Shipulina

Old Woman/Yanko – Vyacheslav Lopatin

Blind Boy – Georgy Gusev

PRINCESS MARY

Pechorin – Ruslan Skvortsov

Mary – Svetlana Zakharova

Vera – Kristina Kretova

Grushnitsky – Denis Savin

Vocal solo – Nina Minasyan

Conductor – Anton Grishanin

Broadcasts of the Bolshoi productions are carried out by the theatre's permanent partners [Pathe Live](#) and BelAir Media, together with the company CoolConnections.

The list of the cinemas and the schedule of transmissions is available on our [partners' website](#).

April 6th – 9th, the Historic Stage – performances of the dramatic legend by Hector Berlioz **"La Damnation de Faust"**, staged by the German director Peter Stein. Set designer – Ferdinand Wögerbauer. Costume Designer – Nana Cecchi.

The orchestra was conducted by the Bolshoi's chief conductor and music director Tugan Sokhiev. The April series of performances starred the international casts: Faust – Arturo Chacón-Cruz/Saimir Pirgu/Nazhmiddin Mavlyanov; Marguerite – Agunda Kulueva/Justina Gringyte; Méphistophélès – Dmitry Beloselsky/Alexander Vinogradov.

The production has become an important event of the season and has been nominated for [The Golden Mask Award-2017](#).

The concert version of "La Damnation de Faust" was first performed at the Bolshoi Theatre in 1907 and then in 1921 Vyacheslav Suk conducted the performance. The opera was then performed only in the 21st century, in 2002. Conductor – Alexander Vedernikov.

More information about the history of the opera's creation is available on [the Bolshoi Theatre's website](#).

April 11th the press-conference about the XXV anniversary of the World Ballet Festival Benois de la Danse took place at the Bolshoi Theatre conference-hall. The 2017 Nominees were announced, as well as programmes of charity gala-concerts "Défilé of the Stars of Benois de la Danse and New Laureates" (May 30th) and "Stars of Benois



A photo from the Bolshoi's Facebook page

de la Danse – Laureates of the Past 25 Years” (May 31st). Yuri Grigorovich, Regina Nikiforova, Nina Kudryavtseva-Louri and Makhar Vaziev.

Benois de la Danse Festival is going to take place on the Bolshoi Theatre Historic Stage on May 30th and 31st.

The prize is known all over the world as “the Ballet Oscar”; it is awarded annually for outstanding choreographic works and achievements. The festival galas demonstrate the broad range of what has been achieved in the dance world in different countries over the previous year. The prize was established in Moscow in 1991 by the International Dance Association; the same year it was presented at the Bolshoi Theatre. The statuette was designed by Igor Ustinov, a representative of the famous Benois family.

This year the jury of the anniversary festival is headed by the permanent chairman Yuri Grigorovich and consists of laureates of the prize: Julio Bocca (artistic director of the National Ballet of Uruguay), Svetlana Zakharova (the Bolshoi Theatre prima-ballerina), Kang Sue-jin (artistic director of the Korean National Ballet), Julie Kent (artistic director of the Washington Ballet), Manuel Legris (artistic director of the Vienna State Opera Ballet) and others. For questions please contact us at +7 (916) 435-8731, rusculturepr@gmail.com

March 31st – special events marking the Day of Unity of Peoples of Russia and Belarus took place on the Bolshoi Theatre Historic Stage. There was an official ceremony and a performance of the ballet “Jewels” by George Balanchine. At the same time the official ceremony and the performance of the ballet “Le Petit Prince” by Eugene Glebov took place at the Nation-

al Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Republic of Belarus. On April 2nd 1996 the agreement about establishing the Commonwealth was signed by the presidents of Russia and Belarus in Moscow; exactly one year later the agreement establishing the Union of the two countries was signed. Since then the Day of Unity of Peoples of Russia and Belarus has been celebrated on April 2nd.

The evening closed with the performance of the ballet “Jewels” by George Balanchine. The ballet consists of three parts: “Emeralds” to the music by Gabriel Fauré, “Rubies” to the music by Igor Stravinsky and “Diamonds” to the music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

“Jewels”, the masterpiece by George Balanchine that premiered 50 years ago, in 1967, was performed on the Historic Stage from March 29th till April 2nd. At the initiative of Makhar Vaziev, Patricia Neary, the ambassador of the Balanchine Foundation, who performed all ballets of the great choreographer at the New York City Ballet, took part in the rehearsals on March 23rd – 25th. It was for Patricia Neary that Balanchine created the main role in “Rubies” in “Jewels” (1967) and “Raymonda Variations” (1961).



“Emeralds”. Ana Turazashvili and Ivan Alexeyev
Photo courtesy: Damir Yusupov

On April 2nd the Bolshoi Ballet principals Olga Smirnova and Semyon Chudin performed in the ballet “La Bayadere” by Minkus at the Mariinsky Theatre as guest soloists. The XVII International Ballet Festival “Mariinsky” is taking place in Saint Petersburg.

[The programme of the performance](#)

April 4th – the concert of the Bolshoi Orchestra musicians “Clarinet and Bassoon. Friendship and Rivalry” took place at the Beethoven Hall.

Sergei Petrov and Mikhail Mering (clarinet) together with Andrei Rudometkin (bassoon) performed pieces by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Carl Stamitz, Franz Berwald, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Igor

Frolov. The Bolshoi Theatre chamber orchestra was conducted by Mikhail Tsynman. More information about the concert is available [here](#).

April 6th – an online excursion around the Bolshoi took place as a part of the project “The Bolshoi Theatre: closer, than you think” with the help of the app VKontakte Live. Live transmissions – “stories from backstage” – allow the audience to stroll down the corridors and imperial foyers of the theatre, attend dress run-throughs and rehearsals, look into workshops and dressing rooms. Transmissions take place twice a month on [the Bolshoi’s official VK page](#).

On April 7th an excursion from the New Stage took place. The head of the Bolshoi Theatre Press Office Katerina Novikova talked about the transmission of the ballet “A Hero of Our Time” and about the preparation for this transmission.

[Master-classes of Semyon Skigin](#), an acknowledged master of accompaniment, who has been fruitfully co-operating with the Young Artists Opera Program for a long time and has worked with young artists on their concert performances, continue at the Bolshoi Theatre Young Artists Opera Program.

On April 11th and 13th he accompanied the mezzo-soprano [Daria Shkredova](#), who performed “Les pleurs des femmes” by Ferencz Liszt on poem by Karolina Pavlova in the concert “Richard Strauss. Ferencz Liszt”.

April 12th – 14th – performances of the ballet “The Taming of the Shrew”, choreographed by Jean-Christophe Maillot to the music by Dmitri Shostakovich and based on the play by William Shakespeare took place on the New Stage. On April 12th the first performance of the project “Bolshoi for the Young!” took place: young people aged 16 – 25 could buy tickets for the performance at special affordable prices.

Music director – Igor Dronov.

The ballet was one of the brightest and most highly anticipated events in the capital’s cultural life. The world premiere took place on July 4th 2014. The production won the Bolshoi three Golden Mask awards in the categories “Best Ballet Performance”, “Best Female Dancer” (Ekaterina Krysanova for the part of Katharina) and “Best Male Dancer” (Vladislav Lantratov for the part of Petruchio). During the Bolshoi Theatre guest performances in Shakespeare’s motherland the ballet had a stunning success.

The outstanding modern choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot created his own, unique version of Shakespeare’s comedy especially for the Bolshoi Theatre to the music by the great Russian composer.

More information about the creation of the ballet is available on [the Bolshoi’s website](#).

The Bolshoi Theatre has close ties with one of the leading music festivals in the world, Festival d’Aix-en-Provence.

In the summer the Bolshoi is bringing two productions to France – the concert version of Tchaikovsky’s opera “Eugene Onegin” (July 19th and 26th) and “Iolanta” by Tchaikovsky staged by Sergey Zhenovach (July 25th, 27th, 28th and 29th).

In the end of April (April 22nd, 23rd, 25th and 26th) guest performances of Festival d’Aix-en-Provence are taking place at the Bolshoi Theatre. Productions by the outstanding theatre director Katie Mitchell are going to be presented on the Bolshoi Theatre New Stage.

From 2000 till 2005 Mitchell worked as a guest director at the Royal Court Theatre (London). She has been working at the Royal National Theatre since 1994; she has been its artistic director since 2003. She has staged the following productions at this theatre: “Waves” (based on the novel by Virginia Woolf), “Attempts on Her Life” (by Martin Crimp) and “Some Trace of Her” (inspired by “The Idiot” by Fyodor Dostoevsky). Mitchell has staged productions at opera and drama theatres in Dublin, Copenhagen, Milan, New York, Stockholm and Cologne, as well as at the Salzburg Festival, etc. In 1996 her production of “The Phoenician Women” won her the Evening Standard Award for Best Director. In 2011 she received the Europe Theatre Prize for New Realities.

On April 22nd and 23rd the audience will be presented with the opera “[Written on Skin](#)” by George Benjamin. This is a co-production of Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, Netherlands Opera Amsterdam, Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. The opera premiered in 2012 in Aix-en-Provence.



A scene from the opera “Written on Skin”
Photo courtesy: Victor Paskal

On April 25th and 26th there will be a chance to see the opera "[Trauernacht](#)", the stage performance of the Johann Sebastian Bach cantatas. This is the co-production of Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam and l'Opéra national de Bordeaux.

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

Russian mass media provide extensive coverage of the broadcast of the ballet "A Hero of Our Time" to the music by Ilya Demutsky at the cinemas.

RBC. Style reports: "Yuri Possokhov was responsible for the choreography in "A Hero of Our Time", Kirill Serebrennikov was in charge of staging this ballet, and the composer Ilya Demutsky wrote the music. The result turned out to be so impressive, that the successful triumvirate has already been commissioned to create a new ballet, while "A Hero of Our Time" has received the most prestigious theatre award The Golden Mask in the category "Best Ballet Performance". This is the first time that the famous novel by Mikhail Lermontov has been told using the ballet language. The role of Pechorin is performed by different dancers in each of the ballet's three parts. This way the audience has a chance to see many different Bolshoi Theatre stars perform in one evening".

The portal also presents the [promo video](#) of the ballet.

Regional and foreign sources in Russian language also report about the transmissions. Articles have been published by the electronic portals of Bryansk, Krasnodar, Yekaterinburg and the website "[Russian Athens](#)".

[Yuga.ru](#)

[Gorodbryansk.Ru](#)

[Vestnik Kavkaza](#)

[News agency "New Day"](#), Yekaterinburg

[RIA Novosti](#): "Weekend in Moscow: the ballet "A Hero of Our Time" and the film about the Antarctic".

[Vesti.ru](#)

[UfacityNews.ru](#): "Cinemas in Ufa are presenting the world premiere of the ballet "A Hero of Our Time".

["New Day"](#): "The Bolshoi Ballet production "A Hero of Our Time" at the cinemas in Yekaterinburg".

["Vestnik Kavkaza"](#): "Citizens of Krasnodar will have a chance to see "A Hero of Our Time" at the cinema".

[ABIREG.RU](#): "This is what makes a good weekend in Voronezh according to ABIREG.RU: "Story of Love", "Chaif" [Russian rock band] and the live transmission of the ballet "A Hero of Our Time".

The Bolshoi Theatre spokeswoman Katerina No-

vikova told [TASS](#): "The Bolshoi Ballet production of "A Hero of Our Time" will be broadcast at cinemas around the world".



Katerina Novikova is interviewing the composer Ilya Demutsky during the intermission
The photo from [Masha Fomina Facebook page](#).

The website [www.kinobusiness.com](#) reports the same.

On April 9th the ballet "A Hero of Our Time" was broadcast at cinemas in 65 cities of Russia and at more than a thousand cinemas around the world. The host of the transmissions and the head of the Bolshoi Theatre Press Office Katerina Novikova talked about the Bolshoi performances having become "available to all" in her interview "A Hero of Our Time. The Bolshoi Theatre – free of charge" to [Vesti.Ru](#).

On April 22nd and 23rd the opera "Written on Skin", staged by a British director Katie Mitchell, will be presented on the Bolshoi Theatre New Stage. It is one of the must-see productions. Alexandra Borisova (["Gazeta.Ru"](#)) presents a review of theatre premieres in April.

"This is the first work of the famous theatre director Katie Mitchell for the Aix-en-Provence Festival. This is an interpretation of an ancient Provence legend that is taking place in the setting of a doll's house: there is an old-fashioned living room and the angels' dressing room on the first floor, and a modern office on the second floor, where there is a small celestial chancellery. The production is based on the opera by George Benjamin, libretto by Martin Crimp; together with the blatantly detached stage direction it can even scare the audience at times. However, Mitchell's laconic stage direction seems monotonous only at the first sight: emotional accents and powerful vocal parts will leave no one untouched".

The information agency [TASS](#) reports: on May 30th and 31st the 25th anniversary of the International Ballet Festival “Benois de la Danse” is going to take place on the Bolshoi Theatre Historic Stage with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

The information agency [InterMedia](#) also reports that “Benois de la Danse” nominees are going to be announced at the Bolshoi Theatre.

The charity Children’s Dance Festival “Svetlana” attracted mass media attention. On March 28th 2017 the festival founded by the Bolshoi Theatre prima-ballerina Svetlana Zakharova who is also the director the festival took place at the concert hall “Rossiya”. The festival was organised for the third time.

The TV channel “Russia” is planning to present the recorded transmission of the festival on May 1st.

[RIA “Territory of Culture” photo report](#)

Ekaterina Belyaeva ([newspaper “Trud”](#)) writes in her detailed review of the festival: “When you look at the dancing children that come not only from the wealthy capitals, but also from some not particularly well-off regions, you realize: ballet is still more than ballet in this country. It is a kind of a national idea”.

The newspaper [“Music Seasons”](#) quotes Irina Chernomurova in one of its headings: “God help us save the classic in the shape and form it crystallized in the 21st century”. The source continues to publish a series of interviews with the head of the Bolshoi Theatre Perspective Planning and Special Projects Department.

In this particular extract Irina Chernomurova talks about the issues connected with “reconstruction” of a ballet performance and about the current state of the English and the French ballet; she shares her thoughts about Gillen Tesmar and Marie Taglioni, Roland Petit and Maurice Bejart, Carolyn Carlson, Frederick Ashton, Kenneth MacMillan, Wayne McGregor, Christopher Wheeldon, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and John Neumeier, about ballets by Petipa and Lev Ivanov, Pierre Lacotte and Alexei Ratmanský, Sergei Vikharev and Vladimir Varnava, Leonid Lavrovsky and Yuri Grigorovich.

“Today there is tension and strain when it comes to choreography. Contemporary has had its say over the past 40 years; it has been developing actively and it turned out that today the only way out for contemporary is to shift to such forms of expression, as video, theatre, spoken texts, the so-called mixed-theatre. Generally speaking, the vocabulary that contemporary possesses does not allow it to last for as long as the

classic ballet lasts. Surprising as it might be, even any modern idea enriches and enlarges the classical ballet vocabulary. As for choreographers, there are not very many of them anywhere. One of the problems today is long stories. But this is a general problem: no one writes a letter today, it is very difficult to write long essays, and the genre of the full-length ballet is also disappearing, because it is difficult to compose a long long story. Moreover, today many are alarmed by “storytelling”. It is like it has gone out of fashion.”

The website of the Federal Georgian National-Cultural Autonomy in Russia published a long [interview](#) with People’s Artist of the USSR and the Bolshoi Theatre soloist Makvala Kasrashvili: “It is impossible to use an authoritative tone when talking to creative people; otherwise one could destroy them”.

— How are young singers selected to the opera company? Can you determine right away how talented a young person is and what kind of perspective they have in terms of developing a successful operatic career?

— It is rarely that the Bolshoi Theatre takes mature singers. We prefer to train and bring up an opera singer ourselves. A special Young Artists Opera Program has existed for more than ten years. Every year we travel and select young people not only from Russia, but also from the countries of the former Soviet Union. We choose those who are particularly remarkable in terms of their vocal and acting abilities and we bring them to our theatre. Then we teach those guys for 2-3 years. And only after this we let them on the stage. We are talking about no more than ten people per year. We have been travelling to Georgia for the past two years.

As the head of the Young Artists Opera Program Dmitry Vdovin says, he cannot imagine the Bolshoi Theatre without Georgian singers. Since I am Georgian myself, I am happy with this piety for Georgian singers. We are educating the generation that will take the place of the oldest ones and the middle ones.

On April 6th the Second International Music Festival Opera Art closed in Moscow. In between rehearsals and performances Dinara Alieva, the main organiser of the festival and a Bolshoi Theatre soloist talked to [“Izvestia”](#) reporter Natalia Vasileva. The singer talks about the geography of the festival, the surge of interest in music theatre and the repertoire that is always popular with the audience.

— What criteria do you use when you invite the participants?

— I not only work at the Bolshoi Theatre, but also often perform at opera theatre abroad. I cooperate with wonderful soloists and conductors that in many cases are almost unknown in Moscow. I wanted to present these artists to the Moscow audience and demon-

strate our joint project at least to some extent. Besides, I am trying to discover new names.



Dinara Alieva

The website [«Vogue Russia»](#) presents the video “The Bolshoi Theatre ballerina in training”. The 3’ 29”-long video is also available on [Vogue Russia Facebook page](#) Anastasia Denisova talks about herself briefly and demonstrates several exercises for stretching and strengthening the back muscles and the abs.

Press analysis:

international mass media

Local newspapers and online publications announce upcoming Bolshoi Ballet performances in local cinemas. For example the local online community news publication [Verde Independent](#) (Arizona, USA) reports “A Hero of Our Time” features music by Ilya Demutsky, choreography by Yuri Possokhov and libretto by Kirill Serebrennikov. The cast includes the Bolshoi’s principal dancers and the corps de ballet from the Bolshoi. Pechorin, a young officer, embarks on a journey across the majestic mountains of the Caucasus, on a path set by his passionate encounters. Disillusioned and careless, he inflicts pain upon himself and the women around him. “Give me everything, it is still not enough.” The story based on the larger-than-life hero Pechorin is adapted from Mikhail Lermontov’s literary masterpiece in three separate stories recounting his heartbreaking betrayals. Is Pechorin a real hero? Or is he a man like any other? “A Hero of Our Time” is a quintessentially poetical and inwardly musical work. And where there is poetry there is ballet. Three of the five novellas which make up the novel, have been chosen for the ballet – Bela, Taman, Princess Mary. And in each one of these three parts in the ballet, Pechorin

is quite different. He is changed by circumstance, age, the way in which he is presented: In Bela he is seen through the eyes of another character, while in Taman and Princess Mary, he “speaks” for himself, via the chapters of his diary. This brand new production by choreographer Yuri Possokhov is a tragic poetic journey that can only be seen at the Bolshoi.”

[SF Gate](#) (California, USA) publishes an article by Leba Hertz who announces “Bolshoi’s ‘A Hero of Our Time’ in cinemas choreographed by San Francisco Ballet’s resident choreographer and former principal dancer Yuri Possokhov. Possokhov collaborated on the ballet, with Bolshoi director Kirill Serebrennikov, who wrote the libretto. “I find it surprising no one thought of doing it before,” said Serebrennikov, in a statement released by the Bolshoi Theatre. “It is a quintessentially poetical and inwardly musical work. And where there is poetry there is ballet.”

The UK local newspaper the [Gainsborough Standard](#) (UK) announces “Bolshoi Live is back with a heroic tale live from Moscow A Hero of Our Time This brand new production by choreographer Yuri Possokhov is a tragic poetic journey that can only be seen at the Bolshoi.”

A second screening of [«An Evening of Contemporary Ballet»](#) is going to take place on Cyprus. The Cypriot daily newspaper the Cyprus Mail publishes an article Maria Gregoriou who announces “The recorded screening will showcase a one-time event from Moscow during which Bolshoi dancers performed a ballet in two acts. This ballet will bring together three short pieces by American, Danish and Russian choreographers Jerome Robbins, Harald Lander and Alexei Ratmanský.”

The online specialised Finnish culture publication [Finland Festivals](#) announces the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre’s participation in the Savonlinna Festival. “The Savonlinna Opera Festival: 30 years of significant cultural imports. Since 1987, the Savonlinna Opera Festival is annually visited also by a foreign opera troupe, and in recent summers, even two.” “This year’s visitor the Bolshoi is a visit that theatre director general Vladimir Urin believes is by no means conventional. He said “Finland’s independence and the 100th anniversary of the Festival itself mark a year gives a special touch to these appearances.” “We are not able to meet nearly all visit requests. We will accept only those invitations to visit that are important to us, above all artistically. The nearest neighbours, our friends are also a priority. “Bolshoi Theatre performances at Olavlinna 25.7. – 29.7.

The online Chilean economic news publication [Economia and Negocios Online](#) (Chile) publishes an article by Maureen Lennon Zaninovic about Marcia Haydée who will be 80 this month. Haydée heads the Santiago Ballet and she will be travelling to Moscow this month. ““Yes, in May I will receive – at the Bolshoi Theatre – the Benois de la Danse, known as the Oscar of dance. All the medals I have received in my life, the awards and nominations, I have collected them with a lot of respect and affection”.

The Italian online local news publication [Lugonotizie.it](#) publishes a report announcing that the show Svetlana Zakharova & Friends will be presented on 22 July at the Ravenna Festival 2017. “Diva, Swan, Empress: Svetlana Zakharova not only has the exquisite technique of so many wonderful dancers who take turns on the stage of Moscow and St. Petersburg, whose names are scarcely known beyond the borders of their milieu; she belongs rather to the dazzling aura of those stars already part of the collective imagination, distant yet legends dear to the public as fairytale princesses.” The show includes seven soloists from leading Russian companies: Denis Rodkin, Mikhail Lobukhin, Anastasia Stashkevich Anna Ol and Semyon Velichko.”

In brief

On April 7th an evening from the cycle “[Legends of the Bolshoi](#)” took place at the [Central House of Art Workers](#). The concert was dedicated to the People’s Artist of the USSR, State Prize Laureate and Bolshoi Theatre soloist, the professor Makvala Kasrashvili.

Numerous mass media commented on the first promo-video of the new film by Valery Todorovsky “Bolshoi” that has appeared in the Internet. This is the first feature film about ballet that has been shot in Russia.

[The video](#)

“It took them a long time to find the actress to play the main role in the film “Bolshoi”; they finally discovered her in Poland. The soloist of the Grand Theatre in Warsaw agreed to take part in the project, even though she had not had such an experience before”, – reports [the portal “Vokrug TV”](#).

On March 27th the Bolshoi Theatre artists Olga Vdovkina, Ian Godovsky, Nina Biryukova, Vera Borisenkova, Anna Zakaraya, Vlada Zakharova, Dmitry Ekaterinin, Anita Pudikova, Modest Skorodumov and Oxana Sharova performed for the children at the N.N. Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Center.

The following sources report about this event, although with some delay: the resource [mos.news](#), the

[internet-resource of Nogatino-Sadovniki](#) district and the prefecture of the [Southern administrative okrug of Moscow](#).

More details about the performance are available on the website of the Federal State Budgetary Institution [«N.N. Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Center»](#) of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation.

On April 2nd the gala-concert «FIFTY FIVE», marking the 55th birthday of Andris Liepa, took place at the Winter Theatre in Sochi. Several local mass media sources reported about this event.

“[KP Krasnodar](#)” reports: “Stars of the ballet world came together to congratulate the hero of the evening. The gala starred the People’s Artist of Russia Farukh Ruzimatov, the Mariinsky Theatre prima-ballerina Yulia Makhalina, the Bolshoi Theatre principal Mikhail Lobukhin and many others. The programme of the gala featured the audience’s favourite classical pas-de-deux (from the ballets “Don Quixote”, “Swan Lake” and “Le Corsaire”), performed by Liepa himself, modern pieces and fragments from ballet productions, staged by Andris Liepa, who was also the stage director and the MC of the gala.

The programme of the XVI season of the International ballet festival Dance Open has been announced. The festival is taking place on the Alexandrinsky Theatre main stage from April 13th till April 24th. This season is probably the brightest ever. Ekaterina Galanova, the founder and the artistic director of the forum, told Marina Ivanova (“[Izvestia](#)”) about the main events. The Dance Open artistic director also spoke about the festival’s programme, age limits, wisdom of the body and five semi-trucks of sets.

– The Bolshoi Theatre follows age restrictions very closely; I consider it to be the right thing. For example, the restriction for “The Snow Queen” is 6+. Does it mean you are not going to allow into the hall those who are younger?

– Parents know their children better and we trust them. It is important to remember, though, that all members of the audiences should be comfortable; no one should disturb other people. Of course, “The Snow Queen”, or any other ballet like this one can appeal to a little kid as well: this is a bright production with lots of magical creatures. But I would recommend to start watching productions at the age that is printed on the playbill, the only reason for that being the fact that it is not a completely entertaining show. It requires not only image sensitivity, but also intellectual participation. A little person that is mature enough to have his first philosophical ideas about the world and about the way everything works there should absolutely watch this production. We plan to continue to present performances for children, and I would be happy that at

some point we managed to make it yet another trademark of the festival. //

Over the course of 12 days two of the best regional theatre of Russia – the Yekaterinburg Theatre and the Perm Theatre – as well as two foreign companies that are very well-known all over the world – Batsheva from Israel and NDT-I from the Netherlands – are going to perform at the Alexandrinsky Theatre. Tatiana Kuznetsova (*“Kommersant”*) reports. “The main spring festival in Saint Petersburg, the 16th Dance Open, this year looks pretty impressive”. // “The most prominent Polish ballet luminary, the choreographer Krzysztof Pastor is bringing the Polish National Ballet; the gala-concert of world-famous ballet stars is going to be the traditional “cherry on the top”.

More information about the festival is available on [the Dance Open official website](#).

On April 5th the Bolshoi Theatre soloist and a People’s Artist of Russia Irina Dolzhenko gave her only solo concert in Krasnoyarsk. The singer performed fragments from such operas as “Le Nozze di Figaro” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, “Il Trovatore” and “Rigoletto” by Giuseppe Verdi, “Adriana Lecouvreur” by Francesco Cilea, “The Tsar’s Bride” by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and others. The performance was announced by [“Special Radio”](#).

On April 6th the meeting with the ballerina and People’s Artist of Russia Maria Alexandrova took place at the children’s music school named after Vano Ilyich Muradeli. This meeting was a part of the cycle of master-classes “Dialogi” that are taking place at art schools in Moscow and are open to the general public. The transmission of the meeting was available on [“Moslektoriy” website](#) from 7 p.m.

On March 30th and 31st and on April 6th premiere performances of the ballet “Paquita” took place as a part of the XVII International ballet festival “Mariinsky”. This ballet is important for the Saint Petersburg stage and is the main premiere of this year’s festival. Olesya Fialko (portal “E Vesti”) reports about the production. The Mariinsky Theatre presents a new version of the ballet “Paquita”; Petipa’s (1818-1910) choreography was reconstructed in the third act. “Paquita” was an important achievement for the famous French ballet master and for Saint Petersburg as well; it was this ballet, staged at the Saint Petersburg Bolshoi Theatre 170 years ago, in 1847, that opened the succession of Petipa’s brilliant productions in Russia”.

The programme of the festival is available [here](#).

On April 4th a creative workshop of young choreographers was presented to the audience. The recording is available on the Mariinsky Theatre [website](#).

The project “Dreamers” to the music of the French band Daft Punk was performed as a part of the workshop. This is a co-production by three choreographers, Vladimir Varnava, Ilya Zhivoy and Maxim Petrov. Festival news is also available on the official “Mariinsky” [Facebook page](#).

Costumes for “Dreamers” were created by the fashion designer Igor Chapurin. The “Izvestia” reporter talked to the designer about his impressions from this project.

– Why did you decide to work on a theatre production?

– It all started when I designed costumes for Oleg Menshikov, I mean, for three productions at the Moss-ovet Theatre. Gradually I have moved from the drama theatre to the ballet theatre. I have worked on ten productions at the Bolshoi, both as a costume designer and as a set designer. I am proud of the fact that I still remain the only Russian fashion designer that has been allowed to set foot in this temple of art. Speaking of my colleagues, only Yves Saint Laurent, Givenchy and Pierre Cardin have worked there. //

– Apart from the Mariinsky Theatre, last season you worked at the Bolshoi Theatre: in March Svetlana Zakharova wore your costumes as she presented her programme Amore on the Historic stage.

– Right, this is my previous project that I am also proud of. Svetlana Zakharova is my friend; she is one of the most wonderful ballerinas in the world. The project Amore was created for her by three choreographers from different countries. There are three mini-productions there. I am happy with the fact that it is performed at the Bolshoi Theatre; it is beautiful and emotional. The main thing is, Sveta managed to be so different in all three roles.

– Are you going to continue your cooperation with the Bolshoi Theatre?

– For me this means great happiness, honour and responsibility; therefore, I am in no hurry to do much at the theatre. The Bolshoi’s Director Vladimir Urin told me: “Igor, never try to rush anything at the theatre; your choreographer should be born, the one that you will unite with in the process of creating something, or maybe it will be your ballerina, and all of this will result in something new”. Sveta Zakharova led me to the project Amore, a wonderful impresario Sergei Danilian from New York, with whom we have worked a lot in the West, has taken me to the Mariinsky..

I am convinced that there will be a lot of choreographers and dancers I will be able to create something new with, not only at the Bolshoi Theatre, but in the whole world. I have worked on many productions in New York and Los Angeles, in Italy and in France. My

experience is vast and I am charmed by the easiness that is characteristic of my friendship with the theatre. I mean, this is friendship, but not work. //

The personality of Rudolph Nureyev is still drawing a lot of attention from the creative community. At the Bolshoi Yuri Possokhov is working on the ballet "Nureyev" (composer – Ilya Demutsky, director – Kirill Serebrennikov); the star of "The English Patient" Ralph Fiennes is about to start working on a film about the young Nureyev in July, [TASS](#) reports.

The cast will star the dancer Oleg Ivenko, the principal of the Kazan Theatre, as the famous Soviet ballet artist, along with Western actors.

Fiennes told [TASS](#): "I plan to start shooting this July. My film is about young Nureyev, a great Russian dancer, about his student years in Saint Petersburg. This is going to be the film about a strong creative personality, a man, who ought to understand himself". He added that the script was based on various biographical sources.

Fiennes also explained that his new film "is a Russian story, but it is also the story of the whole world; it will be understandable for many". He also mentioned that the movie was going to be filmed in Saint Petersburg and the cast was going to star many Russian actors. "Chulpan Khamatova is going to take part in this film, and this is a great honoir for me, – said the actor. – We would like to attract more Russian actors".

The world premiere of the opera "La Fille de neige" by Rimsky-Korsakov took place at the [Paris Opera](#) on April 15th.

Stage director and set-designer – Dmitri Tcherniakov. Conductor – Mikhail Tatarnikov.

Costume designer – Elena Zaitseva, lighting designer – Gleb Filshtinsky, video effects – Tieni Burkhalter, chorus master – José Luis Basso.

The cast: Aida Garifulina (The Snow Maiden), Maxim Paster (Tsar Berendey), Elena Manistina (Spring), Yuri Minenko (Lehl), Thomas Johannes Mayer (Misgir), Martina Serafin (Kupava), Vladimir Ognovenko (Frost), Franz Hawlata (Bermata), Vasily Gorshkov (Bakula Bobyl), Carole Wilson (Bobylikha), Vasily Efimov (Leshy), Vincent Morell (First Herald), Pierpaolo Palloni (Second Herald), Olga Oussova (Tsar's page).

The dates of the coming performances: April 15, 17, 20, 22, 25, 28, 30 and May 3.

[The promo-video on YouTube](#)

Starting from the season 2018/19 Teodor Currentzis will become the first chief conductor of SWR Symphonieorchester in Stuttgart. The orchestra, which



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was created in 2016 after the merger of two orchestras in the south of Germany, is the biggest in Europe.

The announcement on [SWR Symphonieorchester website](#) says that Currentzis is "one of the most universal and interesting conductors of his generation", whose repertoire ranges from the baroque music to avant-garde.

It is also mentioned that Currentzis has already conducted both orchestras that have merged: since 2011 he has been the chief guest conductor of SWR Symphonieorchester in Baden-Baden and Freiburg, while his cooperation with the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra started in 2009. SWR Symphonieorchester quotes the conductor, who says: "I am happy and definitely looking forward to our cooperation with the orchestra".

The first piece for the Russian maestro to conduct in this new position will be Symphony No. 9 by Bruckner. On January 18th and 19th 2018 SWR Symphonieorchester, conducted by Currentzis, will perform at the Liederhalle (Stuttgart), and on January 21st – at the Konzerthaus (Freiburg).

The Perm Opera and Ballet Theatre informed [COLTARU](#) that Currentzis will remain the artistic director of the theatre; he will also remain the director of the orchestra MusicAeterna.

[The TV channel Culture](#) project "Orchestra of the Future" will show the auditions for the All-Russian Youth Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of maestro Yuri Bashmet that took place in 2016. The auditions were taking place from May till October across Russia; the channel's film crew followed the competition process closely. The viewers will have a chance to see performances of the brightest participants and to meet members of the jury. The programmes are going on air from April 10th (TV channel "Culture"). The orchestra was founded in 2012; it is made of musicians aged 10 to 22 from 28 cities of Russia. Over the course

of 4 years the orchestra has given guest performances in Europe and in Russia; the musicians also performed at the closing ceremony of the Sochi Olympic Games.

Social networks

The posts that participants of the production “Nureyev” make in social networks demonstrate that the composer Ilya Demutsky, the choreographer Yuri Possokhov and the whole team are working on the premiere devotedly.



“Ilya D., Yuri P. and the BT artists during the rehearsal of the ballet “N.”, or, as Kharms wrote, ... we all are whistling songs”

The caption and the photo:
[Instagram katerinanovikova777](#)
 (facebook Katerina Novikova)

[Ekaterina Vladimirova](#) wrote a caption for the photo of artists on Facebook:

“I express my deepest gratitude to Vera Borisenkova, Oxana Sharova, Anita Pudikova, Anna Zakaraya, Vlada Zakharova, Nina Biryukova, Ian Godovsky, Dmitry Ekaterinin, Modest Skorodumov and Alexei Barabanov! Look how wonderful you are! How beautiful kindness and mercy makes one’s soul! Thank you! Thank you for having invited my students [of the choreography studio “VEK”] to help you in this deed of love and mercy; you help them to become wiser, kinder and more honest”.

[Enea Scala](#) uploaded a cover photo on Facebook, featuring the curtain with the title “Don Pasquale”. In



Semyon Chudin (Solor), Olga Smirnova (Nikia) and Anastasia Lukina (Shadow), Katerina Novikova, Diana Vishneva, Yuri Fateev, Sergey Vikharev and Lyudmila Kovaleva after the performance of “La Bayadere” at the Mariinsky Theatre.

Makhar Vaziev, Galina Stepanenko, Sergei Kapkov and the member of the Bolshoi Theatre Board of Trustees Roman Abramovich were in the audience hall that day. The photo from [Natasha Razina Facebook page](#)

the comments relatives and friends of the singer write about his success at the Mariinsky and quote Oscar Wilde humourously.

A funny video “From the rehearsal to the production” appeared on [YouTube](#). This is a dance improvisation by Ekaterina Krysanova (3’32”, cameraman – Alexander Volchkov).

Debuts

“A Hero of Our Time”

April 6th

David Motta Soares performed the role of Pechorin for the first time (“Bela”).

Artem Kalistratov – a mountaneer/mountaneers

“La Damnation de Faust”

April 7th

Goderdzi Janelidze performed the role of Brander for the first time.

“The Taming of the Shrew”

April 12th

Igor Tsvirko made his debut with the role of Petruccio.

“Manon Lescaut”

It is the first time that Walter Fraccaro performs the role of Chevalier Des Grieux at the Bolshoi Theatre. The cast also stars Alberto Gazale as Lescaut. Anna Nechaeva makes her debut in the title role. These singers took part in the performances on April 13th and 15th.

April 13th

Giorgi Sturua makes his debut in the role of Edmond/ Lamplighter.

Changes to the playbill

“A Hero of Our Time”. On April 8th Denis Rodkin performed the role of Pechorin in “Bela” instead of Mikhail Lobukhin.

Birthdays

April 1st – composer, pianist and conductor Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943).

April 2nd – the Bolshoi Ballet first soloist Anna Antropova.

April 2nd – a ballet dancer, a ballet master, a dance theoretician and the founder of the Institute of Choreography in Paris and the University of Dance Serge Lifar (1905-1986).

April 3rd – the Bolshoi Opera soloist Pavel Valuzhin.

April 4th – an outstanding choreographer Pierre Lacotte – 85th birthday. In the year of 2000 he staged the ballet “A Pharaoh’s Daughter” especially for the Bolshoi Ballet; in 2013 he brought to the Bolshoi’s stage the production of the ballet “Marco Spada”.

April 8th – an opera singer (lyric mezzo-soprano) and a People’s Artist of the USSR Maria Maksakova (1902-1974) – 115th anniversary.

April 14th – a ballet dancer, a ballet master, a pedagogue and a People’s Artist of Russia Yuri Klevtsov.