



May 2018

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Newsletter

May 9th – the concert on the Bolshoi Theatre Historic Stage marked the 73rd anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. There were performances by the Bolshoi Opera soloists and members of the Bolshoi Theatre Young Artists Opera Program.

Five years ago, in May 2013, we were lucky enough to record a conversation of the Bolshoi Theatre artists and Great Patriotic War veterans, the ballet dancers Elena Vanke (1925-2014), Faina Efremova-Kuznetsova (1923-2017) and Vladimir Kudryashov, who were honoured guests of the Green Living Room. The unique video is available on the official [YouTube channel](#).



Elena Vanke, Vladimir Kudryashov and Faina Efremova-Kuznetsova during the conversation from the cycle Our Veterans in the [Green Living Room](#) (recorded in 2013)

On Thursday, May 3rd, the press conference about the theatre's plans for the 243rd season took place in the Historic Stage Great Imperial Foyer. The new season will open on September 12th with the performance of the opera Boris Godunov on the Historic Stage.

The Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin, the music director and the chief conductor Tugan Sokhiev, the head of the ballet company Makhar Vaziev and the spokeswoman Katerina Novikova took part in the press conference.

“Announcing plans for a new, 243rd season, I would like to say first of all that today the repertoire of the Bolshoi Theatre includes 26 operas and 37 ballet performances,” – Urin said. “Based on these



The gala-concert on May 9th marking the 73rd anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Photo courtesy: Katerina Novikova



Makhar Vaziev, Vladimir Urin, Tugan Sokhiev and Katerina Novikova.
Photo courtesy: Mikhail Yarush

statistics, we tried to come up with a set of projects that will be implemented in the 2018/2019 season.”

The opera company will present five premieres:

September 29th 2018 – Candide by Leonard Bernstein on the Historic Stage (marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of the composer). Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev. Stage director: Alexei Franchetti.

November 3rd 2018 – The Barber of Seville by Gioacchino Rossini on the New Stage. Conductor: Pier Giorgio Morandi. Stage director: Yevgeny Pisarev.

December 12th 2018 – Il viaggio a Reims by Gioacchino Rossini on the Historic Stage. Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev. Stage director: Damiano Michieletto.

March 7th 2019 – Rusalka by Antonin Dvorak on the New Stage. Conductor: Ainars Rubikis. Stage director: Timofei Kulyabin.

May 28th 2019 – Eugene Onegin by Pyotr Tchaikovsky on the Historic Stage. Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev. Stage director: Evgeniy Arye. The performance will replace Dmitriy Tcherniakov's outstanding production, which was a part of the Bolshoi Theatre's repertoire for over twelve years. It was performed in Moscow more than 150 times; it was also shown at all major venues around the world, in France, England, Italy, Japan, China, etc.

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

November 20th 2018 – an evening of one-act ballets: Artifact by William Forsythe to the music by Eva Crossman-Hecht and Johann Sebastian Bach (Russian premiere) and Petrushka by Edward Kluge to the music of Igor Stravinsky (world premiere). The New Stage.

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

June 13th 2019 – an evening of one-act ballets The Paris Joy by Maurice Bejart to the music of Jacques Offenbach and Symphony in C by George Balanchine to the music of Georges Bizet. The New Stage.

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

November 11th, the Historic Stage – the gala concert marking the 70th anniversary of the Bolshoi Opera soloist and the People's Artist of the Russian Federation Vladimir Matorin. In addition, the Bolshoi Theatre will make a number of other memorable dates. On November 20th the performance of The Queen of Spades will be dedicated to the memory of the opera soloist, and a People's Artist of the USSR Zurab Sotkilava (1927-2017), and the gala concert on February 1st, 2019 will mark the 80th birth anniversary of the prima ballerina and a People's Artist of the USSR Ekaterina Maximova (1939-2009). The Bolshoi Theatre will continue cooperation with the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, where the orchestra and the choir will perform the music by Sergei Prokofiev, Dmitry Shostakovich, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Alexander Borodin.

The large-scale exhibition Museum and Theatre. 100 years together marking the 100th anniversary of the Bolshoi Theatre Museum will be a major exhibition project; it will be held in December 2018 – February 2019 in the New Manege.

More information is available in the [materials](#) about the press conference.

Events

May 4th, 5th and 6th (matinee performance at 2 p.m.), the Historic Stage – the second series of the premiere performances of the opera [The Queen of Spades](#) by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, libretto by Modest Tchaikovsky after the novel of the same name by Alexander Pushkin.

The production by Rimas Tuminas and maestro Tugan Sokhiev had its premiere on February 15th 2018; this is the third time the Bolshoi stages this masterpiece in the 21st century.

The production team for this new version of the opera: director, choreographer – Anželika Cholina, set designer – Adomas Jacovskis, costume designer – Maria Danilov, lightning designer – Damir Ismagilov, chief chorus master – Valery Borisov.

Several important debuts took place during May performances of [The Queen of Spades](#).

Conductor – the Bolshoi Theatre music director Tugan Sokhiev (all days).

[The casts](#)

The next performances of The Queen of Spades will take place on the Historic Stage on July 3rd, 4th and 5th.



Marat Gali (Chekalinsky), Igor Golovatenko (Yeletsky), Larisa Diadkova (The Countess), Kristian Benedikt (Herman), Anna Nechaeva (Liza), Elchin Azizov (Tomsy), Oxana Volkova (Polina) and Vyacheslav Pochapsky (Surin) at the curtain call after the performance of The Queen of Spades on May 4th.

Photo courtesy: Alexander Shvartsenshtein / [facebook](#)

May 8th and 9th, the Historic Stage – performances of the ballet [Jewels](#) by Georges Balanchine (Emeralds to music by Gabriel Fauré, Rubies to music by Igor Stravinsky, Diamonds to music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky).

The premiere at the Bolshoi Theatre took place on May 5th 2012.

Teachers-Repetiteurs: Sandra Jennings, Merrill Ashley, Paul Boos. Set designer: Alyona Pikalova. Costume designer: Elena Zaitseva.

Music director: Pavel Sorokin

The recording of the interview with the directors of the George Balanchine Foundation (the Green Living Room, 2014) is available on the [Bolshoi Theatre official YouTube channel](#). The Bolshoi Theatre spokeswoman Katerina Novikova talks to Barbara Horgan and Ellen Sorrin.

More information about the ballet and the Bolshoi Theatre production is available in the article [Jewels are like breakfast, lunch and dinner at Tiffany's](#).



Emeralds to music by Gabriel Fauré,
Jewels by George Balanchine.
Photo courtesy: Batyr Annadurdyev

May 11th and 13th, the Historic Stage – the ballet by Yuri Grigorovich [A Legend of Love](#). Music by Arif Melikov, libretto by Nazym Hikmet.

This true masterpiece of the ballet of the twentieth century was staged by Yuri Grigorovich at the Bolshoi Theatre in 1965. Svetlana Adyrkhayeva, who danced the part of Mekhmene Banu in premiere shows at the Bolshoi Theatre, as well as Maya Plisetskaya and Nina Timofeeva, who were the first ballerinas to dance this role, set the gold standard for performing this particular role.

The choreography of the ballet was revolutionary for its time: the plastique motifs of the Persian miniatures were merged with the classics, hence there was no more division into dance and pantomime, and even into classical and character dance. For more information please refer to the article on the theatre's [website](#).

This great legacy created by outstanding artists, the ballet, choreographed by Yuri Grigorovich with sets by Simon Virsaladze returned to the Historic Stage of the Bolshoi Theatre in 2014, after it had disappeared from the repertoire for five years.

Music director – Pavel Sorokin.

On May 13th the performance of the ballet *A Legend of Love*, where Svetlana Adyrkhayeva danced one of her signature roles, marked the jubilee of the People's

Artist of the USSR and the Bolshoi Theatre's ballet master-repetiteur, which she celebrated one day earlier.

Conductor – Pavel Sorokin.

[The casts](#)

On May 12th the Bolshoi Theatre marked the jubilee of Svetlana Adyrkhayeva, the famous ballerina, who performed at the theatre in 1960–88, and is now the Bolshoi's pedagogue, with the [gala-concert](#) on the Historic Stage.

The exhibition Marking the jubilee of Svetlana Adyrkhayeva, the Bolshoi Ballet's soloist and a People's Artist of the USSR, is on at the New Stage Foyer. It features photographs and pictures of the ballerina, performing main roles in different

Svetlana Adyrkhayeva talks about working with Yuri Grigorovich in the Green Living Room. The recording, made in 2013, is available on the [Bolshoi Theatre's YouTube channel](#).

Watch a fragment of the programme [A Ticket to the Bolshoi](#) (aired by the TV Channel [Russia-Culture](#) on November 29th) on YouTube for a flashback of the gala-concert in honour of the ballerina that took place on October 27th 2013.



Svetlana Adyrkhayeva as The Mistress of the Copper Mountain in *The Tale of the Stone Flower* to the music by Sergei Prokofiev. Photo/ the Bolshoi Theatre Museum

May 4th, 5th (matinee performance at noon and evening performance at 7 p.m.), the New Stage – performances of the ballet [A Hero of Our Time](#).

The ballet based on the novel by Mikhail Lermontov premiered on July 22nd, 2015. With this production the Bolshoi marked the bicentennial of the poet's birthday, celebrated in 2014. Director – Kirill Serebrennikov, choreographer – Yuri Possokhov. The composer Ilya Demutsky wrote the music on commission from the Bolshoi. A Hero of Our Time was awarded the National Theatre Prize The Golden Mask in 2016 in the category Best Ballet Performance; the choreographer Yuri Possokhov won the Prix Benois de la Danse for this ballet as well.

Costume designers – Elena Zaitseva and Kirill Serebrennikov. Music director – Anton Grishanin. Lighting designer & Video – Simon Donger.

The ballet A Hero of Our Time consists of three independent parts, based on the chapters of the novel – Bela, Taman and Princess Mary. The leading role of Pechorin is performed by different dancers in all parts.

Conductors – Anton Grishanin and Alexander Soloviev (May 5th, 7 p.m.).

[The casts](#)



Denis Rodkin (Pechorin) in the ballet A Hero of Our Time.
Photo courtesy: Damir Yusupov

On May 6th the performance of the ballet A Hero of Our Time was a part of the programme [Bolshoi for the Youth](#). The tickets for this particular show were sold on February 5th – 12th.

Tickets for performances that are shown as a part of this programme are available at special prices – 600 rubles and one hundred rubles for the less comfortable seats. They are sold only to young people of 16 to 25 years of age (upon presentation of the passport of a citizen of the Russian Federation).

More information is available in the article [A Hero of Our Time](#) on May 6th: rated 16+ but 25-.

The video that was made prior to the ballet's premiere on July 22nd 2016 is available on the [Bolshoi's official YouTube Channel](#).

Watch a fragment of the programme [A Ticket to the Bolshoi](#) (the TV Channel Russia-Culture, on air on September 25th 2015) to remind yourself about the ballet's world premiere.

The [video report](#) of the independent international TV channel NTD about the world premiere of the ballet A Hero of Our Time.

The video made in cooperation with Pathé Live for the video transmission of the performance in cinemas around the world that took place on April 9th 2017 is available on the [Bolshoi's official YouTube channel](#).

May 8th and 9th, the New Stage – the opera [The Stone Guest](#) by Alexander Dargomyzhsky, libretto by the composer after Alexander Pushkin's play of the same name. The premiere took place on March 11th 2016.

One of the most innovative operas of the second half of the 19th century was staged by Dmitry Belyanushkin; this is the director's third project at the Bolshoi Theatre (he also staged two productions that are popular with children: The Story of Kai and Gerda and The Fables of the Vixen, the Duckling and Balda). Music director – Anton Gridshanin.

More information on how the opera was created and on the production itself is available from the article [Middle Ages Thriller about the Real Love](#).

[The casts](#)

Conductor – Anton Grishanin.



Pyotr Migunov as Leporello, Sergei Radchenko as Don Juan.
Photo courtesy: Damir Yusupov

On May 12th the [Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre](#) (Bulgaria) opened its guest performances at the Bolshoi Theatre's New Stage with the performance of the national Bulgarian classic, the opera [Yana's Nine Brothers](#) by Lyubomir Pipkov.

Stage director: Plamen Kartaloff. Music director: Georges Dimitrov. Set designer: Sven Jonke. Costume designer: Stanka Vauda. Choreographer: Riolina Topalova. Chorus master: Violeta Dimitrova.

The production had its premiere at the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre on March 22nd 2018.

More information about the opera Yana's Nine Brothers by Lyubomir Pipkov (1928), the first national music drama in the history of the Bulgarian music, is available [here](#).

The guest tour of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre that has not performed at the Bolshoi Theatre since 1981 continues on the Historic and New Stages until May 23rd.



A scene from the production of Yana's Nine Brothers.
Photo courtesy: Svyatoslav Nikolov

May 13th, the New Stage – the ballet [Le Corsaire](#) to the music by Adolphe Adam.

Choreographer and lighting designer: Eldar Aliev (the chief choreographer of the Primorsky Stage of the Mariinsky Theatre since 2016). Music director: Boris Spasov. Set designer: Semyon Pastukh. Costume designer: Galina Solovyova.

The production uses the music of Cesare Pugni, Leo Delibes, Riccardo Drigo and Pyotr von Oldenburg.

The premiere at the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre took place on November 24th 2017.

Eldar Aliev talks about the creation of the production in the article [The Pirate, the Ardent Lover](#) (available on the Bolshoi's website): "This production was created by the people who had long belonged at the Bolshoi theatre – Galina Solovyova (costume designer) and Semyon Pastukh (set designer). In 2005, they worked with Alexei Ratmanský on the production of the ballet Bolt, in 2017 – with Evgeny Artyukhin in the production of the opera The Idiot. Galina Solovieva also designed costumes for Russian Seasons by Desyatnikov – Ratmanský (2008).

The Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre presents the tetralogy Der Ring des Nibelungen by Richard Wagner staged by Plamen Kartaloff.

[Das Rheingold](#) (May 18th), [Die Walküre](#) (May 19th, 5 p.m.), [Siegfried](#) (May 21st, 5 p.m.), [Götterdämmerung](#) (May 23rd, 5 p.m.).

Music director: Erich Wächter. Designer: Nikolay Panayotov. Multimedia director: Vera Petrova. Lighting



Siegfried. Forging the sword.
Photo courtesy: Victor Victorov

designers: Andrej Hajdinjak, Emil Dinkov. Chorus master: Violeta Dimitrova.

More information about staging the grand tetralogy Der Ring des Nibelungen by Richard Wagner at the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre is available in the article [Four Evenings of Wagner](#).

The article Yana's Nine Brothers, Le Corsaire and Siegfried: meeting point – the Bolshoi about the guest performances of the Bulgaria State Opera and Ballet Theatre is available on the theatre's [website](#).

[The guest performances of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre at the Bolshoi Theatre](#) (Historic reference, *.pdf)

[A Professor and an Academician Plamen Kartaloff](#) (*.pdf, on the Bolshoi's website)

On May 11th the press conference about the guest performances of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre took place at the New Stage Foyer at 4:30 p.m. The participants:

Boyko Kotzev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Russian Federation

Vladimir Urin, the Bolshoi Theatre General Director

Plamen Kartaloff, the director of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre

Vera Petrova, the deputy director of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre

Georges Dimitrov, the music director of the opera Yana's Nine Brothers

Boris Spasov, the music director of the ballet Le Corsaire

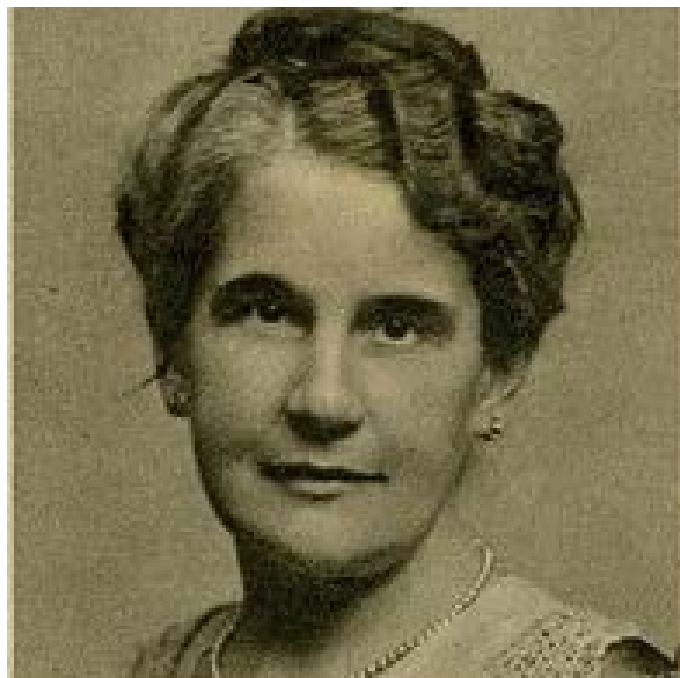
May 19th (8 p.m.) and May 20th (2 p.m.), the New Stage – guest performances of [Dayton Contemporary Dance Company](#) (DCDC, USA), marking the 50th anniversary of the company.

The programme includes 4 ballets:

Shed (2013), choreographed by Kiesha Lalama; Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder (1959, DCDC premiere 1987), choreographed by Donald McKayle; American Mo' (2015), choreographed by Crystal Michelle; This I Know For Sure . . . (2017) choreographed by Ray Mercer. More information is available in the booklet ([*pdf](#)).

[Website Dayton Contemporary Dance Company/DCDC](#)

This company has gained recognition worldwide and stars mostly African American dancers. It was founded in 1968 in Dayton, Ohio, by the outstanding innovative choreographer Jeraldyne Blunden (1940-1999), a former dancer and pedagogue, a laureate of the MacArthur Scholarship; it was an experimental team that represented the most recent developments of the post-modern era. Since 1999, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company has been headed by Kevin Ward. Currently the company cooperates with world-famous choreographers and has the world's largest repertoire of classical African-American dances, as well as contemporary dance productions. Its repertoire includes works of modernists of the older generation, as well as creations of those who started to stage productions in the 80's and 90's. The list of the outstanding choreographers who worked with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company during the 50 years of its existence includes Merce Cunningham, Alvin Eiley, Talley Beatty, Bill T. Jones, Jose Limon, Diane McIntyre, Donald McKayle, Bebe Miller and Doug Varon.



Catharine Walter-Kühne (May 13th 1870 – 1931) – a Russian harpist, pianist, pedagogue and composer; her piece *Fantaisie sur un theme de l'opera Eugene Onegin* par Peter Tchaikovsky was performed at the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra Artists Gala on May 13th, the day she was born (this is also the birthday of Modest Tchaikovsky, 1850–1916).

Photo courtesy: [Mecklenburg-Vorpommern library](#)



The founder of Dayton Dance Company Jeraldyne Blunden in 1968.

Photo courtesy: Lisa Powell / [Dayton Daily News Archive](#)

May 8th, the Beethoven Hall – the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra Artists Concert Johannes Brahms' Chamber Music. To the 185th [Birth Anniversary of the Composer](#).

Natalia Abryutina's article We Love Brahms about the concert dedicated to one of the greatest romantic composers is available on the [Bolshoi's website](#).

May 13th – [Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra Artists Gala](#).

May 15th, the Beethoven Hall – Bolshoi Theatre Opera Soloist Igor Golovatenko Recital [Three Centuries of Russian Romance](#). Pianist: Stanislav Dyachenko.



On May 15th the Bolshoi Opera soloist Igor Golovatenko presented his solo recital [Three Centuries of Russian Romance](#) at the Beethoven Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS

For their great contribution to the development of Russian culture and art and for many years of fruitful activity the prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre Ekaterina Krysanova, the opera soloist Svetlana Shilova and the concertmaster of the Bolshoi Orchestra first violins group Vladimir Sklyarevsky were awarded the honorary titles Honoured Artist of the Russian Federation by the Presidential Decree No. 182.

The title of Honoured Artist of the Russian Federation was awarded to Elena Zaitseva, the head of the Bolshoi's artistic and costume department.

The title of Honoured Worker of Culture of the Russian Federation was awarded to Igor Suvorov, head of the artistic and production department of the Historic Stage.

The Bolshoi Opera, Ballet and Orchestra are getting ready for the [guest performances](#) that will take place in the People's Republic of China and in the Republic of Korea in May. The last time the Bolshoi went on tour to these countries was in 2010.

May 14th – 16th, the [Shanghai Grand Theatre](#) – the opera [The Tsar's Bride](#) by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

The cast:

Marfa — Olga Seliverstova (May 14th and 16th), Anastasia Sorokina (May 15th)

Gryaznoy — Elchin Azizov (May 14th and 16th), Alexander Kasyanov (May 15th)

Lykov — Sergei Semishkur (May 14th and 16th), Sergei Radchenko (May 15th)

Lyubasha — Oxana Volkova (May 14th and 16th), Svetlana Shilova (May 15th)

Bomelius — Stanislav Mostovoy (May 14th and 16th), Roman Muravitsky (May 15th)

Sobakin — Vyacheslav Pochapsky (May 14th and 16th), Vladimir Matorin (May 15th)

and others.

Conductor — Tugan Sokhiev.

[The playbill on the website of the Shanghai Grand Theatre](#)

The following ballets will be performed at the [National Center for Performing Arts in Beijing](#):

May 18th – 20th — [Le Corsaire](#) to the music by Adolphe Adam, choreography by Marius Petipa, production and new choreography by Alexei Ratmanský and Yuri Burlaka.

The casts: Medora — Ekaterina Krysanova (May 18th), Anna Nikulina (May 19th) and Yulia Stepanova (May 20th); Conrad — Igor Tsvirko (May 18th), Vladislav Lantratov (May 19th) and Denis Rodkin (May 20th); Gulnare — Kristina Kretova (May 18th and 20th) and Eleonora Sevnard (May 19th); Birbanto — Denis Savin (May 18th and 20th) and Vitaly Biktimirov (May 19th); Pas d'esclaves — Margarita Shrainer and David Motta Soares (May 18th and 20th), Kristina Kretova and Mikhail Kryuchkov (May



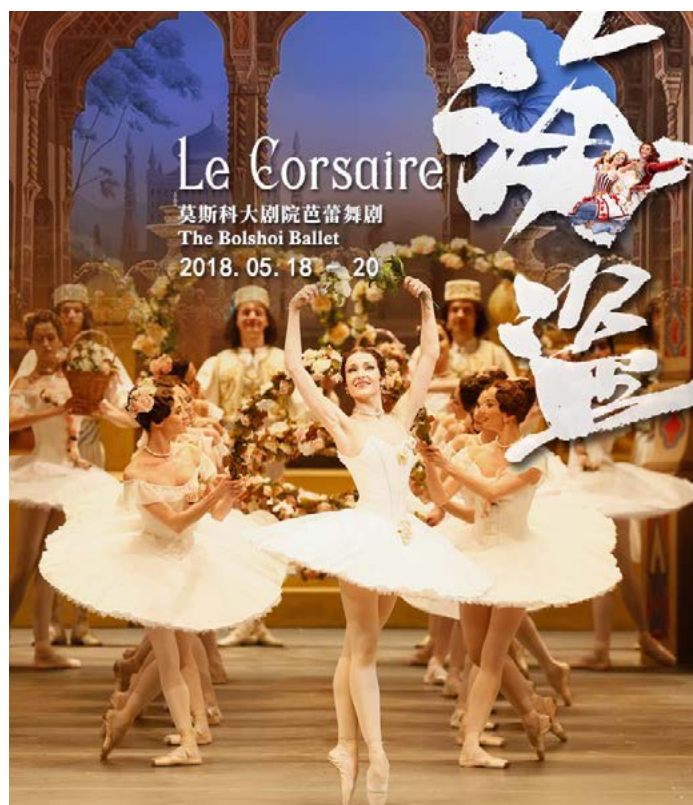
The playbill of the Bolshoi Theatre guest performances of the opera *The Tsar's Bride* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov in the People's Republic of China (Shanghai Grand Theatre)

19th); Seyd, the Pacha — Alexei Loparevich (all dates); Zulmea — Nelli Kobakhidze (all dates).

May 22nd – 25th — [The Flames of Paris](#) to the music by Boris Asafiev, choreography by Alexei Ratmanský with the use of the original choreography by Vasily Vainonen.

The casts: Jeanne — Kristina Kretova (May 22nd and 24th) and Ekaterina Krysanova (May 23rd and 25th); Jerome — Denis Savin (May 22nd and 24th) and Anton Savichev (May 23rd and 25th); Philippe — Vladislav Lantratov (May 22nd and 24th) and Igor Tsvirko (May 23rd and 25th); Costa de Beauregard — Ruslan Skvortsov (all dates); Adeline — Ana Turazashvili (May 22nd and 24th), and Anna Nikulina (23rd and 25th); Mireille de Poitiers — Yulia Stepanova (May 22nd and 24th), Antonina Chapkina (May 23rd and 25th); Antoine Mistral — Jacopo Tissi (May 22nd and 24th) and David Motta Soares (May 23rd and 25th); Jarcasse, an old woman — Irina Zibrova (all dates).

Playbills of the ballets [Le Corsaire](#) and [The Flames of Paris](#) on the website of the National Centre for Performing Arts (in Chinese).



The playbill of the guest performances of the Bolshoi Ballet in China presenting the ballet *Le Corsaire* to the music by Adolphe Adam at the National Centre for Performing Arts

On May 27th – 29th the Bolshoi Ballet and Orchestra will present the ballet *Swan Lake* to the music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky in the Republic of Korea, at the Seoul Arts Center Opera House.

The parts of Odette/Odile and Prince Siegfried will be performed by Yulia Stepanova and Artem Ovcharenko on May 28th and Alyona Kovalyova and Jacopo Tissi on May 29th.

Conductor — Pavel Klinichev.

[The playbill on the website of the Seoul Arts Center](#) (in English and Hangul)

The live broadcasts and recordings of the Bolshoi Ballet's performances in the cinemas in Russia and around the world continue as a part of the project Bolshoi Ballet in the Cinema – 2017/18.

[The recording of the ballet *Giselle*](#) on the Historic Stage was made on October 11th 2015. The cast stars: Svetlana Zakharova as Giselle, Sergei Polunin as Count Albrecht, Ekaterina Shipulina as Myrtha, Denis Savin as Hans. Conductor – Pavel Klinichev.

[Promo video](#)

The broadcasts of the ballet *The Flames of Paris* to the music by Boris Asafiev (choreography by Alexei Ratmanský with the use of the original choreography by Vasily Vainonen), recorded from the Bolshoi New Stage on March 4th 2018, continue.

On the day of the transmission [the cast](#) starred: Margarita Shrair as Jeanne, Denis Savin as Jerome, Igor Tsvirko as Philippe, Semyon Chudin as Marquis, Ana Turazashvili as Adeline, Kristina Kretova as Mireille de Poitiers, Artem Ovcharenko as Antoine Mistral, Alexander Vodopetov as Captain, Gennady Yanin as Louis XVI, Nelli Kobakhidze as Marie Antoinette and others.

The video announcement about the transmission of the ballet *The Flames of Paris* on the [Bolshoi Theatre YouTube channel](#).

On June 10th (6 p.m.) the audiences of cinemas around the world will have a chance to see the revival of the production of the ballet *Coppelia* that will be broadcast live from the New Stage.

The premiere performances took place at the Bolshoi Theatre on April 20th, 21st and 22nd. In Russia the recording will be available to the registered users on the [theatre's official channel](#).

This will be the second live broadcast of this ballet (the first transmission of the Bolshoi Theatre's *Coppelia* took place on May 29th 2011; the production was then shown in more than 300 cinemas in 22 countries).

Information about all transmissions of the series Bolshoi Ballet in the Cinema, 242nd season, is available on the [theatre's website](#).

The full list of cities and cinemas around the world is available on the website of the Bolshoi Theatre's partner, the company [Pathé Live](#).

Information about transmissions in Russia is available on the [website of TheatreHD](#).

[The website of CoolConnections](#)

[The video about the Bolshoi Ballet in the Cinema season](#)

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

During the first week of May the announcement of the Bolshoi Theatre's plans for the 243rd theatre season was the focus of attention for Russian cultural media. More than a hundred news agencies, federal publications, television channels, radio stations and digital resources made reports.

"When we approve any plans, we must first of all know the current repertoire, we must understand how the theatre lives today, what the repertoire of the theatre has and what it has not. When I look at the repertoire, I see that we have 24 opera performances and, as far as I know, about 30 ballet performances. We must understand that this is the wealth that has already



The Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin
in the studio of the TV Channel Culture.

Photo courtesy: Katerina Novikova

been created by this theatre and is a success with the audience. Therefore, any new titles that appear in the repertoire must be some productions that it currently lacks”, — Vladimir Urin told the Culture channel.

tvkultura.ru

tvkultura.ru

The following sources reported about the announcement of the plans for the 243rd season:

[TV Culture](#)

[TV Centre](#)

[TV Rain](#)

[NTV](#)

[Radio Culture](#)

[TASS](#)

[RIA Novosti](#)

[News Agency InterMedia](#)

[Moscow Agency](#)

[Kommersant](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Vedomosti](#)

[Vechernaya Moskva](#)

[«Moskovsky Komsomolets](#)

[Teatral](#)

[Afisha Daily](#)

etc.

The media also highlighted the news about the plans of the Bolshoi Theatre to present a new production of Eugene Onegin on the Historic Stage.

[Gazeta.Ru](#)

[Izvestia](#)

[Moscow Agency](#)

[Molnet.ru](#)

[Kulturomania](#)

[Rewizor.ru](#)

[RuNews24.ru](#)

[News.ru](#)

[INNOV.RU](#)

A great interest was caused by the news that the management of the theatre is considering the possibility of touring the ballet Nureyev abroad.

“There are such suggestions, they are being considered,” Urin said, answering a question about whether there are suggestions to bring the production on the tour. In particular, according to him, the suggestion to show the production came from London, where the Bolshoi Theatre will go on tour next summer to perform at the Royal Opera House.

[TASS reports](#)

[Interfax](#) also quoted the General Director.

The following sources report about other countries' interest in the ballet Nureyev:

[The English version of the Russian news agency TASS](#)

[TV Centre](#)

[RIA Novosti](#)

[Moscow Agency](#)

[Rosbalt](#)

[Teatral](#)

[Fontanka.Ru](#)

etc.

[TASS](#) reports that the Bolshoi Theatre will dedicate the closing of its 242nd season to the 200th anniversary of the legendary ballet master Marius Petipa.

The website of [Culture Radio](#) publishes the announcement by TASS.

The plans for the [Boris Pokrovsky Chamber Music Theatre](#) that is to become the Bolshoi Theatre's Chamber Stage will be announced in the beginning of the new season.

The English language version of [TASS](#) reports about the main events of the Bolshoi 2018/19 season: “On Thursday, May 3rd, the Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin told TASS that next season the theatre will present ten new productions”.

[TASS](#) publishes fragments of an interview by Igor Lenkin with the director of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre, the academician Plamen Kartaloff (May 5):

We return to the Bolshoi Theatre 37 years later ... The significance of this event is enormous, it is an honour for us to present our contemporary achievements to the discerning Moscow and international public...

The article also mentions that Sofia Theatre sent nine cargo wagons with a variety of stage equipment, sets and costumes from Bulgaria to Russia.

The soloist of the Bolshoi Opera Igor Golovatenko was a guest of the programme [Music and Word](#) on Radio Orpheus on Saturday, May 5 (5 p.m.).

Among other topics, he talked about performing at the Paris National Opera together with the members of the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Program in 2012 (they did Philippe Fenelon's opera *Cherry Orchard*).

The magazine about the world of luxury, lifestyle and successful people Annarusska.ru (Annaaruska Group) publishes seven luxurious photographs of Artem Ovcharenko (photo courtesy: Slava Kritz) and a large and informative interview with the Bolshoi Theatre premier.

“Artem Ovcharenko: ... I first learned about Nureyev's personality in cinema when I played a very young Rudolph-defector in BBC documentary feature film BBC in 2015. /.../ Since that time, Nureyev became a part of me, despite the fact that our characters are actually very different; it is like he is always near.

AR: You have already worked with many ballet masters, choreographers ...

AO: I grew up watching ballets by Yuri Grigorovich. They gave me the basic understanding of the profession, as well as the understanding of what ballet at the Bolshoi is. However, our theatre offers an extensive repertoire that has iconic productions by various renowned choreographers, and in most of productions I dance leading roles. Therefore, I consider that I have every opportunity for self-realization. And all this became possible under the roof of one theatre. /.../ I really appreciate the cooperation with Yuri Possokhov, Jean-Christophe Maillot and John Neumeier

AR: What stage costumes do you remember best of all, which designers did you have the chance to work with?

AO: I always admire the costumes designed by Virsaladze ... /.../

AR: In your opinion, what allows the Bolshoi Theatre to be ahead of the curve and, despite some turbulent years, to remain Russia's main brand?

Artem Ovcharenko: Of course, speaking of the Bolshoi Theatre, most people remember the majestic building, the gilding, the chandelier, and so on. Many want to get to the Bolshoi thinking it is a kind of a museum. However, there are those who come here to get the feeling of the art of ballet. And every year I am convinced that the Bolshoi Theatre is not just walls, but it is all about the people who work there ... The artists create the world fame of the theatre, write bright pages of the Russian ballet's history, pass on knowledge and experience to the next generations.

Anna Tikhomirova and Artem Ovcharenko are the stars of the magazine *Glamour* April issue (*Glamour*, No. 4, 2018, April. Pages 140-141): the source published short interviews and four pictures of the dancers, photo courtesy of Vladimir Vasilchikov). The online version of the magazine that can also be downloaded is available here.

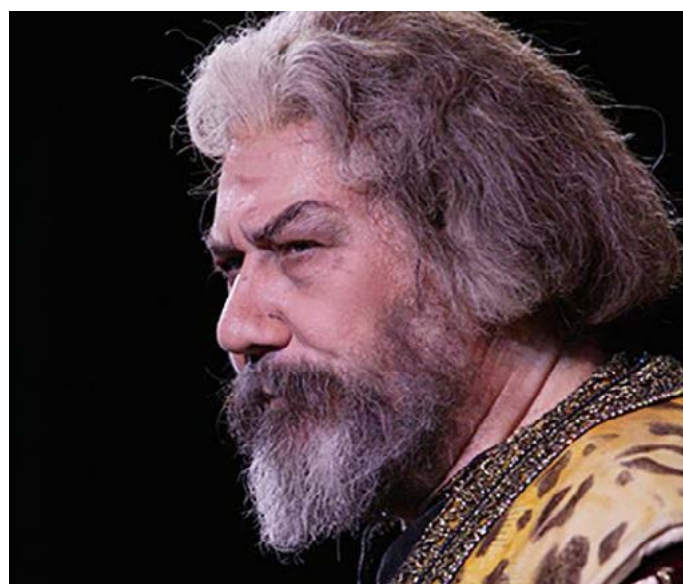


Anna Tikhomirova and Artem Ovcharenko in the April issue of the magazine *Glamour* (2018, No. 4)

The photo album *Bolshoi* is a “recurring topic” of the IA Regions of Russia publication about the activities of the Natalia Rotenberg charity foundation.

The agency writes: “The Bolshoi is a unique book; an exclusive edition has been published for foreign admirers of Russian art. Andrei Konchalovsky was one of those that wrote the text. Each copy is illustrated by the creative work of the photographer Alexander Gusov, who managed to capture the brightest moments of performances by the Bolshoi soloists in London from 1993 to 2016 “. The book was published with the support of the charity foundation ([Natalia Rotenberg: never give up your dream!](http://Natalia.Rotenberg.ru), May 7).

On May 2, the media congratulated the soloist of the Bolshoi Opera and the People's Artist of the Russian Federation Vladimir Matorin on his 70th birthday.



Vladimir Matorin as King René. *Iolanta*, the Bolshoi Theatre

The theatre will celebrate the jubilee of the outstanding artist in autumn, [TASS](#) reports with reference to the press service of the Bolshoi Theatre. A gala concert will be held in November on the Bolshoi Theatre Historic Stage.

The Prime Minister of Russia Dmitry Medvedev congratulated Vladimir Matorin and mentioned that his work gives the public joy and unforgettable impressions. [TASS](#), [RIA Novosti](#) and [Radio Culture](#) report.

The telegram of congratulations was published on the Federal Cabinet of Russia [website](#).

The Moscow agency writes that the Mayor of Moscow Sergey Sobyanin congratulated the opera singer on his birthday. The congratulatory telegram is posted on the [official portal](#) of the mayor of the capital.

Numerous editions write about Vladimir Matorin.

[The website of TV Culture](#)

[Izvestia](#)

[The magazine Foma](#) congratulates the singer and publishes the interview that he gave to this magazine in 2017.

Quote: "...For me personally spiritual music is so important that I cannot imagine my concert programme without it".

On May 2nd, which is the day of the memory for Maya Plisetskaya, who died on May 2, 2015 at the age of 89, numerous sources published articles dedicated to the great ballerina.



The ballerina Maya Plisetskaya, 1983 r.

Gazeta.Ru: "She worked at the Bolshoi Theatre from 1943 to 1988. Throughout this period of time that became an entire era for the whole world, Plisetskaya personified the art of choreography and Russian ballet in particular. She danced all the classical repertoire and historic productions, as well as modern ballets that were often created especially for her. Plisetskaya worked with Maurice Bejart, Roland Petit, Yuri Grigorovich and other famous choreographers. She will remain in mem-

ory as an actress for whom nothing was impossible in ballet."

The [online-version of the source](#) publishes a selection of photographs of the ballerina.

Excerpts from the autobiographical book by Azary Plisetskiy *Life in Ballet: Family Chronicles of the Plisetskiye and Messerers* is published by the daily online-source [Pravmir](#) and [Komsomolskaya Pravda, Ukraine](#).



Rakhil Messerer with her children: Maya, Alik and Azarik. Shymkent, August 1940. Photo from the personal archives

The following sources wrote about the ballerina on that day:

[AMITEL](#)

[Joinfo.ua](#)

[Elektronnye Vesti](#)

[News Agency InterMedia](#)

Reports about the the publication of Solomon Volkov's book *The Bolshoi Theatre. Culture and politics. New History about the history of the Bolshoi Theatre* continue to appear. The book was published by the publishing house ACT (Edited by Elena Shubina), the preface by Mikhail Shvydkoy. [Colta.ru](#) reports.

The author of the book, the well-known art critic Solomon Volkov, in his long interview with the newspaper [Culture](#) explains how the theatre and power intersect and explains whether any production can become a document of the era or an effective tool of ideology.

The following sources report about the Victory Day concert that took place at the Bolshoi Theatre:

[TASS](#)

[TV Centre](#)

[NTV](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Vechernaya Moskva](#)

[Life.ru](#)

[RIAMO](#)
[Moscow Agency](#)
[Moscow24](#)
[Komsomolskaya Pravda](#)
 etc.

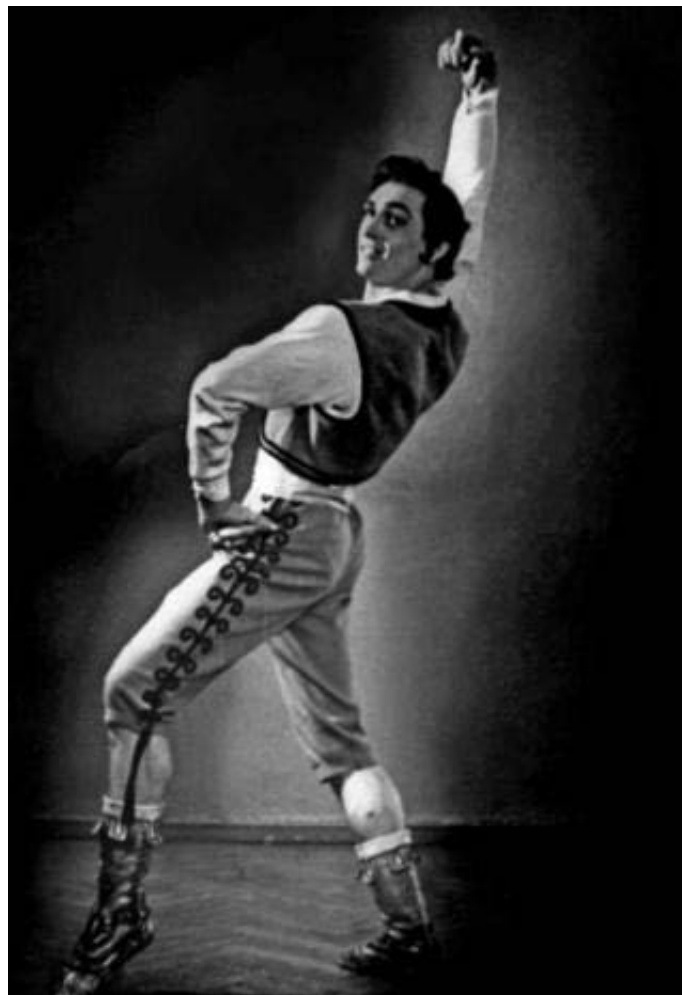
The portal [Daily Storm](#) writes about how the celebration of the Great Victory Day has changed in recent years. The reporter Sergei Osin says that on May 9 it is now only possible to meet veterans of World War II at the Bolshoi Theatre. “For the past three years, I have seen veterans only here at the Bolshoi Theatre. Those who fought. Of course, they are shown on TV, in the stands, they go to the Eternal Fire together with the President. But in the city they can only be found here. Eighteen-years old at that time, they were youngsters that survived the war. Today they are from 91 to 95 years old. Going for walks is not the first thing on their agendas”.



Photo courtesy © Daily Storm/Ilya Chelnokov

The source [Wonderzine.com](#) publishes an article about the creation of theatre costumes. Elmira Karabanova, a technologist at Lida Holding, speaks about the peculiarities of working with the Bolshoi Theatre, the steps in costume production, the choice of materials, in particular for the opera *Un ballo in maschera* that premiered on the Bolshoi Theatre Historic Stage on April 20th. Anna Eliseeva reports. “The most interesting of our recent projects is *Un ballo in maschera* at the Bolshoi that I have already spoken about. The action of opera was set in the 50’s, the director was inspired by Hitchcock’s work, in particular the film *The Birds*, and in many costumes the elements of these were more or less present. For example, evening gowns had the imitations of live birds, some were decorated with feathers — everything looked very realistic, incomparably beautiful. Mariana Fracasso, an Italian, was the costume designer; she has worked in fashion houses, for example, Max Mara, — I think that played a particular

role, because the outfits turned out to be very elegant, with lots of details. But it was difficult — we worked two months almost without days off, did a tremendous job. /.../ And now we are working on costumes for the ballet *Pharaoh’s Daughter*, in the style of the Ancient Egyptian era”.



Gennady Ledyakh as Frondoso in the ballet *Laurencia*.
 The photo of mid-1950s from the personal archives

On March 31st Gennady Ledyakh, an Honoured Artist of the RSFSR, the Bolshoi Ballet soloist in 1951-1968 and a pedagogue celebrated his 90th birthday. The newspaper [Vechernyaya Moskva](#) reports:

“The repertoire of Gennady Ledyakh included the following roles: Philippe (*The Flames of Paris*), Frondoso (*Laurencia*), Basilio (*Don Quixote*), Vaslav (*The Fountain of Bakhchisarai*), Majnun (*Leyla and Majnun*), Prince (*Cinderella*), Eugene (*The Bronze Horseman*), Bacchus (*Walpurgis night*), Franz (*La Fille mal gardée*), Colin (*Coppelia*) and others. He danced with such internationally renowned dancers, as Olga Lepeshinskaya, Irina Tikhomirova, Sofia Golovkina, Raisa Struchkova, Nina Timofeeva, Marina Kondratieva, Ekaterina Maximova and many others.”

On May 7th the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre marked the jubilee of the People's Artist of the USSR Margarita Drozdova with a performance of the ballet Swan Lake.

The newspaper [Izvestia](#) published an interview with the outstanding ballerina and a pedagogue, who celebrated her 70th anniversary on May 7th.

— For the year and a half of Laurent Hilaire's leadership the theatre has been focusing on one-act ballets. Quite often there are three ballets presented on one evening. However, it is the tradition of the Stanislavsky Theatre to show multi-act performances, so-called narrative ballets. Is it necessary to make sure the development is continuing in this traditional direction or is it better to let it go, as it goes?

— Everything should be in balance. Dmitry Bryantsev staged many one-act ballets, but they always alternated with long narrative productions. Of course, a long production requires more time and involves greater costs, but you cannot stage only short pieces and narrow everything down to one-act ballets. We are still accustomed to different things. This is Russia. Our viewer and performer is accustomed to expressiveness, to the Russian great heartedness. If it is not required, everything goes into the negative. I must say that the directors of the modern three-piece evenings who bring their productions here, at first notice that it will be difficult for our artists with their classical training and repertoire. And when they leave, they sing praises to us, they say that their productions have never been such a success anywhere else, although they stage ballets all around the world. / ... /

Press analysis:

international mass media

International mass media report that the Bolshoi Theatre has announced its plans for the season 2018/19.

The online specialised opera news publication [Opera Wire](#) publishes an article by Francisco Salazar who announces "The Bolshoi Theatre announced its 2018-19 season featuring a number of new productions, tours, and concerts. For its 243rd season, the Bolshoi Theatre is set to present 26 operas with a number of new productions. The season will get a new production of Tchaikovsky's opera Eugene Onegin by director Eugeny Arye. The production will replace Dmitry Tcherniakov's 12-year-old production. The Bolshoi will also celebrate Bernstein's 100th birthday by presenting a semi-staged production of the operetta Candide by Alexei Frandetti."

The online specialised classical music publication [Slipped Disc](#) publishes an article by Norman Lebrecht. "The Bolshoi has 50% more new operas than the Met. There are six new opera productions next season, among them the first Rossini to join the present repertoire stock. Also six new ballets. (The article links to the latest edition of the Bolshoi English newsletter)"

The Bulgarian newspaper Duma reports about the guest performances of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre at the Bolshoi with the reference to the Bolshoi's website. The scan of the article by Eliana Mitova is available from the Bolshoi's press-office upon request.

The online Bulgarian news publication [Manager.bg](#) reports "The Sofia Opera and Ballet began special guest performances in the legendary Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. From May 12th to May 23rd the two stages of the theatre will present an unprecedented tour of the Bulgarian opera." "If in the 20th century, with the help of the state, such cultural exchanges were still possible, in the 21st century I cannot remember a case when a theatre has come to us with such a large repertoire," the General Director of Bolshoi Theatre Vladimir Urin wrote in a greeting. "Five operas and one ballet are presented by our colleagues from Bulgaria to the Moscow audience," he said.

The Bulgarian newspaper [Trud](#) reports "The Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on Culture and Media Vezhdi Rashidov received an official invitation to attend the performances of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre in Moscow. The invitation was made by Mikhail Shvidkoy — Special Advisor to the President of the Russian Federation for International Cultural Cooperation. He is also the deputy chairman of the Bolshoi Theatre Trustees' Council. "The Sofia Opera and Ballet Gallery is a great event for the Russian capital and for us your presence will be an honour", he writes in a letter to Vezhdi Rashidov."

International mass media continue to announce the broadcasts of the Bolshoi Theatre ballets in the cinemas around the world. The local English language Cypriot newspaper [Cyprus Mail](#) (Cyprus) publishes an article by Maria Gregoriou who announces upcoming screenings of the Bolshoi's Flames of Paris in local cinemas in Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos. The reporter retold the story in detail and also commented on the historic reality of the production.

International newspapers and online-sources announce the upcoming broadcasts of the Bolshoi Theatre



The ballet *The Flames of Paris* was broadcast in the cinemas of Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos.

Photo courtesy/ Cyprus Mail

ballets in the cinemas around the world. The online news publication and press release service [Global Dispatch](#) announces “The incomparable Bolshoi Ballet brings its production of the classic comedic ballet *Coppelia* to cinemas nationwide on Sunday, June 10, for one day only. Captured live from Moscow’s legendary Bolshoi Theatre earlier that same day, the performance marks the final production of the 2017-18 Bolshoi Ballet in Cinema Series, presented by Fathom Events in partnership with BY Experience and Pathé Live.”

The [Jamaica Gleaner](#) (Jamaica) announced the broadcast of the ballet *Giselle* on May 13th.

The magazine *Seminal* of the Spanish daily newspaper [El Pais](#) publishes a major article by Joseba Elola and a photo spread shot at the Bolshoi Theatre about Bolshoi Ballet Prima Svetlana Zakharova and Vladimir Repin. The article is titled *Svetlana Zakharova and Vadim Repin, the dancer and the violinist* and the interview talks about how they met and what is their relationship as a couple and as artists who perform together. “She is considered one of the best dancers of her generation. Svetlana Zakharova, born in Lutsk, Ukraine, in 1979, first dancer of the Bolshoi Theatre, elegant woman, diva of the ballet that gets everyone to square off in the theatre when she steps on stage. He is considered the best violinist of the moment in Russia. Vadim Repin, born in Novosibirsk in 1971, child prodigy who at age 17 became the youngest winner of the Queen Elizabeth International Music Competition in Belgium, perfect springboard for a kid born in Siberia to begin to cherish the dream of success. The day that the mythical British violinist (of Russian origin) Yehudi Menuhin said that Repin was “the most perfect violinist” he had ever heard, the sky was opened for the Siberian virtuoso instrumentalist. That night in which Zakharova and Repin met marked their lives.”

Mass media of the People’s Republic of China continue to report about the upcoming guest performances of the Bolshoi Opera and Bolshoi Ballet.

The official news agency of the [PRC](#) government Xinhua publishes the English translation of the article by Lu Hui.

The English language online news source [China.org.cn](#) reports the same information.

The film *Summer* by Kirill Serebrennikov had a triumph at the Cannes Film Festival. The film was screened as a part of the competition programme on May 9th. Numerous international news sources as well as cinema news sources report about this event and mention that the director was not present at the festival due to the fact that he is under house arrest in Russia. Most articles also mention that the director worked at the Bolshoi Theatre.

[Agence France Presse/ AFP](#)

This information was also published by a number of international sources, including:

The Indian daily newspaper in the English language [The New Indian Express](#) (Chennai)

[The Citizen](#) (New Zealand)

The French newspaper [Liberation](#) publishes an article based on the Agence France Press AFP report

[lemonde.fr](#)

[The Guardian](#) (UK) newspaper publishes a report by Gwilym Mumford

In brief

The Bolshoi Theatre ballerina Svetlana Zakharova appeared on the cover of the magazine “*Natura Siberica*” No.8. The source published an article about the reaction to the ballet and a selection of photographs.



Svetlana Zakharova in the magazine *Natura Siberica*

On May 10th the Bolshoi Theatre prima-ballerina Svetlana Zakharova presented her solo project Amore at the National Palace of Culture in Sofia.

[The playbill of the production on the website of the National Palace of Culture in Sofia](#)

On May 17th and 20th the Bolshoi Theatre prima-ballerina will perform the title role of Marguerite Gautier in the ballet Lady of the Camellias by John Neumeier at the [Hamburg State Opera](#).

Christopher Evans will perform the part of Armand.

Olga Smirnova's performance will complete the spring series of ballet shows to Chopin's music in Hamburg, in which Artem Ovcharenko also took part. The premier of the Bolshoi Theatre performed the part of Armand on May 1st and 2nd; Alina Cojocar, the soloist of the English National Ballet, danced the part of Marguerite.

On April 29, Artem Ovcharenko made his debut on the stage of the [Hamburg State Opera](#), performing the main role of Kostya in John Neumeier's ballet The Seagull based on the play of the same name by Anton Chekhov to the music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Evelyn Glenie, Dmitri Shostakovich and Alexander Scriabin.

On May 6th the Bolshoi Theatre premier Vladislav Lantratov made his debut with the part of Prince Desire in the ballet Sleeping Beauty at the Perm Opera and Ballet Theatre. The performance was dedicated to the 200th anniversary of Marius Petipa; ballet master – Gabriela Komleva. The part of Princess Aurora was performed by the People's Artist of Russia Maria Alexandrova.



Maria Alexandrova and Vladislav Lantratov in Sleeping Beauty at the Perm State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre named after Pyotr Tchaikovsky. May 6th. Photo courtesy: Anton Zavyalov

On May 17th Maria Alexandrova will perform the role of Odette-Odile in the ballet Swan Lake at the [Yekaterinburg State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre](#).

[The playbill on the website of the Yekaterinburg State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre](#)

On May 10th the world premiere of George Benjamin's opera Lessons in Love and Violence took place at the [Royal Opera in London](#). The production was staged by the famous director Katie Mitchell. The history of the relationship of the English king of the 14th century Edward II and his favourite Piers Gaveston was presented in a series of seven lessons that the children of the monarch receive along the way. The composer George Benjamin, known for his previous work Written on Skin, is considered to continue the traditions of Britten, as well as Debussy, Ravel and Messiaen. The reporters of The Guardian attended the dress rehearsal.

[Lessons in Love and Violence at the Royal Opera](#) on May 12th, 15th, 18th, 24th and 26th.

On May 26th the final performance of the premiere series will be transmitted live on the Internet channel of classic music [Medici](#).



The director Katie Mitchell. Photo courtesy: Andy Hall for the Observer

On May 24th the [Memorial Apartment of Nikolai Golovanov](#) (Bryusov Lane 7, apartment 10) invites the public for a lecture and a meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the creative career of the People's Artist of RSFSR Valentina Levko — The Golden Age of the Bolshoi Theatre. MC — the musicologist Sergei Bulanov. 7 p.m. Please register on the [website](#).

On Monday, May 7th, the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre hosted an annual reception for veterans of the civil service and honoured cultural workers.

Two hundred veterans of war and labour that work in the cultural sphere in the capital, former prisoners



of Nazi concentration camps, residents of Leningrad during the siege and “children of war” were invited to attend. The programme of the concert included war songs, classic music pieces and modern pieces about the war. [Vechernaya Moskva](#) reports.

On May 10th the 31st [Rudolph Nureyev International Ballet Festival](#) opened at the [Tatar State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre](#) named after Musa Jalil in Kazan.

[Ogonyok](#), reports: “This year it coincides with the 80th anniversary of the birth of the great dancer, therefore this is the first time when the programme of the festival includes not only performances but also film screenings, lectures and meetings with famous guests. For example, there will be a chance to meet the student of Nureyev and ballet master Laurent Hilaire, who will talk about working with him at the Paris National Opera. The programme of performances covers three centuries: it opened with La Bayadere and other ballets choreographed by Petipa. The Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre will present performances by the choreographers of the 20th century, namely Lifar (Suite en Blanc), Kilian (La Petite Mort: The Little Death) and Forsythe (The Second Detail). The Boris Eifman Theatre will present its production Tchaikovsky. Pro et contra. During the festival, the exhibition Two Geniuses is on at the theatre; it marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Marius Petipa and the 80th birthday of Rudolf Nureyev. “The gala-concert marking the 25th anniversary of the Kazan Choreographic College will also take place during the festival.

On May 5th the Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Darya Zykova performed at the [Strauss-Gala](#) concert together

with the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Fabio Mastrangelo on the stage of Dobrograd. The singer performed two concert waltzes by Strauss.

[Interfax](#) reported about the event on May 8th (More than five thousand people attended the music festival in Dobrograd)

[Expert](#) also published a news story (Fabio Mastrangelo’s Festival of Classic and Opera Music in Dobrograd)

Other mass media sources reported about the event as well.

[The playbill of the Bolshoi Theatre’s guest performances in Dobrograd](#)

The article The Festival of Very Free Will is available on the [Bolshoi Theatre’s website](#)

On May 5th the 2nd International Competition of Young Pianists Grand Piano Competition closed at the [Tchaikovsky Concert Hall](#) with the award ceremony and the closing gala.

Irina Muravyova ([Rossiskaya Gazeta](#)) draws the conclusion.



Denis Matsuev and maestro Valery Gergiev at the award ceremony and the closing gala of the 2nd International Competition of Young Pianists Grand Piano Competition. May 5th. Photo/[Facebook](#)

How does the state support folk culture? What needs to be changed in the current national policy strategy? Where and when will the world folkloriade take place in Russia? Answers to these and other topical issues can be found in the interview of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture of Russia, Deputy Minister Alexander Zhuravsky with the president of the Guild of Interethnic Journalism Margarita Liange. The article was published by [Argumenty Nedeli](#) of the Week (Cultural code: big and small).

[The international contest Grand Piano Competition on Facebook](#)

Tell the Difference between the Ballet and the Opera — the quiz by Bogdan Korolyok for the portal [Arzamas](#).

Participants should answer several questions (as it turns out, these are quite complicated): “Which picture is not from Swan Lake?” “Which is not Sleeping Beauty? Which of these is not Giselle?” “Find which one is not The Nutcracker,” Which is not Romeo and Juliet? “Finally, find which is not Cinderella”.



John Neumeier's production *Illusions*:
Like *Swan Lake*. Hamburg, 2010.

[The test Tell the Difference between the Ballet and the Opera.](#)

Photo courtesy/ [Arzamas.academy](#)

On May 11th the director Dmitry Tcherniakov turned 48 years old. The opera singer Ildar Abdrazakov congratulated him in the newspaper [Kommersant](#): “Dear Dima, happy birthday! Finally, I will say everything I think about you in the press! You are unique! You have a unique ability to find an approach to any artist and explain his task to him. The fact that you are not afraid of experiments is amazing; so is your ability to make the singer think not about notes, but about the character. Every look, every move does not leave you indifferent. Dima, dear, thank you that you are in my life, and I wish for myself to work on more of your projects! Be healthy! Yours, Ildar.”

On May 8th and 12th the Bolshoi Theatre's guest soloist Najmiddin Mavlyanov made his debut at the [Metropolitan Opera](#) in New York with the role of Cavaradossi in the opera *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini.

The production also starred Anna Netrebko and Željko Lučić (Scarpia).

The tenor made his debut at the Bolshoi Theatre in 2015 with the role of Alfred (*La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi). In the same year he performed the role of Vaudemont in the premiere series of performances of the opera *Iolanta* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

May 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd and 25th, the Small Stage of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Music Theatre — the premiere of the oratorio *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* by George Frideric Handel. This is the first time the oratorio is presented on the Russian stage; director — Konstantin Bogomolov. The production team: the writer Vladimir Sorokin, the conductor Philipp Chizhevsky, the set designer Larisa Lomakina, the costume designer Alexander Terekhov and the lighting designer Aivar Salikhov. The cast stars Philipp Mathmann as Bellezza, Vince Yi as Piacere, David DQ Lee as Disinganno and Juan Sancho as Tempo.

More information about the oratorio and the production is available on the [Stanislavsky Theatre's website](#).

Social networks

A fan congratulates Ekaterina Krysanova on being awarded the title of Honoured Artist of Russia. A user from Yekaterinburg uploaded a short fragment starring the ballerina from the revival of *Coppelia* on his [Facebook page](#) Bolshoi Ballet in the US and reminds that quite soon, on June 10th, the whole performance from the Bolshoi Theatre New Stage will be broadcast in the cinemas.

Ilya Kukharenko made a colourful post in Facebook with the caption “Dear All!” (the pictures feature Elizabeth Billington, Caroline of Brunswick and Bartolomeo Pergami in the box).



[Ilya Kukharenko](#): The premiere performances of our Cantata Lab finals will take place in the Beethoven Hall on May 23rd and 25th

May 23rd and 25th – the premiere performances of our [Cantata Lab](#) finals will take place in the Beethoven Hall.

This is the project of the Bolshoi YoungArtists Opera Program, headed by the fearless Dmitry Vdovin, and six invited young directors – students and graduates of two renowned studios, those of Dmitry Brusnikin and Oleg Kudryashov.

The programme includes six theatre novels, based on the cantatas of Albinoni, Vivaldi, Handel, Arn, Haydn and Rossini.

“Yesterday my debut at the Bolshoi Theatre took place,” wrote Kristian Benedikt on [Facebook](#) on May 5th. – Singing Herman on the Bolshoi stage is not just an event, it is a real achievement! So I want to thank all my friends, colleagues and acquaintances for their support. I thank all the soloists, the choir, the orchestra, as well as maestro Tugan Sokhiev and all the participants for the wonderful performance.

Many thanks to Igor Ushakov for all the director’s work, as well as to all pianists and assistants for rehearsals.

Special thanks to the director of the The Queen of Spades Rimas Tuminas and Angelica Holina for helping me to create this character, Herman.

Huge THANKS to all, to everyone who made it possible for me to be here!”

“Margarita Schrainer and Artur Mkrtchyan: beautiful, bright, hardworking and enthusiastic ballet dancers of the Bolshoi Theatre talked on the Radio Orpheus about themselves, their creative achievements, ballet life and personal life as well. Thank you!”, wrote the host Alexei Barabanov on his [Facebook page](#) on May 7th, the Radio Day.

On May 7th the social networks marked the [178th birthday of Pyotr Tchaikovsky](#).

On May 7th social networks users also congratulated Kama Ginkas on his birthday.

Debuts

[The Queen of Spades](#)

May 4th and 6th

The soloist of the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre [Kristian Benedikt](#) made his debut at the Bolshoi Theatre in the role of Herman (this season he



Artur Mkrtchyan and Margarita Shrainer
at the Radio Orpheus, May 7th.

Photo / [Alexei Barabanov's Instagram](#)



Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

Photo courtesy: [Facebook Olga Pētersone](#)

also performed this role at the Hungarian National Opera and at the Luzern Music Festival).

The soloist of the National Academic Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus [Oxana Volkova](#) (a participant of the Bolshoi Theatre Young Artists Opera Program in 2009-2010) – Poulina/Milovzor.

Elchin Azizov as – Count Tomsy / Zlatogor

May 5th

The soloist of the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre of Belarus [Eduard Martynyuk](#) performed the role of Herman (he made his debut with this role at the Zurich Opera in 2016).

May 6th

Maria Lobanova (a participant of the Bolshoi Theatre Young Artists Opera Program in 2012-2014 and the Bolshoi Opera soloist since 2016) as Liza.

A Hero of Our Time

May 4th

Princess Mary

Ana Turazashvili as Mary

Victoria Yakusheva as Vera

May 5th (matinee performance at noon)

Taman

Vladislav Kozlov as Pechorin

Anastasia Ermolaeva as a Nurse

Jewels

May 8th

Diamonds (III part)

Artemy Belyakov in the Leading couple

Anastasia Denisova and Antonina Chapkina as Soloists

May 9th

Rubies (II part)

Anna Tikhomirova as the Soloist

Emeralds (I part)

Oscar Frame in Pas de trois

The Stone Guest

May 8th

Igor Korostylyov (a participant of the Bolshoi Theatre Young Artists Opera Program since 2017) — one of Laura's guests

May 9th

Giorgi Sturua — Don Juan

A Legend of Love

May 13th

Maxim Surov — one of the Officers

Changes to the playbill

A Legend of Love

On May 13th Maria Vinogradova performed the part of Shireen instead of the injured Anna Nikulina.

Birthdays

May 2nd — the Bolshoi Opera soloist, a People's Artist of Russia Vladimir Matorin (bass) — 70th birthday



Vladimir Matorin

May 2nd — the Bolshoi Theatre guest soloist and a People's Artist of Azerbaijan Yusif Eyvazov

May 2nd — the conductor, the Mariinsky Theatre artistic director and chief conductor, the People's Artist of Russia Valery Gergiev

May 2nd — a People's Artist of Russia, the former soloist of the Kirov Theatre Vadim Gulyaev, the first performer of the role of Rzhevsky in the ballet Hussar Ballad by Tikhon Khrennikov

May 4th — the Bolshoi Ballet premier Vyacheslav Lopatin

May 4th — a conductor, a pianist, a composer, a music worker and a social activist, an Honoured Artist of the USSR Gennady Rozhdestvensky

May 3rd — a theatre designer, a critic and the art historian Alexander Benois (1870-1960)

May 7th — the composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

May 9th — the composer Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

May 9th — the Bolshoi Ballet soloist Yanina Paryenko

May 10th — a ballet dancer, a ballet master and a pedagogue, the Bolshoi Ballet's soloist in 1979-1997 and a People's Artist of Russia Alexander Vetrov

May 10th — an actor, a choreographer, a dancer and a tap dancer Fred Astaire (1899-1987), who amazed Roland Petit, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rudolph Nureyev

May 11th — the director and set designer Dmitry Tcherniakov. At the Bolshoi Theatre he staged the following productions: Eugene Onegin to the music by Pyo-



Alexander Vetrov as Crassus in the ballet Spartacus



Dmitry Tcherniakov

tr Tchaikovsky (2006, revived in 2015), Wozzeck by Alban Berg (2009), Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (2010) and Ruslan and Lyudmila by Mikhail Glinka (2011)

May 12th — a ballet master-repetiteur and the Bolshoi Theatre prima-ballerina in 1960-1988, a People's Artist of the USSR Svetlana Adyrkhayeva

May 12th — the French composer Jules Émile Frédéric Massenet (1842-1912)

May 13th — a ballerina, the Bolshoi Theatre pedagogue and a People's Artist of the USSR Nina Sorokina (1942-2011)

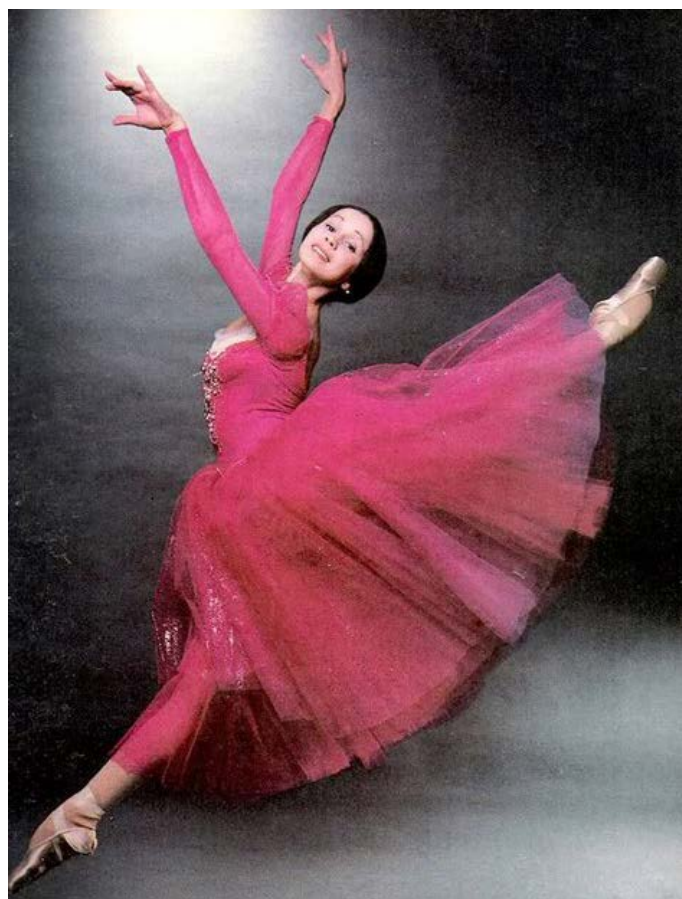
May 15th — a ballet master-repetiteur, a People's Artist of the USSR and the Bolshoi Theatre prima-ballerina in 1975-2000 Nadezhda Pavlova

May 16th — the Bolshoi Ballet soloist (working under contract) and an Honoured Artist of Russia Genady Yanin

May 17th — a ballerina, a ballet master and a People's Artist of the USSR Olga Chenchikova

May 18th — a prima-ballerina of the Royal Ballet Natalia Osipova, the Bolshoi Theatre ballerina in 2004-2011

May 18th — the ballet dancer David Hallberg, the Bolshoi Ballet premier in 2011-2014



Nadezhda Pavlova