



Newsletter

Events

In May the Bolshoi Theatre presented **guest performances** in the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea. For the Bolshoi Opera this tour was the second in its history; the guest performances starred the ballet company and the Bolshoi Orchestra as well.

The last time the Bolshoi Theatre performed in Beijing was in 2010. It was the first time the Bolshoi Opera came to China in its entire history (the singers presented the opera Eugene Onegin staged by Dmitri Tcherniakov, conductor-Alexander Vedernikov). In 2010 the ballet company presented *The Pharaoh's Daughter* (staged by Pierre Lacotte) and *Don Quixote* (Alexei Fadeychev version). The guest performances also took place on the stage of the Opera House of the recently opened National Centre for Performing Arts. This new building is rightly considered to be a miracle modern of architecture (built by the project of Paul Andreu in 2001-2007), just like Shanghai Grand Theatre (architect — Jean-Marie Charpentier, 1998).

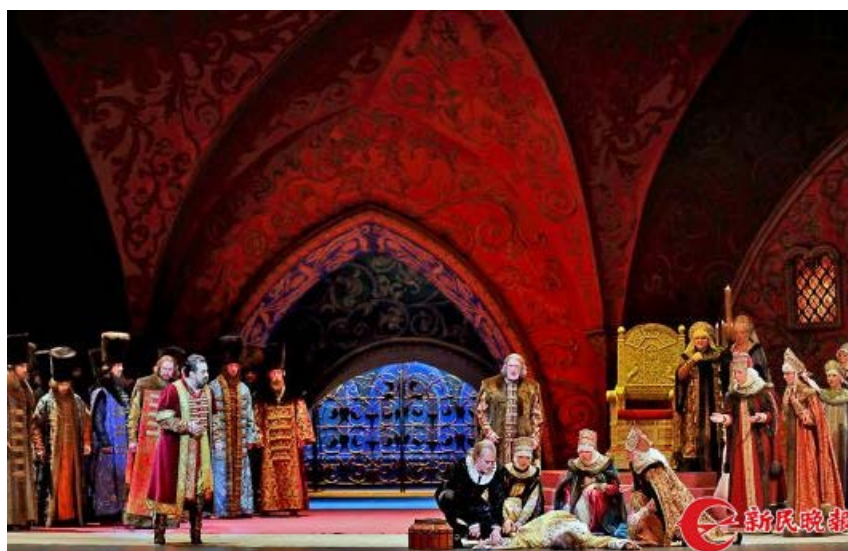
On May 14th, 15th and 16th the Bolshoi Opera and Orchestra under the baton of the theatres' chief conductor and musical director Tugan Sokhiev presented Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Tsar's Bride* at the Shanghai Grand Theatre that celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. This was the first time the Bolshoi Opera toured Shanghai and the second time it toured the PRC.

[The playbill of The Tsar's Bride on the website of Shanghai Grand Theatre](#)

The Chinese audience is always interested in seeing performances of the Bolshoi Theatre; in previous years the leaders of the PRC Mao Zedong and Jiang Zemin attended several shows. In March 2006, the opera and ballet artists, as well as the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra, gave two concerts in honour of the opening of the Year of Russia in China. Celebrations took place in the main hall of the Great Hall of People, which has 10,000 seats, and



On May 14th – 16th the Bolshoi Theatre presented the opera *The Tsar's Bride* by Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov at the Shanghai Grand Theatre (architect — Jean-Marie Charpentier, 1998)



A scene from the opera *The Tsar's Bride*, Shanghai Grand Theatre.

Photo courtesy: [Xinmin Wanbao](#)

were a triumph. In March 2015, a large tour of the opera, ballet and orchestra took place in Hong Kong.

On May 18th the Bolshoi Ballet opened the tour in China; the company presented several performances at the [National Performing Arts Centre in Beijing](#). The following ballets were presented at the National Performing Arts Centre:

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



The head of the Bolshoi Ballet Makhar Vaziev, the Bolshoi's prima-ballerina Ekaterina Krysanova and the Bolshoi's leading soloist Igor Tsvirko took part in the press-conference (Beijing, May 16th)

Conductor — Pavel Klinichev.

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

Conductor — Pavel Klinichev.

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



After the performance of *The Flames of Paris* at the National Performing Arts Centre in Beijing, May 24th.
Photo courtesy: Dmitry Kiyanenko

The short video featuring the audience's reaction to the performance (May 18th, starring Igor Tsvirko as Conrad) is available [here](#).

On May 27th (special performance), May 28th and 29th the Bolshoi Ballet and Orchestra presented [Swan Lake](#) to the music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky at the Seoul Arts Centre Opera House.

Conductor — Pavel Klinichev.

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

The last time a large scale tour of the Bolshoi Ballet and Orchestra took place in the Republic of Korea was in 2005. In 2010, to mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the treaty on establishing diplomatic relations between Russia and the Republic of Korea, arts festivals took place in both countries (the opening ceremony in Moscow was held on the Bolshoi Theatre New Stage). The so-called “cross-tours” of the leading artists from the Bolshoi Ballet and the Korean National Ballet were one of the main events of the festival. The Korean Raymonda starred the artists of the Bolshoi Theatre, while the main parts in the ballet *Romeo and Juliet* in Russia were performed by Korean dancers

More information about the history of the Bolshoi Ballet's collaboration with the Korean National Ballet is available from the article *Bringing The Swan Lake to Korea* on the [Bolshoi's website](#).

Meanwhile the guest performances of the [Bulgarian National Opera and Ballet Theatre](#) took place on the Bolshoi Theatre's Historic Stage and New Stage.

The Sofia National Opera presented 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.), and [Götterdämmerung](#) (May 23rd, 9 p.m.).

Music Director: Erich Wächter. Designer: Nikolay Panayotov. Multimedia Director: Vera Petrova. Lighting Designers: Andrej Hajdinjak, Emil Dinkov. Chorus master: Violetta Dimitrova.

The article *Four Evenings of Wagner* about the main event of the Sofia Opera and Ballet guest performances (the company has not performed at the Bolshoi since 1981) is available [here](#).

The playbills of [Das Rheingold](#), [Die Walküre](#), [Siegfried](#) and [Götterdämmerung](#) on the website of the Sofia Opera and Ballet.

On May 21st the President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev, who was on a working visit to the Russian Federation, attended the performance of *Siegfried*.

On May 12th the opera by the Bulgarian classic Lyubomir Pipkov [Yana's Nine Brothers](#) was presented on the New Stage (Music Director: Georges Dimitrov. Stage Director: Plamen Kartaloff. Premiered on March 22, 2018 at the Sofia Opera and Ballet, Bulgaria). On May 13th the



The President of the Republic of Bulgaria Rumen Radev with his spouse and the Bolshoi Theatre General Director in the box during the performance of Siegfried by the Bulgarian National Opera and Ballet Theatre.
The Bolshoi Theatre, May 21st.
Photo courtesy: Mikhail Yarush



The Prime Minister of Japan Shinzō Abe and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin in the Historical Stage Foyer prior to the opening ceremony of Russia-Japan bilateral year.
The Bolshoi Theatre, May 26th. Photo courtesy/kremlin.ru

This is the joint project of the Young Artists Opera Program (artistic director — Dmitry Vdovin) and the director's workshops of Oleg Kudryashov (Russian University of Theatre Arts — GITIS) and Dmitry Brusnikin (Moscow Art Theatre School-Studio).

Directors: Polina Zolotovitskaya, Natalia Shurganova and Dmitry Popov (workshop of Oleg Kudryashov); Yana Gladkih, Vasily Mikhailov and Sergei Shchedrin (Dmitry Brusnikin's workshop).

Coach: Fabián Schofrin.

Playwrights: Ilya Kukharenko, Tatiana Belova.

ballet company performed the ballet [Le Corsaire](#) to the music by Adolphe Adam (choreographer and lighting designer: Eldar Aliev. Music Director: Boris Spasov. Premiered on November 24th 2017)

[Guest performances of the Sofia Opera and Ballet in Moscow and at the Bolshoi Theatre](#) (historic reference, *.pdf)

[A professor and an academician Plamen Kartaloff](#) (*.pdf), available on the Bolshoi Theatre's website

On May 26th the Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe opened the bilateral year of culture in Russia and Japan. The grand opening ceremony took place at the Bolshoi Theatre.

May 23rd and 25th, the Beethoven Hall – the Bolshoi Theatre Young Artists Opera Program Concert [Cantatas lab. Scenic Studies](#). The programme includes six short stories based on cantatas by Tomazo Albinioni, Antonio Vivaldi, Georg Friedrich Handel, Thomas Arne, Josef Haydn and Gioachino Rossini.



After the Bolshoi Theatre Young Artists Opera Program Concert Cantatas lab. Scenic Studies.
Beethoven Hall, May 23rd.
Photo courtesy: [Katerina Novikova](#)

More information about the project is available on the [Bolshoi's website](#).

Pianists: Elizaveta Dmitrieva, Daniil Orlov.

According to the head of the Young Artists Opera Program Dmitry Vdovin, in this scenic experiment — “a journey through the ages: baroque — classicism — romantic bel canto”, it is essential that “directors must begin to understand together with us what is important in the music of this or that period, how to comprehend the specifics dramatic turns and emotional accents: “It is important to understand together with singers, pianists, playwrights and pedagogues which vocal nuances are needed, which unexpected twists and turns, or dramatic modulations would work, because these components make up the real “tissue” of the opera performance. None of us yet knows what we will get in the end and how we will get there, but the process itself is incredibly exciting. Even more so that we have formed a very good team. It is international and crazy, but very friendly! “

Opera playwrights Tatiana Belova and Ilya Kukhareno were the consultants and co-authors of the productions.

Coach — the world-famous Argentinian contratenor that specialises in authentic interpretations Fabián Schofrin.

Curator of the project: Ilya Kukhareno.

On May 27th and 29th gala-concerts of the Moscow State Academy of Choreography graduates took place on the Bolshoi Theatre Historic Stage. The concert of the Moscow State Academy of Choreography graduates is the annual parade of young and talented dancers. The Academy is one of the most famous ballet schools in the world. The list of its graduates includes Yekaterina Geltzer, Sergei Sokolov, Praskovia Lebedeva, Fedor Reinshausen, Ivan Ermolov, Olga Nikolaeva, Asaf Messerer, Igor Moiseyev, Maya Plisetskaya, Ekaterina Maximova, Vladimir Vasiliev, Alexei Ratmanský, Natalia Osipova and others.



Last year graduates of the Academy, namely Anna Lebedeva, Tatiana Osipova, Stanislava Postnova, Maria Shuvalova, Ekaterina Fateeva, Vitaly Getmanov, Pyotr Gusev, Igor Pugachev and Mark Chino, were accepted to the Bolshoi Ballet.

This year graduate, the winner of the Grand Prix of the 3rd All-Russian Contest of Young Artists of the Russian Ballet and the winner of first prizes at various international competitions Denis Zakharov (pedagogue – Denis Medvedev) has already performed at the Bolshoi Theatre (on February 3rd he performed in the pas de deux of the Blue Bird in the ballet The Sleeping Beauty).

On May 31st and June 1st the gala-concert of world ballet stars, marking the 200th anniversary of Marius Petipa, is scheduled to take place on the Historic Stage.

The gala will star the Bolshoi Theatre’s artists Olga Smirnova and Semyon Chudin, Svetlana Zakharova and Mikhail Lobukhin, Ekaterina Krysanova and Igor Tsvirko, Alyona Kovalyova and Jacopo Tissi, Anan Turazashvili, Antonina Chapkina and Olga Marchenkova, Daria Khokhlova and Artemy Belyokov, Kristina Kretova and Artem Ovcharenko, Anastasia Stashkevich and Vyacheslav Lopatin.

The following guest artists are going to take part in the gala as well: Ekaterina Kondaurova and Yuri Smekalov, Lucia Lacarra and Marlon Dino, Isabelle Guérin and Manuel Legris, Ludmila Pagliero and Mathias Heymann, Viktoria Tereshkina and Vladimir Shklyarov, Natalia Osipova and Jason Kittelberger, Sae Eun Park, Friedemann Vogel and other dancers.

[The programme](#)

June 2nd (matinee performance at noon and evening performance at 7 p.m.) and June 3rd – the ballet [Lady of the Camellias](#), choreographed by John Neumeier to the music by Frederic Chopin. Lady of the Camellias is considered to be a ballet classic of the 20th century. John Neumeier created it in 1978 at the request of Marcia Haydee (Benois de la Danse Prize for Lifetime Achievement in 2017) and Stuttgart Ballet that she was the director of. On March 20th 2014 the Hamburg version (1981) had its Bolshoi Theatre premiere.

Conductor – Pavel Sorokin. [The casts](#)

On May 16th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd and 24th the ballet [La Sylphide](#) to the music by Herman Severin Levenskiold was presented on the New Stage.

The romantic ballet by August Bournonville was staged by the famous Danish dancer and choreographer Johan Kobborg (the premiere took place on February 20th 2008). Music director: Pavel Klinichev. Designer: Peter Farmer. A few weeks ago Johan Kobborg came to Moscow to rehearse the production with the dancers.

Conductors — Pavel Sorokin (May 16th, 18th and 22nd) and Alexei Bogorad (May 17th – 23rd). [The casts](#)

On May 19th (8 p.m.) and May 20th (2 p.m.) the guest performances of [Dayton Contemporary Dance Compa-](#)



Evgenia Obraztsova, Artemy Belyakov and Johan Kobborg after the performance on May 18th. [Photo FB](#)

[ny](#) (USA) marking the 50th anniversary of the Company took place on the New Stage.



On May 19th and 20th the guest performances of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (USA) took place on the New Stage. Photo courtesy: Jeff Sabo

The company that has gained recognition worldwide was founded in 1968 in Dayton, Ohio, by the outstanding innovative choreographer Jeraldine Blunden (1940-1999), a former dancer and pedagogue and a laureate of the MacArthur Scholarship; it was an experimental team that represented the most recent developments of the post-modern era. Since 2007, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company has been headed by Debbie Blunden-Diggs (the daughter of Jeraldine Blunden). 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.

More information about DCDC is available from the article They are Said to be Geniuses on the [Bolshoi's website](#).

The programme of the guest performances on the New Stage included four pieces:

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).

In March 2016 the company performed Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder by Donald McKayle, which was a part of the programme of Paul Taylor Dance Company; the production was awarded the Bessie prize and received the 2016 Bessie Award in the category of Outstanding Revival.

[Dayton Contemporary Dance Company/DCDC](#)

On May 27th and 29th the opera [The Idiot](#) by Mieczysław Weinberg based on the same-name novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky was performed on the New Stage.



Bogdan Volkov as Prince Myshkin, Pyotr Migunov as Rogozhin. The Idiot by Mieczysław Weinberg. Photo courtesy: Damir Yusupov

The truly international team worked on the production of this last of the seven operas that were completed by the composer (it was written in 1986). Music director:

Michał Klauza (Poland). Stage director: Evgeny Arye (Gersh Theatre, Tel-Aviv). Set designer: the famous theatre designer Simon Pastukh (he created the design for the ballet Bolt to the music by Dmitri Shostakovich at the Bolshoi). Costume designer: Galina Solovyova.

In the very beginning of school summer vacation, on June 1st (7 p.m.), 2nd (matinee performance at noon and evening performance at 7 p.m.) and 3rd (matinee performance at noon) the opera The Story of Kai and Gerda by Sergei Banevich will be performed on the New Stage (matinee performances are rated 6+, evening performances – 10+).

Music director – Anton Grishanin..

The premiere took place on November 28th 2014.

More information about the production is available [here](#).

In the coming 243rd season the Bolshoi Theatre has invited Evgeny Arye, Simon Pastukh and Galina Solovyova to work on the new production, the opera Evgeny Onegin by Pyotr Tchaikovsky (the premiere is scheduled for May 28th 2019).

More information about the history of creation of the opera The Idiot and its production at the Bolshoi is available from the article on the theatre's [website](#).

The cast stars: Prince Myshkin – Bogdan Volkov (National opera prize Onegin, 2017) and Stanislav Mostovoy; Nastassya Filippovna – Maria Lobanova; Rogozhin – Pyotr Migunov and Nikolai Kazansky.

Conductor – Michał Klauza.

Full casts are available [here](#).

Concerts of the opera company and the orchestra soloists, as well as the participants of the Bolshoi Theatre Young Artists Opera Program took place at the Beethoven Hall.

On May 16th the Bolshoi Opera soloists performed vocal pieces by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and Sergei Rachmaninoff in the concert [Do you Remember the Evening...](#)

More information about the concert is available [here](#).

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

Mass media continue to focus on the guest performances of the Sofia Opera that has closed at the Bolshoi. “The main performance on the tour programme –

Der Ring des Nibelungen. It was the director's idea to stage it in the style of modern “fantasy”. Yulia Bederova (the article Conic Opera, [Kommersant](#), May 22nd) thinks the production reminds us of a New Year ice show: “Artists sing and jump on the trampoline, all three of them together, and, moreover, they are doing splits in the air. “ / ... / “... Singers here were heard quite well. Many of them dealt with some fragments quite successfully...”

The famous Bulgarian company brought to Moscow six performances Der Ring des Nibelungen. Sergey Uvarov ([Izvestia](#)) reports: “This fact alone makes the partnership of the two Theatres noteworthy: in the history of the Bolshoi, Wagner's great tetralogy was performed only a few times. The world premiere of Der Ring by the Sofia Opera Theatre took place in 2010-2013 - the Theatre produced one part each year. So these productions are very new, but they have already managed to become the national pride of Bulgarian music lovers.”

The author of the article notes that “it is the musical part that is the main advantage of the guest performances. With the exception of a few minor incidents of the winds the orchestra has coped with this very difficult score successfully”.

Irina Muravieva ([Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#)) also writes about the guest performances of Der Ring des Nibelungen by Richard Wagner that took place on the Bolshoi Theatre Historic Stage: “The Opera Theatre in Sofia tried to approach the Nibelungen for a long time: it was the first production of Der Ring in Bulgaria's history and it marked Wagner's 200th anniversary. At first it was difficult not only to master the colossal score of Der Ring, but also to find a special key to staging it. We can now say that this task was accomplished successfully”. The critic also appreciated the “beauty of the voices”; she praised Martin Tsonev as Wotan and Daniel Ostretsov as Loge in Das Rheingold and Tsvetana Bandalovska as Sieglinde in Die Walküre.

The director of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre and the stage director Plamen Kartaloff came to the studio of the TV channel Culture and talked about the decision to create the everyday setting for Der Ring; he also explained how to make this piece that is most complicated in terms of its form, music and meaning more understandable to the modern spectator. Interview and the video report by Culture News.

The TV channel [Russia-Culture](#) reported about the performance of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (USA):

“They arrived on Friday. There is a class on Saturday morning and the performance on the Bolshoi New



Plamen Kartaloff is talking about the guest performances of the Sofia Opera and Ballet Theatre at the Bolshoi in the studio of Culture News

Stage in the evening. Dreadlocks and pigtails take time. They also need some time to warm up and listen to the Theatre director Vladimir Urin giving his welcoming speech.

Dayton Dance Company came to Moscow for the second time. Yet, this is the first time they dance at the main theatre of the country. The company, founded by Jeraldine Blunden, has existed for 50 years. It is now headed by her daughter Debbie. Most of the dancers in the troupe are African-Americans. Their burning temperament sweeps the hall, making the dance a magical act.

“The African-American origin is the basis of our dance. Every time we go on stage, we share our soul. Our style includes a mix of different styles, but the main thing is not the movement, but our energy” – says the artistic director of the Dayton Dance Company Debbie Blunden-Diggs.

African-American blues, jazz, even a funeral march. It seems that these black dancers, moving like cats, can master any music, as long as there is rhythm. The Americans brought to Moscow four miniatures created in different years. From Rainbow ‘Round My Shoulder, the modern dance classics by Donald McKayle, to This I Know For Sure... choreographed by Ray Mercer last year. Shed by Kiesha Lalama is probably not the manifesto of the company, but it surely is the story of overcoming phobias. Robert Pulido, the only non-African American dancer, still struggles with some of them. “I do not look like an African American. And I always push myself to be on the same wavelength with everyone. It is not simple. We have different temperament, and it affects the degree of dance, which is always off scale,” – said the dancer Robert Pulido.

The newspaper [Vechernaya Moskva](#) published the review by Valery Modestov (American Mosaic, May 20th).

The critic appreciates the numbers of the tour program, but at the same time states: “And yet we must admit that the skills this company possesses are more impressive than the plastique material it performs. Creative message, virtuoso technique, crazy energy, excitement of dancers – in my opinion, all of these require yet another choreography, that is, the one that is more imaginative, more expressive and more inventive.”



Dayton Dance Company in front of the Bolshoi Theatre New Stage building. Moscow, May 20th. Photo courtesy/[facebook DCDC](#)

[The Federal news agency](#) published the article St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, International Space Station, the Bolshoi Theatre: the Kremlin reports about the plans that Putin and Abe share.

On May 26th the leaders of Russia and Japan took part in the opening ceremony of bilateral year of Russia and Japan on the Bolshoi Theatre New Stage. The Year of Russia in Japan and the Year of Japan in Russia are being organised for the first time.

On May 26th the opening ceremony of the Year of Russia in Japan and the Year of Japan in Russia was broadcast by the [TV Channel Russia-K](#) at 10 p.m.

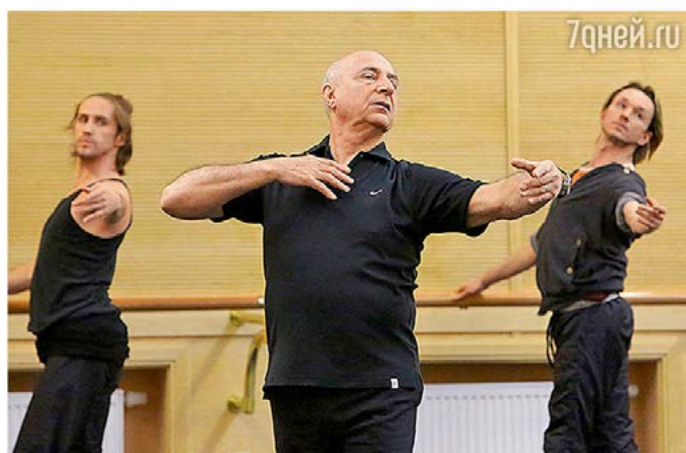
On May 27th the solo recital of the Bolshoi Opera soloist and the People’s Artist of Russia Vladimir Matorin, who turned 70 on May 2nd, took place at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall. Maria Babalova ([Vechernaya Moskva](#)) reports. Together with the Osipov National Academic Orchestra of Folk Instruments of Russia and the conductor Vladimir Andropov Vladimir Matorin performed Russian lieder and songs. / ... / “The Bolshoi plans to hold a celebration in honour of this famous soloist on November 11th. The gala concert, the benefit of Vladimir Matorin, is to take place on the theatre’s Historic Stage”.

The portal [7days.ru](#) published an interview with the ballet artist, teacher and choreographer Azari Pliset-



Vladimir Matorin

sky, as well as excerpts from his new book *Life in Ballet* (Edited by Elena Shubina). The article is titled *Azari Plisetsky. The Hurricane Named Maya*. The book *Life in the Ballet* is a memoir about the legendary dynasty Plisetskye-Messerer; this is the history of the artistic clan set against the background of revolutions, wars, arrests and theatre premieres.



Azari Plisetsky:

"I have been working as a pedagogue-repetiteur in a number of countries around the world for many years. From time to time I give master-classes in Moscow".
Photo courtesy: Damir Yusupov/Bolshoi Theatre

On May 16th the programme *The Observer* was aired on the [TV Channel Culture](#) at 10.15 a.m. and at 5.45 p.m. It was dedicated to Moscow State Academy of Choreography that turns 245 this year. Pedagogues of the Academy talked about the ballet artists' school of mastery. Guests: Marina Leonova, the Rector of the Moscow State Academy of Choreography, Yuri Burlaka, a pedagogue and the chief choreographer of the Samara Opera and Ballet Theatre, Andrei Petrov, a pedagogue, the founder and the artistic director of the Kremlin Ballet and Ekaterina Belova, a pedagogue and a professor of the Moscow State Academy of Choreography. Moderator: Alex Dubas.

The Ministry of Culture announced the data about incomes of cultural workers in 2017. [TASS](#) published several articles on this topic where the Bolshoi Theatre management is mentioned.

[RIA](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Life.ru](#)

Press analysis:

international mass media

Chinese mass media continue to report about the Bolshoi Theatre's performances in Beijing and Shanghai. The online Beijing information guide announces [The Beijinger](#) announces performances of The Bolshoi Ballet: *The Flames of Paris* at the National Centre For The Performing Arts (NCPA)

The Chinese newspaper [Xinmin Evening News](#) (Chinese newspaper) publishes an article by Zhu Yuan about the Bolshoi's *The Tsar's Bride* in Shanghai. "The full lineup of *The Tsar's Bride*, which includes conductors, opera companies, orchestras, choirs, and more than 160 artists and the original sets of the production, will arrive in Shanghai this weekend. Seven 40-foot containers of giant stage props will also be in place. The audience understands. It is not easy to finalize the opera *The Tsar's Bride*. Theatre tours are usually light and simple, with a total offering of works with Chinese awareness. It was the persistence of the Shanghai Grand Theatre and the consideration of the Shanghai market, which ultimately gave the Bolshoi Theatre confidence. As the music director and chief conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre, Tugan Sokhiev stated: "It is our desire to bring operas with the most Russian cultural and artistic features. It is also what the Shanghai audience expects."

The Chinese online news publication [The Paper](#) publishes an article by Liao Yang about the Bolshoi's *The Tsar's Bride* in Shanghai. "During this time in Shanghai, the Grand Theatre was almost full. More than 160 artists, including conductors, the opera company members, orchestras and choirs, all came to Shanghai. Seven full-size 40-foot containers of dance props were to arrive in the Grand Theatre. "If there would be no *The Tsar's Bride*, the level of the repertoire at the Bolshoi Theatre may be much lower. It is a good thing for performers and audiences."

The Chinese newspaper [WHB](#) (China) publishes an article by Li Shuo who writes "The Moscow Bolshoi Theatre which rivals the Mariinsky is Russia's top international academic institution with an international reputation. Compared with the Mariinsky Theatre, the Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Bolshoi Theatre is one of the oldest and most famous groups in the world, with many top singers and dancers." "After a lapse of 17 years, the Bolshoi Theatre Opera team will bring Rimsky Korsakov's epic opera *The Tsar's Bride* to the Shanghai Grand Theatre for the first time in the Mainland from May 14th to 16th. This performance is also one of the heavyweight performances of the 35th Shanghai Spring International Music Festival."

[JF Daily](#) (China) Morning News publishes an article by Qiu Yuhua who reports "From the evening to the 16th tonight, the world-famous Bolshoi Theatre will perform the Russian composer Rimsky Korsakov's opera *The Tsar's Bride* at the Shanghai Grand Theatre. This performance is also part of the 35th Shanghai Spring Festival. One of the heavyweight performances of the International Music Festival, the Russian delegation will become a highlight of the "Spring in Shanghai". "In 2014, Tugan, 37, became the Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre in Russia. Under his guidance, many Russian classic operas including *The Queen of Spades* and *The Tsar's Bride* were revived. The stage declares to the world that "classic is not boring." The works of Russian opera directed by Tugan not only retain the essence of national opera, but also instil new vitality."

jfdaily.com/journal
jfdaily.com

[China Daily](#) (China) "From May 14th to 16th, the world-famous Bolshoi Theatre will perform the Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Tsar's Bride* at the Shanghai Grand Theatre. The show is also part of the 35th Shanghai Spring International. One of the heavyweight performances of the festival, the Russian delegation will become a highlight of this year's "Spring in Shanghai"." "The opera uses rich soundtracks and exquisite artistic expression to dramatize the love, ha-

tred, intrigues and rights in the historical stories, and the light and darkness in the depths of human nature. A masterpiece in the history of Russian opera."



[Kankan News](#)

[Kanka News](#) (China) Zhang Haiyan reports "As one of the heavyweight performances of the 35th Shanghai Spring International Music Festival, tonight, the world-famous Bolshoi Theatre performed the Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Tsar's Bride* at the Shanghai Grand Theatre." This is also the first time the Bolshoi Theatre has visited the Shanghai Grand Theatre in 17 years." "The design is poetic, colourful, and accurate historically. It not only faithfully presents Rimsky-Korsakov's music, but also restores the Russian opera tradition. *The Tsar's Bride* is a testimony to the development of the entire opera style of the Bolshoi Theatre. Since the premiere, several generations of singers from the Bolshoi Theatre have participated in it, demonstrating the drama's mature style with artistic skills. Today, the style of such works is rare in the repertoire of the Bolshoi Theatre."

The online Chinese publication [SH QQ](#) (China) announces the Bolshoi's performances of *The Tsar's Bride* in Shanghai and reports "In 2014, Tugan Sokhiev, 37, became the Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre in Russia. Under his guidance, many Russian classic operas including *The Queen of Spades* and *The Tsar's Bride* were revived. On the stage, these operas declare to the world "classic is not boring."

The online Beijing information guide announces [The Beijinger](#) announces performances of *The Bolshoi Ballet: The Flame of Paris* at the National Centre For The Performing Arts (NCPA).

The Chinese newspaper [Huangpuqu](#) (China): Liu Yi reports about the *The Tsar's Bride* mentioning "this

version of The Tsar's Bride retains the basic framework and colours of Fedorovsky's version of the set, but it does not produce a traditional set, instead it transforms the plane "picture" he draws into a real, three-dimensional existence. In this way, the artist creates a more comfortable performance environment for the artists, so that they can perform in a realistic space and interact with the scenery."

The South Korean news publication [Dong-a Ilbo](#) (South Korea) publishes an article by Jeong-Eun Kim announcing the upcoming Bolshoi tour of South Korea. The article features an interview and a photo of Bolshoi Ballet artistic director Makhar Vaziev. "The Bolshoi Ballet, an internationally renowned ballet company of Russia along with the Mariinsky Ballet, will present its performances with the Bolshoi Orchestra to the Korean audience for the first time in 23 years. With a rich history of more than 240 years, the ballet company will perform Swan Lake at the Seoul Arts Centre on Saturday." "Makhar Vaziev (57), ballet director of the company, expressed great expectations for the upcoming performances in Seoul in an e-mail interview with The Dong-A Ilbo Tuesday. "It has been over 20 years since the Bolshoi Ballet and the Bolshoi Orchestra visited Seoul together," he said. "The company has gone through so many changes from the mid-1990s that you can say it is now a completely new ballet company." "Personally, Seoul is a city I really love," Mr. Vaziev said "I'm very pleased that we can present Swan Lake in Seoul, which shows both the history and the present of the company as well as ideals that the Bolshoi Ballet dreams of." The last time the Bolshoi Ballet performed for the Korean audience was 13 years ago. Back then in 2005, the company brought Giselle and Spartacus." "What's special about the Bolshoi is that the ballet, opera and orchestra are all in the same organisation and thus closely connected to one another," said Vaziev. "The upcoming performances of Swan Lake together with the Bolshoi Orchestra will indeed show what it is like to be Bolshoi."

The international online arts publication [Blouinartinfo](#) (USA) publishes an article announcing "Based on the novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky, the Bolshoi in Moscow is soon to present The Idiot in opera format. Adapted by Alexander Medvedev, the opera is to be presented in four acts on the Bolshoi stage until May 29, 2018."

The UK newspaper [The Daily Mail](#) publishes (27 of May) a report by Nic White and photo gallery of President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe opening the Year of Russian and Japan on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. "Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe enjoy a night at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow

after talks on peace treaty over four Pacific Islands"Mr Abe and his wife Akie Abe sat beside President Putin on the centre balcony of the Bolshoi Theatre to watch the show."

The Russian President showed his Japanese counterpart a good time in Moscow on Saturday after they attended an economic forum the day before.

Mr Abe and his wife Akie Abe sat beside President Putin on the centre balcony of the Bolshoi Theatre to watch the show.

Vladimir Putin and Shinzo Abe took some time out from haggling over Pacific islands to take in a theatre performance.

They got on stage to open the cross-cultural year of Russia and Japan, which featured an impressive display by men dressed as fully-armoured Japanese samurais.



Vladimir Putin and Shinzo Abe got on stage to open the cross-cultural year of Russia and Japan. The Bolshoi Theatre, May 26th. Photo courtesy/kremlin.ru

The online entertainment news publication [Broadway World](#) announces the Bolshoi Ballet in Cinemas 2018-2019 programme. "The 2018/19 Bolshoi Ballet in cinema season showcases some of ballet's greatest classical works performed by the world's finest dancers creating a unique cinematic experience. Four classical ballets (La Sylphide, Don Quixote, La Bayadère and The Sleeping Beauty) will be shown on the big screen alongside the beloved Christmas tale The Nutcracker. The evocative 1920's jazz ballet The Golden Age and Edward Clug's latest choreographic work Petrushka alongside Carmen Suite completes the season."

The Greek online culture news publication [Culture Now.gr](#) (Greece) announces: Coppelia: direct transmission from Moscow to Megaro This year's broadcasts from the Bolshoi Theatre are completing this artistic period with a direct broadcast from Moscow of the enjoyable ballet Coppelia on Sunday 10 June at the Concert Hall."

Major mass media sources of the Republic of Bulgaria continue to report about the guest performances of the Sofia Opera and Ballet at the Bolshoi Theatre.

The video interview of the [Bulgarian News Agency BTA](#) with the Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin, titled "Vladimir Urin says: "The Bulgarian people are very talented, they possess great musicality and voices" is available on the agency's website (aired on May 18th at 1:46 p.m.).

The full transcript of the interview is available on the [website](#) of the Bulgarian State Opera and Ballet Theatre.



The Bolshoi Theatre General Director Vladimir Urin in the video report of the [BTA](#), May 18th

"Question: Mr. Urin, where did it all start? How did it happen that 37 years later the Sofia Opera and Ballet appeared on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre again?

Answer: One must know how to maintain friendship. I know the academician Kartaloff very well, we planned various events and meetings numerous times. Mr. Kartaloff came to us, we discussed the possibilities of our cooperation, and then the idea of the Sofia Opera and Ballet guest performances at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow appeared. / ... /

Question: Can we interpret the presence of the Sofia Opera and Ballet on the Russian stage as a new impetus in the cultural relations between the two countries?

Answer: You know, I am completely convinced of this. I avoid expressions of pathos, this is my position, but here is what I would like to say: human relations always lead to some creative result. There are projects, there is an exchange, contracts about a number of very things are signed ... Human contacts result in creative connections. I am fully convinced that this has always been the case, because the Bolshoi Theatre cooperates very much with various countries around the world, and with different Theatres as well. Currently, we are planning several joint productions with the Metropolitan in New York, we will have a joint production with the Paris Opera, as well as a joint production with the festival in Aix-en-Provence. Before that, we had co-pro-

ductions with the English National Opera. We have quite a lot of serious international relations. I am absolutely convinced that the friendly human relations that connect us with the Sofia Opera and Ballet will have their results in the future. / ... /

The video is available on [YouTube.com](#).

The [BTA](#) presented another video report titled The Triumph of Wagner: Sofia Opera at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow on May 21st (aired at 1:57 a.m.)

The [BTA website](#) reports that on May 21st the President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev and his spouse attended the performance of the opera Siegfried presented by the Sofia Opera at the Bolshoi Theatre.

The portals [Russian Bulgaria](#) and [Tvardita](#) (Moldova) report the same news with the reference to the President of Bulgaria's press-office.

International mass media continue to report about the Bolshoi Ballet stars performing in major international projects at various theatres around the world.

The online specialised entertainment news publication [Broadway World](#) announces the upcoming screening of Bolshoi's Flames of Paris in local cinemas. "With powerful virtuosity and some of the most stunning pas de deux, the Bolshoi Ballet displays an exuberance almost too enormous for the Moscow stage."

The [website](#) of the French broadcaster France TV inof Culturebox announces the video of the Bolshoi's Swan Lake will be available starting 27 May on the channel's website (CET, -2 MSK).

[Swan Lake in the TV programme Télé-Loisirs](#)
[Online-broadcast France 3](#)



The announcement about Swan Lake (France 3, May 27th, 00:25 CET) on [Culturebox](#)

The major German mass media sources report about Olga Smirnova performing at the Hamburg State

Opera. On May 17th and 20th the Bolshoi Theatre's prima-ballerina performed the part of Marguerite Gautier in the ballet [Lady of the Camellias by John Neumeier](#). (Armand – Christopher Evans). She closed the spring series of performances of this ballet to the music by Chopin in Hamburg; the cast also starred Artem Ovcharenko (the Bolshoi Theatre premiere performed the part of Armand on May 1st and 3rd; the part of Marguerite was performed by the English National Ballet soloist Alina Cojocaru).

The interview with the Bolshoi's prima-ballerina and John Neumeier is available in the video report about the performances of Lady of the Camellias on the website of [NDR](#) (Norddeutscher Rundfunk) broadcasting company.

The German newspaper [Hamburger Abendblatt](#) publishes a review by Falk Schreiber who reports that Bolshoi star Olga Smirnova dances in two performances of the Hamburg Ballet, John Neumeier's Lady of the Camellias at the Hamburg Staatoper saying the ballerina is "stylish and beautiful." "Not only because the Bolshoi is a Russian national shrine, a true myth. A visit is one of the indispensable programme points of a Moscow trip - although the house is scandalous, but artistically the quality of the productions shown is uncontested."

The same source also publishes a short report titled [Mythos Bolschoi](#) (May 19th). Quote: "The Bolshoi Theatre (Russian for "Big Theatre") has been in the centre of Moscow since 1780, the ballet division is considered the world's most important company for classical and neoclassical dance. Choreographers like Jiri Kylian and Hans van Manen work here, at the same time the artistic heritage and the works by Marius Petipa and George Balanchine are maintained. The current Theatre director has been the Kremlin-friendly Vladimir Urin since 2013."

[John Neumeier and Olga Smirnova on NDR](#)

[Hamburger Abendblatt](#) about Olga Smirnova, May 19th:

Major American mass media sources continue to analyze the denial of entry visas to Olga Smirnova and Jacopo Tissi who thus could not take part in the gala-concert The Stars of Today Meet The Stars of Tomorrow the gala of the largest young ballet dancers contest Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP).

[The New York Times](#) publishes an opinion article by Russian journalist Dmitry Volkov who writes "Don't Isolate the Russians. It's What Putin Wants. Within the last

two months, a pair of dancers from Russia's Bolshoi Ballet were denied American visas because there was a small mistake in their application, and a team of Russian wrestlers missed a competition in the United States because they had filed their papers late. These cases, widely publicised in Russia, can be explained by a cut in the United States Embassy's staff, which the Russian government demanded last month after Washington expelled Russian diplomats in response to the poisoning in London of a former Russian spy."

Cyprus mass media report about the gala dedicated to Stanislav Vlasov (August 1st 1933 – November 12th 2017), the Bolshoi Ballet soloist (1951-1972), the Bolshoi Theatre ballet master and the founder of [The Chamber Ballet](#) (1980, since 1991 a.k.a the Russian Ballet).

The English language Cyprus newspaper the Cyprus Mail (Cyprus) publishes an article by Maria Gregoriou who writes "To celebrate this fact and the life of legendary Bolshoi soloist and choreographer Stanislav Vlasov, an evening of classical ballet performances will be held at the Pattihio theatre in Limassol on Friday [May 25th]." "Vlasov, who passed away in November, danced with all the stars at the Bolshoi Theatre. His internationally acclaimed skill in duet dancing has not been surpassed to this day. As a choreographer, Vlasov restored the ballets Fire Bird, Petrushka, Bluebeard, and Snow Maiden to the Bolshoi Theatre" "On Friday, dancers from the Bolshoi Theatre, the Moscow State Classical Ballet, the Crown of the Russian Ballet Acro-duet and the Grigorovich Russian Ballet will come together to perform a beautiful and dramatic collection of Vlasov's greatest masterpieces of classical ballet. These will include scenes from ballets of Blue Beard, Carmina Burana, Fly Doves, Walpurgis Nights, Firebird, Dying Swan and more."

[Information on the theatre's website](#)

The playbill of the gala dedicated to Stanislav Vlasov (August 1st 1933 – November 12th 2017) in Limassol, Cyprus.

In brief

Italian mass media continue to report about the performance of the Bolshoi's prima-ballerina at [La Scala](#): she takes part in the series of concerts marking the 80th birth anniversary and the 25th death anniversary of the legendary dancer Rudolph Nureyev (March 17th 1938 – January 6th 1992). On May 24th, 25th, 26th and 29th Svetlana Zakharova and Roberto Bolle perform in Nureyev Gala.

Guest stars: Marianela Nunez, Germain Louvet and

Vadim Muntagirov. Conductor – David Coleman. The casts also star students of La Scala Ballet School.

Conductor – David Coleman.



The photo on the playbill of the concert.
Rudolph Nureyev as Romeo, December 20th 1980.
Photo courtesy: Silvia Lelli e Roberto Masotti / La Scala

On May 31st and June 1st Svetlana Zakharova is going to take part in the Gala-concert of world ballet stars marking the 200th anniversary of Marius Petipa.

This autumn the Bolshoi Ballet is going to [visit La Scala](#).

On September 7th, 8th and 10th the company will present [La Bayadere](#) to the music by Ludwig Minkus, choreographer by Marius Petipa, new version by Yuri Grigorovich. Conductor – Pavel Klinichev.

September 11th, 12th and 13th – the ballet [The Taming of the Shrew](#) to the music by Dmitri Shostakovich choreographed by Jean-Christophe Maillot (conductor – Igor Dronov).

The Bolshoi Theatre's guest soloists, the international opera stars Anna Netrebko and Yusif Eyvazov received prestigious [awards of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#).

On Monday, May 21st the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev signed the decree awarding Yusif Eyvazov the title of The People's Artist. His spouse Anna Netrebko was awarded the Order.

It is mentioned that Eyvazov was awarded the title for his great achievements in the development of the musical culture of Azerbaijan, and Netrebko received her award for fruitful activities in strengthening cooperation in the field of musical art between Russia and Azerbaijan.

The following sources report the news:

[TV Mir24](#)

[The portal Moscow-Baku](#)

[Sputnik Azerbaijan](#)

[Vestnik Kavkaza](#)

[News.ru](#)

On May 21st the Bolshoi Theatre chief conductor and music director Tugan Sokhiev conducted the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia at the Svetlanov Hall of Moscow International House of Music. The musicians performed the Violin Concerto by Alban Berg and the Symphony No.1 by Johannes Brahms. Soloist – maestro Vladimir Spivakov.

[The playbill](#)



On May 22nd the Bolshoi Theatre was mentioned in the bulletins of news sources in connection with the announcement that stated: one of the Moscow squares, located in the Centre of the Russian capital, was given the name of Feodor Chaliapin. The announcement appeared on the [website](#) of the Moscow Mayor: "It is quite symbolic that the area is located near the Bolshoi Theatre, where Chaliapin performed as a soloist".

The following sources reported the news:

[TASS](#)

[TV channel 360°](#)

[Ren TV](#)

[Moscow 24](#)

[Vechernaya Moskva](#)

etc.

From June 6th to 8th the International Scientific Conference Marius Petipa. The Empire of the Ballet:

from the Exaltation to the Decline is going to take place at three cultural venues in Moscow. The conference is dedicated to Marius Petipa and the important trends in the development of the ballet art. The event is organised by the A.A. Bakhrushin State Theatre Museum in cooperation with the State Institute of Art Studies and the Bolshoi Theatre. It will mark the anniversary of the signing of the contract between Marius Petipa and the Directorate of the Imperial Theatres. On June 7th the conference will be held in the main building of the A.A. Bakhrushin State Theatre Museum.

The registration is open [here](#).



The reissue of the book *Divertissement* by Vadim Gaevsky (St. Petersburg: Publishing house Seans, 2018) was presented at the Stanislavsky Electrotheatre on May 23rd. The book *Divertissement* was published in 1981 and was immediately banned.

The reason was the fundamental discrepancy between the writer's world outlook and the canons and attitudes of late Soviet culture. Despite the ban, the book had a tremendous impact on a whole generation of intellectuals, going far beyond the intra-group discourse. Today it is obvious that *Divertissement* by Vadim Gaevsky is an unconditional monument of Russian artistic culture.

Vadim Gaevsky is the greatest connoisseur and researcher of Russian ballet. His long and complex biography unfolded in the theatre. He addresses pre- and post-war Moscow primas by name and patronymic, all others by name; but, nevertheless, he considers the present to be no less interesting and significant than any golden page of the past.

On May 23rd **XXVI Music Festival Stars of White Nights** opened in Saint Petersburg (it is taking place from May 23rd till July 29th 2018).

The artistic director — maestro Valery Gergiev. The events of the Festival will take place at the Mariinsky Theatre, as well as at Mariinsky-2 and the Concert Hall.

Prior to the festival, on May 22nd, Yuri Bashmet and the Mariinsky Theatre Symphony Orchestra conducted by Valery Gergiev performed the works of Alfred Schnittke and Giya Kancheli at the Concert Hall. The St. Petersburg audience also received another gift: the world's oldest orchestra, the Dresden State Capella under the baton of Christian Thielemann, arrived at the Festival. The programme includes the pieces by Carl Maria von Weber and Johannes Brahms. On May 25th Denis Matsuev performed the solo part in the virtuoso Concert No.2 by Franz Liszt.

On May 23rd the festival Stars of White Nights opened with the premiere of the opera *Falstaff* by Giuseppe Verdi staged by the Italian director Andrea De Rosa, who also staged another opera by Verdi, *Simon Boccanegra*, which the St. Petersburg audience also enjoyed a lot.

On May 24th the programme at the Concert Hall included the Sonata for violin and piano, *Danse sacrée et danse profane* and symphonic fragments from the mystery *Le Martyre de saint Sébastien* by Claude Debussy, Sonata for violin and piano by Cesar Franck and the rhapsodie *Tzigane* by Maurice Ravel.

On May 24th the famous ensemble of Japanese traditional instruments AUN J Classic Orchestra performed at the Concert Hall as a part of the Russia-Japan bilateral year.

The UK daily newspaper **The Telegraph** (UK) publishes a review by dance critic Mark Monahan of the Royal Ballet's new production of *Swan Lake* at Covent Garden giving it three stars out of five. "Watching the first night on Thursday proved a fascinating, mercurial, slightly frustrating experience: I'd frequently find my self inwardly tutting only, suddenly, to be pleasantly surprised; then, minutes later, the opposite would happen. While you can't blame the Royal's 31-year-old artist-in-residence Liam Scarlett and brilliant designer John Macfarlane for wanting to iron out its inherent narrative wrinkles, does this ironing really work?" The premiere cast starred Marianela Nunez as Odette-Odile and Vadim Muntagirov as Prince Siegfried; conductor – Koen Kessels.

The performances of [Swan Lake at the Royal Opera House](#) continue until June 21st.

May 28th, May 9th and 15th (matinee performance) and June 19th – the cast starred Natalia Osipova as Odette-Odile and Matthew Ball as Prince Siegfried, who performed instead of David Hallberg in the ballet [Giselle](#) in March. Valery Ovsyanikov will conduct performances in June.

On May 18th Natalia Osipova and David Hallberg celebrated their birthdays performing in the ballet [Giselle](#) with the American Ballet Theatre at the Metropolitan Opera.

The online USA publication [Andy Wharhol's Interview](#) (USA) publishes a long interview by Jane Gayduk with Ballet dancers Natalia Osipova and David Hallberg on their enduring stage partnership. “David Hallberg, 36, and Natalia Osipova, 32, are in the studio running the famous bench scene in [Giselle](#) over and over with ballet mistress Irina Kolpakova—their only rehearsal before dancing lead roles in the American Ballet Theatre production, which they’re dancing together tonight (18 May) only.” “Their first-ever partnership in a 2009 performance of [Giselle](#) was a lucky accident. Osipova was dancing as a guest artist with ABT and her intended partner was injured ahead of the show. Hallberg subbed in. Everything that follows reads like a story-book romance.”

[The article](#) also features nine expressive photographs by Taylor Tupy from the dancers’ joined rehearsal prior to the performance in ABT production at the Met.

[Washington Post](#) (USA) newspaper publishes a review by Sarah L Kaufman of ABT’s David Hallberg and Natalia Osipova in [Giselle](#) saying the pair give the ballet a “sensual charge.” “As ballet stars David Hallberg and Natalia Osipova strode onstage for the last of many curtain calls Friday night after their electrifying [Giselle](#), with American Ballet Theatre, audience members responded with a little performance of their own. A spontaneous chorus of “Happy Birthday” rang through the Metropolitan Opera House, sung by those in the rows around me, because not only do Hallberg and Osipova share a dance partnership that feels like destiny set to music, they were also born on the same day, May 18.” “Osipova and Hallberg offered a new way to understand this work, drawing on rare chemistry and, undoubtedly, on the thrill of finally creating a world together after a journey through fire.”

The blogger [Balletomanehk / Ballet](#) fan published a review for the performance of [Giselle](#) on May 18th in his Live Journal. [The video](#) of the curtain calls after the performance of [Giselle](#) by ABT, Natalia Osipova and Da-

vid Hallberg being congratulated on their birthday on May 18th at the Metropolitan Opera.

On May 26th the [First Channel](#) broadcast the documentary [Dancer](#) about Sergei Polunin.

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) published the review by Maria Babalova of the performances at the [Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre](#). The audience was presented with the oratorio [The Triumph of Time and Insensibility](#) by Georg Friedrich Handel staged by Konstantin Bogomolov (conductor — Philip Chizhevsky, “cover version of the libretto” by Vladimir Sorokin). The review is titled [Useless Victory](#). The author also remembers the production of [The Children of Rosenthal](#) at the Bolshoi Theatre.

Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Mariss Jansons performed at the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic and at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow.

The video recording of the concert is available on the [Moscow Philharmonic website](#).

The following Russian mass media published reviews:

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) (Solo for Don Giovanni, text by Irina Muravieva)

[Kommersant](#) (Heroic Dances, text by Yulia Bederova)

[Nezavisimaya Gazeta](#) (Dances of maestro Jansons, text by Vladimir Dudin)

Social networks

The pictures of the famous harpist Emmanuel Ceysson are very popular on [Facebook](#). So are the videos of him during the rehearsals and performances at the Met (conductor — maestro Nezet Seguin). The recording of his part in the opera [La Boheme](#) by Giacomo Puccini made on February 16th (the production starring Sonya Yoncheva and Michael Fabiano, conductor — Marco Armiliato) hold some kind of record with 152 thousands views and over two thousands reposts.

“Birthday boy. Birthday girl. The birthday of [Giselle](#). I love you, Natasha”, — wrote David Hallberg in his [Instagram](#) on May 18th.

Bogdan Volkov shows on his [Facebook](#) page that he is getting ready to perform in the opera [The Idiot](#) by



Emmanuel Ceysson performs together with Sonya Yoncheva and Michael Fabiano in *La Bohème* by Giacomo Puccini, Metropolitan Opera, February 16th 2018/[Facebook](#)

Mieczysław Weinberg based on the same-name novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky. “Looks like he wants to steal your role”, – comment the users on his photo of his pet that “captured” the script of Prince Myshkin part.



Bogdan Volkov: Going over the script by Weinberg – on May 27th he performed the part of Prince Myshkin in the opera *The Idiot* on the Bolshoi New Stage
Photo/[facebook](#)

Olga Smirnova writes in her [Instagram](#): “It was a real present from John Neumeier – I got a chance to spend two weeks with the Hamburg Ballet! Thank you so much! Now I want to live in this dream again”.



David Hallberg on [Instagram](#) (May 18th): “Birthday boy. Birthday girl. The birthday of Giselle. I love you, Natasha”, – with Natalia Osipova before performing in *Giselle* by ABT at the Metropolitan Opera



Olga Smirnova in [Instagram](#): “It was a real present from John Neumeier – I got a chance to spend two weeks with the Hamburg Ballet! Thank you so much! Now I want to live in this dream again”

Debuts

La Sylphide

May 16th

Stanislava Postnova — Pas de Six

May 17th

Mark Chino — Pas de Six

May 18th

Elizaveta Kruteleva — The First Sylph

Victoria Litvinova — A Sylph / Two Sylphs

Changes to the playbill

La Sylphide

On May 16th Anastasia Stashkevich performed the title role, Vyacheslav Lopatin performed the part of James instead of Semyon Chudin

May 18th. Sylph — Evgenia Obraztsova

May 22nd. Sylph — Anastasia Goryacheva

Birthdays

May 11th — an American dancer and choreographer, the outstanding Martha Graham; the founder of the Martha Graham Dance Company and dancing technique (1894-1991)

May 11th — the stage director and a set designer Dmitri Tcherniakov. He staged the following productions at the Bolshoi Theatre: Evgeny Onegin by Pyotr 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, the Bolshoi Theatre's prima-ballerina 1960-1988, a People's Artist of the USSR Svetlana Adyrkhaeva — jubilee

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

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

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

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



Dmitri Tcherniakov



Gennady Yanin

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

May 18th — the Royal Ballet's prima-ballerina Natalia Osipova, the Bolshoi Theatre's ballerina 2004-2011



Rudolph Nureyev, Margot Fonteyn and Roland Petit,
London, 1969

May 18th — David Hallberg, the Bolshoi Ballet's principal 2011-2014

May 18th — prima ballerina assoluta Margot Fonteyn (1919-1991)

May 19th — a choreographer and the artistic director of the Yekaterinburg Opera and Ballet Theatre ballet company Vyacheslav Samodurov. He made his debut as a choreographer in 2006 at the Workshop of New Choreography at the Bolshoi Theatre (+/- to the music by Georg Handel). In 2016 he staged the ballet Ondine to the music by Hans Werner Henze on the New Stage

May 19th — the Bolshoi Opera's soloist (1954-1982), lyric coloratura soprano and a People's Artist of the RSFSR Tamara Sorokina

May 22nd — the composer and major reformer of the opera Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

May 24th — a poet and the Nobel prize laureate in literature (1987) Joseph Brodsky (1940-1996)

May 25th — a theatre and film actor and director, a People's Artist of the RSFSR, the Chairman of the Union of Theatre Workers of the Russian Federation Alexander Kalyagin

May 27th — the dancer Isadora Duncan (1877-1927)

May 28th — the Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Venera Gimadieva (soprano)

May 31st — a ballet master and an Honoured Artist of Russia Vasily Vorokhobko (1947-2014). From 1988 till 2014 he was the Bolshoi Theatre's pedagogue-repetiteur

May 31st — composer Cesare Pugni (1802-1870)

June 1st — the Bolshoi Opera's soloist and a People's Artist of Russia Elena Zelenskaya