



# Newsletter

AFTER A SHORT SUMMER BREAK THE BOLSHOI STARTS ITS 244TH SEASON.

On September 17, at 14:00, the traditional company meeting took place in the stalls of the Historic Stage. The Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin, the ballet company Artistic Director Makhar Vaziev and the Chief Conductor and Music Director Tugan Sokhiev announced the upcoming plans and introduced new company members. The RF deputy prime minister Olga Golodets and deputy minister of culture Pavel Stepanov came to greet the theatre at the beginning of the season. The chairman of the Board of Trustees Andrei Kostin presided over the traditional ceremony of the Board of Trustees Prizes. A new general sponsor of the Bolshoi – Ingosstrakh Insurance Company represented by its CEO Mikhail Volkov was introduced.

Director General Vladimir Urin gratefully thanked all theatre professional teams for their work in the 243rd season and expressed special gratitude to the ballet company for their successful London tour, where “21 performances were given on the highest level”. Also the director distinguished the head of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Programme Dmitry Vdovin whose pupils had won many international competitions – the 26th Glinka Vocal Competition, the 16th Tchaikovsky International Competition, the International BBC Vocal Competition in Cardiff, etc.

**Maria Barakova** (YOP soloist since 2017) The 1st prize at the 26th Glinka Vocal Competition; the 1st prize at the 16th Tchaikovsky International Competition.

**Maria Motolygina** (YOP soloist since 2018) The 1st prize at the 10th Stanisław Moniuszko International Vocal Competition (Warsaw); the 3rd prize at the 16th Tchaikovsky International Competition.

**Andrei Kimach** (YOP soloist in 2016-2018) – the winner of the International BBC Vocal Competition Singer of the World (Cardi)

In his introductory speech Vladimir Urin gave some statistics for the year. Seats sold were 97% instead of the 90% of available seats as had been planned (660



Pavel Stepanov, Makhar Vaziev, Tugan Sokhiev, Vladimir Urin, Olga Golodets, Andrei Kostin, Mikhail Volkov. Photo by Damir Yusupov

000 spectators, not counting tours audiences), the theatre earned 2 billion 625 million roubles – 400 mln more than previously. Before giving the podium to the chairman of the Board of Trustees Andrei Kostin the Director General thanked all partners and sponsors of the Bolshoi.

Andrei Kostin handed out the Board of Trustees Prizes to company members.

The prize For Outstanding Performance In The 243rd Season was given to

Ballet soloists Mikhail Lobukhin, Eleonora Sevenard; ballet-dancer Egor Sharkov;

Opera soloists Elena Manistina, Mikhail Kazakov, Vasily Sokolov; Orchestra member Alexander Kolosov;

Chorus singer Nikita Strashinsky.

The Chief Conductor and Music Director Tugan Sokhiev called the previous season very fruitful and promised even more ambitious plans in the next one, and introduced new opera company members.

The ballet company Artistic Director Makhar Vaziev thanked dancers, ballet masters and all those involved in the production process for the season in general and for the tours in particular, and introduced new ballet company members.

Among numerous plans for the upcoming season Makhar Vaziev pointed out the celebration of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Galina Ulanova (a performance of the new version of Giselle by Alexei Ratmansky will be dedicated to the date) and the 80th birthday of Vladimir Vasiliev that is to be celebrated grandly (April 13-15 and 18, 2020).

## [The Bolshoi Theatre Plans For The 244th Season](#)

A new sponsor has joined the Bolshoi in the beginning season. Immediately before the company meeting a treaty was signed with In-

gosstrakh Insurance Company. Before giving the podium to CEO of the biggest Russian insurance company Mikhail Volkov, Mr Urin thanked the theatre's former general sponsor – Credit Suisse Bank, “which had just changed position and has not only stayed true to the Bolshoi but plans to start some new projects including establishment of a new prize to support young talents.”



Director of Ingosstrakh company Mikhail Volkov and the Bolshoi director general Vladimir Urin

Within their cooperation the parties plan to launch several projects to promote development of theatre art in Russia and boost public interest in the creative work of the Bolshoi. The artists of the theatre will perform in various regions of the RF within this extensive federal project. Also Ingosstrakh plans to implement a project The Bolshoi – For Children aimed at familiarising young spectators with the Bolshoi Theatre, its huge historical and cultural heritage, cultivate their love of theatre and help to make ballet and opera popular with the young generation. Besides, Ingosstrakh plans to establish a special prize to award the Bolshoi workers for their outstanding contribution to theatre activity.

See the treaty signing details at the theatre [web-site](#)

#### KEY EVENTS OF THE 244TH SEASON

The opera company will present nine premieres:

September 26, 2019, New Stage – [The Tale Of Tsar Saltan](#) by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Music Director – Tugan Sokhiev

Production Director – Alexei Frandetti

November 29, 2019, Pokrovsky Chamber Stage – [Gostiny Dvor](#) by Vasily Pashkevich

Conductor – Philipp Chizhevsky

Director – Gleb Cherepanov

December 5, 2019 – [Dido and Aeneas](#), co-production with International Opera Festival in Aix-en-Provence.

Conductor – Christopher Moulds

Director – Vincent Huguet  
February 14, 2020, Historic Stage – [Sadko](#) by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Director – Dmitri Tcherniakov

Music director – to be announced

March 5, 2020, Chamber Stage – [The Little Sweep](#) by Benjamin Britten

Conductor – Airat Kashaev

Director – Oleg Dolin

March 8, 2020, Historic Stage – [Mazepa](#) by Tchaikovsky, concert version

Conductor – Tugan Sokhiev

May 24, 2020, Historic Stage – [Anna Boleyn](#) by Gaetano Donizetti, concert version

Conductor – Tugan Sokhiev

June 17, 2020, New Stage – Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Conductor – Tugan Sokhiev

Director – Semyon Spivak

July 2, 2020, Chamber Stage – [Les Pêcheurs De Perles](#) by Georges Bizet

Conductor – Alexei Vereshchagin

Director – Vladislav Nastavshv

The ballet company will present five new works:

November 21, 2019, Historic Stage – [Giselle](#), Music by Adolphe Adam

Choreography – Jean Coralli, Jules Perrot, Marius Petipa

Choreographic version by Alexei Ratmansky

March 26, 2020, New Stage – one-act ballet evening – [Dancemania](#) by Vyacheslav Samodurov to music by Yuri Krasavin; [The Seasons](#) by Artemy Belyakov to music by Alexander Glazunov, and [Made In Bolshoi](#) by Anton Pimonov to music by Anatoli Korolyov

May 21, 2020, New Stage – [Master and Margarita](#) to music by Shostakovich, choreographer Edward Clug.

On December 8 a big concert at the Historic Stage will mark the 10th anniversary of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Programme.

#### THE 244TH SEASON LIVESTREAMS

The Bolshoi together with Pathé Live and Bel Air Media will provide livestreams and screenings of its ballets to cinemas all over the world.

Four livestreams and three screenings of the Bolshoi ballets will be shown within [Bolshoi In Cinema project in 2019-2020](#).

October 27 – Raymonda

November 17 – Le Corsaire

December 15 – The Nutcracker

January 26 – Giselle

February 23 – The Swan Lake

March 29 – Romeo and Juliet

April 19 – Jewels

The livestreamed productions will be simultaneously broadcast to Russian users on the [Bolshoi channel](#).



The Bolshoi Theatre Museum prepares exhibitions: The 75th anniversary of the Great Victory, Legend of Big Opera (for the 80th anniversary of birth of Elena Obraztsova), Faces of Giselle (for the 175th anniversary of the 1st performance at the Bolshoi), Fairytale World of Rimsky-Korsakov, Vladimir Vasiliev (for the dancer's 80th birthday) and Tchaikovsky (for the 180th anniversary of the birth of the composer).

The theatre tour schedule includes Chelyabinsk, Novosibirsk and Sevastopol. On November 29 the Bolshoi will perform Spartacus in the capital of Chinese Republic (Taiwan). On October 31 and November 2 the Bolshoi opera and orchestra will present the opera The Story Of Kai And Gerda by Sergei Banevich in Oman. On November 1 a gala concert of the Bolshoi Opera and Orchestra soloists will be held at Mascata Royal Opera. January 23, 24 and 25, 2020, the Bolshoi Ballet and Orchestra will present the ballet Onegin by John Cranko to music by Tchaikovsky in Oman. In March 2020 the Bolshoi Opera and Orchestra will also visit France. The ballet company will travel to the USA in June 2020. In July 2020 the Bolshoi Ballet, Opera and Orchestra will have a tour in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

[The Bolshoi season of 2019/20 details in the e-booklet \(\\*.pdf\)](#)

The chairman of the Theatre Union of the Russian Federation Alexander Kalyagin sent his congratulations on the opening of the new season to the Bolshoi director general and the company.

#### COMPANY PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the Bolshoi dancers on their promotions.

Artemy Belyakov promoted to principal dancer, Alyona Kovalyova – to leading soloist, Olga Marchekova and David Motta Soares – to first soloists, Anastasia Denisova and Eleonora Sevenard – to soloists.



Artemy Belyakov, Alyona Kovalyova, Olga Marchekova, David Motta Soares, Anastasia Denisova, Eleonora Sevenard

## Events

One of the main events of the season – the 20th International contemporary dance festival [DanceInversion](#) held in Moscow from September 10 to November 3. Companies from France, USA, Great Britain, China, Spain, Norway and Lebanon, performed on the stages of the Bolshoi, Stanislavsky Music Theatre, RAMT, Helikon Opera and the Theatre of Nations.

The Bolshoi press centre hosted the festival opening [press conference](#) on September 10.

Immediately following the press conference, at the Bolshoi New Stage, a version of [The Rite of Spring](#) by Peacock Contemporary Dance Company was presented.



Participants of the 20th International contemporary dance festival DanceInversion opening press conference. Photo by Marina Milverton

Choreographer – Yang Liping.

The 2nd performance was on September 11.

September 18 and 19, 2019, at the RAMT – Dorrance Dance (USA) The programme included [Jungle Blues/Three to One/Myelination](#), choreographer Michelle Dorrance.

September 19 and 20, Helikon Opera – [31 rue Vandenbranden](#) by Lyon National Opera Ballet (France), choreographers Gabriela Carrizo and Frank Chartier.

September 26 and 27, the Theatre of Nations – [#minaret](#) by Omar Rajeh Company (Lebanon), choreographer Omar Rajeh.

October 2 and 3, the New Stage – Norwegian National Ballet presents the ballet [Hedda Gabler](#) to music by Nils Petter Molv er, choreography by Marit Moum Aune based on the play by Henryk Ibsen. The world premiere at Oslo Operahuset was on September 28, 2017.

[The ballet Hedda Gabler at Operahuset website](#)



[Hedda Gabler](#) by Norwegian National Ballet.  
Photo by Erik Berg

[The programme of DanceInversion 2019](#)

The theatre season at the Bolshoi opened with the opera [Eugene Onegin](#) by Pyotr Tchaikovsky at the Historic Stage.

Stage Director – Yevgeny Arye.

The premiere was on May 15, 2019.

Conductor – chief conductor and music director of the Bolshoi Tugan Sokhiev.

[See casts here](#)



[Eugene Onegin](#) at the Historic Stage opening the 244th season.

Alexei Neklyudov as Lensky Anna Nechaeva as Tatyana.

Photo by Damir Yusupov

September 26, the New Stage – the first opera premiere of the 244th season, in honour of 175 anniversary of the birth of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and the 220th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Pushkin – [The Tale Of Tsar Saltan](#), libretto by Vladimir Belsky after Alexander Pushkin’s tale of the same name. Also on September 27, 28 (12:00 and 19:00), 29 (14:00) .



The rehearsal of The Tale Of Tsar Saltan opera.

Photo by Damir Yusupov

Conductor – Tugan Sokhiev

Director – [Alexei Frandetti](#)

Set Designer – [Zinovy Margolin](#)

Costume Designer – [Viktoria Sevrjukova](#)

Lighting Designer – Ivan Vinogradov

Choreographer and Movement Director – Irina Kashuba

Chief Chorus Master – Valery Borisov.



The Tale Of Tsar Saltan (1900) by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov entered the Bolshoi repertoire in 1913. Later it had two more productions – in 1959 and 1989. The latter is preserved in a poster of 1989. Thirty years later the musical fairy-tale returns to the stage of the Bolshoi.

See more about the opera and an [interview with the director](#).

The ballet company has opened the season on September 21 by [The Swan Lake](#) by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Yuri Grigorovich (2001 version) used scenes from choreography by Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov, Alexander Gorsky.

Conductor (September 21) – Tugan Sokhiev. [Casts](#)



Denis Rodkin as Prince Siegfried in The Swan Lake.  
Photo by Valeria Komissarova

[See more](#) about The Swan Lake and its stage version by Yuri Grigorovich



Pyotr Melentyev as Tito Vespasiano, Azamat Tsaliti as Publio. Photo by Vladimir Mayorov

The Chamber Stage opened its new season on September 17 with opera-seria *La clemenza di Tito* by Mozart.

Conductor of the premiere – Ignat Solzhenitsyn  
Stage Director – Igor Ushakov  
The premiere at Pokrovsky Chamber Theatre took place on March 8, 2017.

Conductor – Ignat Solzhenitsyn

[Cast details](#)

September 21 and 22, Chamber Stage – opera [One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich](#) by Alexander Tchaikovsky. The Bolshoi had first presented the production in December 2018, to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Libretto by Alexander Tchaikovsky and Georgy Isaakyan based on the writer's same-named novella.

Conductor – Ignat Solzhenitsyn

Stage Director – Georgy Isahakyan

[Casts](#)

Last season premieres *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* and [Il Viaggio A Reims](#) by Rossini (the Historic Stage, October 9) will be performed as part of the Russian musical theatre festival To See The Music held for the 4th time in Moscow. The festival opening press conference was held on September 16 at the Bolshoi. The closing gala and the Legend prize awards ceremony will also take place at the Bolshoi, Beethoven Hall, on November 11.

[See details at the festival official page](#)

On September 7 in Positano the 47th awards ceremony was held for winners of Leonide Massine Ballet Prize. The Bolshoi Ballet prima Svetlana Zakharova (co-chairperson of the jury and twice winner of Benois de la Dance) was named The Dancer of the Year on the World Stage. In the gala the ballerina together with the Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Jacopo Tissi performed a duo from the ballet *Caravaggio* by Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti.



The most prestigious award in dancing – Russian-Italian ballet prize Benois de la Dance – Positano – was given to the Bolshoi Ballet prima Svetlana Zakharova.  
Photo by Vito Fusco

Special prize Benois-Massine went to the principal dancer of the Royal Ballet (London) Vadim Muntagirov. And Spanish choreographer and dancer Nacho Duato received the prize Positano-Massine “for life in art”. This year he became the head of Mikhailovsky Ballet in St-Petersburg.

Leonide Massine Ballet Prize is awarded in Positano annually in memory of the Russian dancer and choreographer.

On September 12 the Russian Culture Fund awarded culture and art professionals. This year one of the main awards – the Order of Friendship – was bestowed on the Bolshoi Opera soloist, the famous bass, Vladimir Matorin.

The order For Merit to the Fatherland, 4th rank, was given to the Bolshoi Ballet prima Svetlana Zakharova.



Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky and Vladimir Matorin.  
Photo / [the Ministry press-office](#)

This year winners of the Moscow City Prize went to the Bolshoi Ballet prima Olga Smirnova and the Bolshoi Opera soloist Oleg Dolgov.



The exhibition of the 80th anniversary of the year of the birth of Elena Obraztsova.  
Photo by Pavel Rychkov

An exhibition in honour of the 80th anniversary of the year of the birth of Elena Obraztsova (July 7, 1939 – January 12, 2015) has opened in the Historic Foyer of the Bolshoi. The exposition includes photos of spanning many years from Obraztsova’s repertoire at the Bolshoi, costumes of Countess (The Queen of Spades), Carmen (Carmen), Amneris (Aida), Marina Mnishek (Boris Godunov), unique photos of Obraztsova’s vast concert and tour activities.

The Bolshoi Theatre Museum was awarded the Terra Incognita Prize for “Unique achievements in the field of culture and ceaseless work to preserve cultural and scientific diversity”. In the category – “Enlightenment activity”.



The chairman of the Terra Incognita jury, historian and writer Alex Bertrand Gromov and the director of the Bolshoi Theatre Museum Lydia Kharina.  
Photo by Terraart.ru

Also, the Bolshoi Theatre Museum was awarded the prize Book of the Year of Moscow International Book Fair in the category Melpomene and Talia, established in honour to the Year of Theatre, for the unique publication The Bolshoi Theatre and Museum. 1918-2018. From the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre Museum collection.

See more in The Bolshoi Published the Book of the Year at the [website](#).



Albina Shagirmuratova – the guest of the [Green Salon](#) of the Bolshoi



The head of the Bolshoi press office Katerina Novikova talked to the world opera star, performer of the role of Lyudmila in the opera *Ruslan and Lyudmila* (the first opera premiere at the Historic Stage after reconstruction) the Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Albina Shagirmuratova. You can see the new edition of the exclusive interview series *Green Salon* (now in antechamber) at the theatre [YouTube channel](#).

## Press analysis:

### Russian mass media

Federal media, news agencies, TV channels, printed and online publications widely covered the beginning of the Bolshoi 244th season.

[TASS](#) quotes the RF deputy prime minister Olga Golodets: “I’d like to thank the country’s best company for their 243rd season. The Bolshoi, you were, you are and you will be the chief theatre, the national symbol of the country,” the deputy prime minister said at the company meeting. “Let this season bring you the greatest wave of spectators, let the upcoming productions enter the history of musical and choreographic art forever.”

The Bolshoi CEO Vladimir Urin was the guest of the *Main Role* programme on [Kultura channel](#) and spoke about the opening of the 244th season and the artistic plans of the Bolshoi for the upcoming year. The programme aired on September 17.



The Bolshoi CEO Vladimir Urin in the *Main Role* on Kultura channel

[The First Channel](#) presented a report *Grand Plans for the Upcoming Season Discussed at the Bolshoi*.

“They promise at least 10 premieres, the great Placido Domingo in *La Traviata*, the return of choreographer

Alexei Ratmansky and productions by Dmitri Tcherniakov. It is a true feast for ballet and opera fans.”

[Kultura channel](#)

“It is a very important fact that this season brings two operas by Rimsky-Korsakov – *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* and the epic *Sadko* – in a row. We added Mazepa for a reason, too, in a concert version. It is maybe one of the best and most well known scores by Tchaikovsky,” the chief conductor and music director of the Bolshoi Tugan Sokhiev said.



*The Tale of Tsar Saltan*, premiere on September 26.  
Photo by Katerina Novikova

“Certainly, I always hope for new dancers to be discovered. Since it is our main task, actually. The main task is to give dancers an opportunity to unveil their talents as bright and widely as possible,” the Bolshoi ballet company director Makhar Vaziev says.

[Rossia-Kultura](#)

[M24](#)

[Orpheus Radio](#)

[News.ru](#)

[SM News](#)

[Vecherniyaia Moskva](#) and many other sources.



A documentary about the chief conductor and music director of the Bolshoi Tugan was shown on September 15 on Osetia-Iryston TV channel. The film includes an exclusive interview with the maestro and shots from

rehearsals. The edition of the programme Big Osetins is available on the TV channel [website](#).

The September 10 opening of the Contemporary Dance Festival DanceInversion at the Bolshoi was in the focus of cultural media.

“Commotion, lack of tickets, a small jam at the entrance and a sea of TV cams in the Bolshoi New Stage stalls on the opening day of DanceInversion explicitly showed the place the Festival had come to occupy during 20 years in Moscow life which is never short of the-atre events.”

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Kommersant Weekend](#)

[Kommersant](#)

Reviews published by

[Teatral](#)

[Kultura newspaper](#)

[Vecherniyaya Moskva](#)

[Radio Rossii](#)

Reviews on the performance of [Dorrance Dance](#) company and [Rite of Spring](#) by Peacock company

[Kultura channel](#) gave a report about the performance of 31 rue Vandenbranden by Lyon National Opera Ballet at DanceInversion festival, September 19, Helikon Opera.

[Harper's Bazaar](#)

[Institut Français](#)

The new edition of the programme Ticket to Bolshoi on [Kultura channel](#) covers the theatre's tours to Brisbane, Paris and London.

“The Bolshoi's 243rd season traditionally included the company's tours. Ballets Spartacus and Swan Lake, concert versions of The Maid of Pskov by Rimsky-Korsakov and Polovtsian Dances by Borodin along with the 2nd Symphony by Rachmaninov performed by the choir and orchestra of the Bolshoi - those made the memories of these tours. ... In spite of the tough schedule, the dancers had a chance to learn native Australian dances and give their hosts a master class on Russian tap-dancing, walk about Lone Pine Koala, see 'yellow vests' riots in Paris. And to feed swans in Hyde Park and visit London shops...”

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) mentions that in April 2020 the great Placido Domingo will make his first appearance in a production of the Bolshoi. He will sing Giorgio Germont and guest soprano Irina Lungu will sing Violetta in Traviata.

“The main hit of the season is expected to be the new full-scale narrative production based on the famous novel by Mikhail Bulgakov Master and Margarita

to music by Shostakovich and Schnittke,” [Moskovsky Komsomolets](#) reports. “...The new production is to be staged by artistic director of Slovene National Ballet in Maribor Edward Clug. Last season he successfully staged Petrushka for the Bolshoi Ballet, and now he resumes his cooperation with the Bolshoi with a new premiere. Designer Marko Japelj constantly working with Edward Clug will create the sets. He had also designed (and did it amazingly) the sets for Petrushka. The premiere will be in May.” The author asked the head of the ballet company Makhar Vaziev several questions.

[Radio Rossii](#)

Media keep appealing to the authority of the Bolshoi CEO about the problems of Russian theatres related to scalpers. [RBK TV channel](#) invited Vladimir Urin to their programme Business Day to discuss alterations in the booking rules.

The Bolshoi Ballet prima Svetlana Zakharova was awarded the ballet prize Benois de la Dance-Positano, Russian media report. [TASS](#) was the first to give the information.

[First Channel](#)

[Kulturomania](#) and others.

[TASS](#) publishes a separate report on the condition of Vladislav Lantratov's health, according to the Bolshoi CEO Vladimir Urin. Urin hopes that the theatre principal dancer Vladislav Lantratov who had stopped dancing due to a leg injury will return to stage in the nearest future.

[Vecherniyaya Moskva](#) quotes the Bolshoi opera soloist Vladimir Matorin: “It is touching that they don't forget the Bolshoi and even indulge it, I have received the second award from the Ministry of Culture this year already. It gives inspiration, hope and even excitement... And most of all, motivation for the future, for new feats. My nearest upcoming performance is a solo concert in my home theatre. I believe the soul, head and voice should always be at work. Because music embraces it all – our sorrows, our contemplations, our beautiful Russian language!”

The Bolshoi will honour the memory of Elena Obraztsova at the Historic Stage on November 4 with The Opera Ball gala dedicated to the great opera singer. World opera stars will take part in the gala.

[Teatr](#)

[Teatral](#)

Media report on the awards received by the Bolshoi Theatre Museum at the Book of the Year Competition.



[RIA Novosti](#)

[aif.ru](#)

[Agentstvo Moskva](#)

[Interfaks](#)

[Muzykalnaya Zhizn](#) magazine (#7) publishes an interview with National Artist of the USSR Makvala Kasrashvili. “The Bolshoi repertoire of opera singer Makvala Kasrashvili included, among others, such roles as Tatiana Larina, Tosca, Iolanta, Natasha Rostova and Turandot. Today she teaches vocal art at Galina Vishnevskaya Opera Centre. Does a voice have an ‘expiration date’, how is it affected by hormones, how not to damage a singer’s natural gift?”

The Solo Singing section also includes articles ‘Maria Barakova On Craving For Risk And On Dreams’ and ‘Albina Shagirmuratova: I Do Not Question Myself.’

Printed and scanned versions of the magazine are available upon request at the press department of the theatre.

Earlier the magazine published an [interview](#) with the Bolshoi YOP participant (mezzo soprano) Maria Barakova ‘I Have Jumped Over Head – Mine, Not Somebody’s Else’. The singer spoke about what brought her to YOP and to the Glinka Competition where she has taken the 1st prize.



Mezzo soprano Maria Barakova confessed that in the new season she would like to sing Olga in Eugene Onegin.

Photo from Maria Barakova’s archive

“Did you have a chance to take part in the Bolshoi productions?”

“In The Tsar’s Bride only, yet, I sang Petrovna (November 2017). Yes, the role is not big, but that means nothing to me: I had stepped onto the Historic Stage once again, experienced immense happiness and was

sure that I am on the right way.” That I need just to wait a little more, and my dreams will come true.” //..

In an interview with [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) Maria Barakova reveals the secrets of success and plans for the future.

A leading soloist of the Bolshoi Opera, Merited Artist of Russia Igor Golovatenko gave an interview to [Kultura](#) newspaper on the eve of the premiere of the opera *I puritani* by Bellini (Opera Bastille, 7.09-5.10) where he sings one of the main roles.

“The Bolshoi is my home theatre, and the Paris Opera is essentially a theatrical concern.”

“Where is it more comfortable for an artist?”

“I not only love the Bolshoi but consider it a great theatre, it is a big honour to serve there. Still, like any other opera singer, I can hardly imagine my life without performing at other stages of the world.” //..

Prima ballerina of the Bolshoi, National Artist of Russia Ekaterina Shipulina – a guest of the programme Sati. Merry Classics on [Kultura channel](#). “Giselle and Odette, Kitri and Aegina, Esmeralda and Anna Karenina. One hardly can imagine the Bolshoi repertoire without these characters. Airy ballerinas in weightless tutus hover lightly above the stage causing inevitable ovations from the audience. Yuri Grigorovitch has called today’s guest one of the best ballerinas of our time.”

Svetlana Kasyan (the Bolshoi YOP member in 2009-2011) told the reporter of [Trud](#) newspaper about how she came to opera and what made her close to one of the most influential figures on the planet, Pope Francis, who is going to visit Moscow this autumn privately.



Anna Aglatova

The Bolshoi Opera soloist Anna Aglatova gave an interview to the [Vesti](#) online publication. On September

11 the singer took part in a concert performance of The Tsar's Bride by Rimsky-Korsakov at Zaryadye Concert Hall with the Tchaikovsky Grand Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Vladimir Fedoseev. She also spoke about the Russian repertoire, the role of Marfa and her multifaceted career.

[RG](#)

Soprano Dinara Alieva has made a successful on September 12 at Wiener Staatsoper, she replaced Anja Harteros who had fallen ill at the last moment. The singer appeared as Elisabeth in the production of Don Carlo by Verdi. [Orpheus Radio](#) reports: "Alieva knows the role well since she has sung it more than once at the Bolshoi. Later on, she will return to Vienna in May to sing Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni. This role was planned as her debut in Vienna."

About Beethoven Hall of the Bolshoi – a concert hall for 330 spectators, 6 storeys deep – in the programme On Foot. Moscow Under Ground at [Kultura channel](#).

## Press analysis:

### international mass media

[RT channel](#) (Germany) publishes an extensive report about the Bolshoi. The head of the ballet company Makhar Vaziev gave an interview to journalist Cris Helmbrecht. The report includes comments by dancers Mikhail Kryuchkov and Olga Marchenkova.



Shots from the [RT report](#) (Germany)  
Once Upon A Time In Russia:  
Russian Ballet At The Bolshoi

On September 25 on [RTD Documentary channel](#) there will be the premiere of the documentary Bolshoi: Pas-de-Brazil about the Bolshoi School in Brazil marking what will be its 20th anniversary in 2020. The principal Paver Kazaryan, graduates Bruna Cantanhede Gag-

lianone, Erik Svolkin and the youngest students of the school in Joinville took part in the film.



The trailer of Bolshoi: Pas-de-Brazil is available on [YouTube](#)

The online specialised classical music publication [Slipped Disc](#) publishes an article by Norman Lebrecht who reports: "The Bolshoi Theatre, unrolling its new season, has cast Plácido Domingo as Giorgio Germont in La Traviata next April. It will be the singer's debut in a fully staged Bolshoi production."

The Spanish news agency [EFE](#) publishes an article (republished in the Spanish newspaper La Vanguardia) reporting Domingo will soon perform in Moscow. The Spanish tenor Plácido Domingo will participate for the first time in the staging of La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi by Bolshoi in Moscow in April 2020, as announced by the theatre's general director, Vladimir Urin, on Tuesday."

The online specialised Spanish dance news publication [DanzaBallet](#) (Spain) announces upcoming screenings of the Bolshoi's Le Corsaire in Spanish cinemas on Sunday 17 November. "For those who expect a miracle on stage."

"Inspired by Lord Byron's epic poem and revived by Alexei Ratmansky from the exotic Petipa classic of the 19th century, this marvel of the repertoire is one of the most spectacular productions of the Bolshoi. With impressive scenery of a shipwreck, full of drama, this great romance includes virtually the entire company and is made specifically for those who expect a miracle on stage."

The online English language Moscow based news publication [The Moscow Times](#) announces the opening of the Moscow cultural and theatre season with photos of new productions including the contemporary ballet The Winter's Tale by Christopher Wheeldon.



British media continue to publish excellent reviews on Bolshoi Ballet performances at Covent Garden.

[The Sunday Times](#) (UK) publishes a review by David Dougill of Bolshoi Ballet's Don Quixote and Bright Stream during the company's Covent Garden tour in August. "With the Bolshoi Ballet's summer visit to Covent Garden now concluded, we are left with memories of fabulous dancing in the various modes of this four-programme season. Having opened with two works on tragic subjects – Spartacus and Swan Lake – they then changed tack to high jinks and romantic comedy in The Bright Stream and Don Quixote. The dancers tackle jollity perhaps with relief and certainly with relish."

[The Guardian](#) (UK) publishes a review of the Bolshoi Ballet's Don Quixote at Covent Garden by Sarah Crompton. She gives the production 4 stars of 5. "The dancers of the Bolshoi Ballet have packed up their London base and gone home to Moscow, leaving behind them a lingering perfume of ballet performed at the highest level. Other companies worry about relevance, about appealing to a broad audience, about making work that speaks to the modern age. Then there is the Bolshoi. It has some contemporary work in its repertory but mainly it just exists in a place called Balletworld, where costumes are garish, stories are big, and where the dancing is of such pure, bravura brilliance that it makes the heart sing."

The September edition of the monthly magazine Dancing Times publishes a review by Jonathan Gray of the performance of Bright Stream by the Bolshoi Ballet at Covent Garden. "Ratmansky has created sparkling dances for the work, his choreography drawing as much on the elegant movements of the Bournonville repertoire as it does the old Soviet ballet styles, and the Bolshoi of today bring to the work lightness and energy, the dancing spry, refined and effervescent." Printed and scanned versions of the article are available upon request at the press department of the theatre.

The online classical music publication [Bachtrack](#) publishes an interview by Mark Pullinger with the Bolshoi's Svetlana Zakharova who speaks about her career, the Covent Garden tour of the Bolshoi and her new ballet about Coco Chanel. Pullinger calls Zakharova the Queen of the Bolshoi."

The Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Igor Tsvirko speaks about his 3rd tour to London, about roles he has performed on Covent Garden stage during the past few years – in a video interview with specialised online publication Dance Europe The dancer speaks about his favourite roles and calls the role of Leont in Christopher

Wheeldon's ballet The Winters Tale 'a gift of fate' (to be performed at the Bolshoi Historic Stage on September 28). Do ballet dancers read books the ballets they dance based on? What is more interesting for a performer – drama or comedy? What do those who have chosen the profession of a dancer dream of? – Igor Tsvirko on [Dance Europe web-channel](#).



Igor Tsvirko on [Dance Europe](#)

The Italian newspaper La Repubblica reports: "The 47th edition of Positano Premia la Danza - Léonide Massine, organised by the Municipality of Positano." "Among the performers were the divine Svetlana Zakharova (Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow / Teatro alla Scala, Milan) and Jacopo Tissi (Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow) with the duet Caravaggio." "The Mayor of Positano, Michele De Lucia, closed the ceremony, awarding Zakharova as Dancer of the Year." [Link to the article and photo gallery](#)

The Italian local news publication [Positano News](#) (Italy) publishes an article by Gigione Maresca about the Premio Danza Positano "At the end of summer, emotions are experienced with the art and beauty of places. Positano, the city of dance, awarded the artistic perception and career of Nacho Duato and Svetlana Zakharova Dancer Of The Year: the two great international stars honoured in the city of dance beloved by Nureyev in the gala on September 7, guests of 47th edition of Positano Premia la Danza – Léonide Massine."

The Italian online specialised dance news publication [Giornale della Danza](#) announces: "Giselle returns to La Scala from September 17th to October 8th, for eight performances that will see the La Scala artists who have achieved great success during recent international performances, and two superstars who will open the performances in the evenings of 17, 19 and 24 September: for the first time together with La Scala in this ballet, the étoile Svetlana Zakharova and David Hallberg."

[Vogue](#) (Italy) publishes an interview with David Hallberg by Valentina Bonelli. Hallberg is performing the leading role in Giselle at La Scala this month on 17, 19, 24 September together with Svetlana Zakharova.

Hallberg mentions, “The Bolshoi interests me, I’m absorbing everything: even in Moscow, in Russia, a country that can be very difficult for people, culture, but I like to experiment, it’s like living another life.”



Svetlana Zakharova and David Hallberg

The French online culture news publication [Actu.fr](#) (France) publishes an article by Serge Chauzy who announces “the National Orchestra Capitole de Toulouse, conducted by Tugan Sokhiev, begins its musical season 2019-2020. It is in the company of two of the most beautiful ambassadors of Russian culture, Prokofiev and Rachmaninov that Tugan Sokhiev and the National Orchestra Capitole de Toulouse (ONCT) begin the new symphonic season in Toulouse on Saturday, September 14, 2019.”

The French online culture news publication [Culture 31](#) publishes an article by Jérôme Gac who writes, “Tugan Sokhiev continues with great success the musical direction of the National Orchestra Capitole de Toulouse, an orchestra that has established itself as a cultural ambassador for Franco-Russian relations. The new season of the National Orchestra Capitole de Tou-

louse is naturally placed under the sign of French and Russian music. Claiming the “cultural ambassador role of Franco-Russian relations,” the Toulouse orchestra is directed until 2020 by Tugan Sokhiev (photo), who is also the current musical director of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. The maestro will open the ball in September at the Halle aux Grains, with the suites from Sergei Prokofiev’s ballet Romeo and Juliet. We will hear again The Rite of Spring by Igor Stravinsky, on the occasion of the second edition of the Franco-Russian Musicales, a festival created last winter with success in Toulouse by the Ossetian leader.”

International media report on a new version of The Rite of Spring directed and choreographed by Chinese dancer Yang Liping, which was staged at the Bolshoi as part of the DanceInversion International Contemporary Dance Festival.

The English language Chinese newspaper [South China Morning Post](#) publishes an article by Zinnia Lee and a video.

“Chinese contemporary dance icon Yang Liping showcased her new ballet at the iconic Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Russia on September 10, 2019. Her new show, a new adaptation of Russian composer Igor Stravinsky’s famous ballet music The Rite of Spring, is part of the International Contemporary Dance Festival running from September to November.”

The Singapore newspaper [The Strait Times](#) reports: “Spring Returns to Russia Over the past 100 years, it has spawned various versions performed by artists from all over the world. The latest version, directed and choreographed by well-known Chinese dancer Yang Liping, was staged at the Bolshoi. Yang’s version of the classic is influenced by Tibetan and Chinese symbols of nature, beliefs in the cyclical nature of life and death, and the inevitability of rebirth. It is also constructed in three sections, with only the middle portion using the original music of The Rite Of Spring.”

DanceInversion Festival reports by

[Euronews](#)

[The Times](#) (UK)

Spanish daily newspaper [El Pais](#) publishes photos of the new The Rite of Spring in their News in Pictures sections.

Indian online news publication [Urdu Point](#) publishes an article by Umer Jamshaid and other sources.

The online [S-magazine](#) publishes photos by Elena Pavlova in their Faces of the Bolshoi section. Dancers



features in the photos – Alexander Volchkov, Ekaterina Shipulina, Eleonora Sevenard, Dmitry Dorokhov, Ana Turazashvili, Jacopo Tissi, Yulia Stepanova, Evgenia Obraztsova, Semyon Chudin, Alyona Kovalyova, Stanislava Postnova.

## Briefly

On September 6-13 in Grand and Minor Halls of St-Petersburg Shostakovich Philharmonic the 12th [International Obraztsova Young Opera Singers Competition](#) took place.

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) “The jury has rightly decided to award the Grand Prix to no one. There were only three Grand Prix winners in 12 competitions: Ildar Abdrazakov, Vitaly Bily and Yulia Lezhnyova. Now the GITIS Academy graduate baritone Dzambolat Dulaev has won the 1st prize. He not only performed the Aleko aria successfully in the final, he also was memorable in the second tour by his interpretation of the romance Holy Mother in the City by Sviridov, the music brilliantly performed by Elena Obraztsova. The 2nd prize went to bass Sergei Sevastyanov, the 3rd- to Oksana Sekerina (Mayorova).”

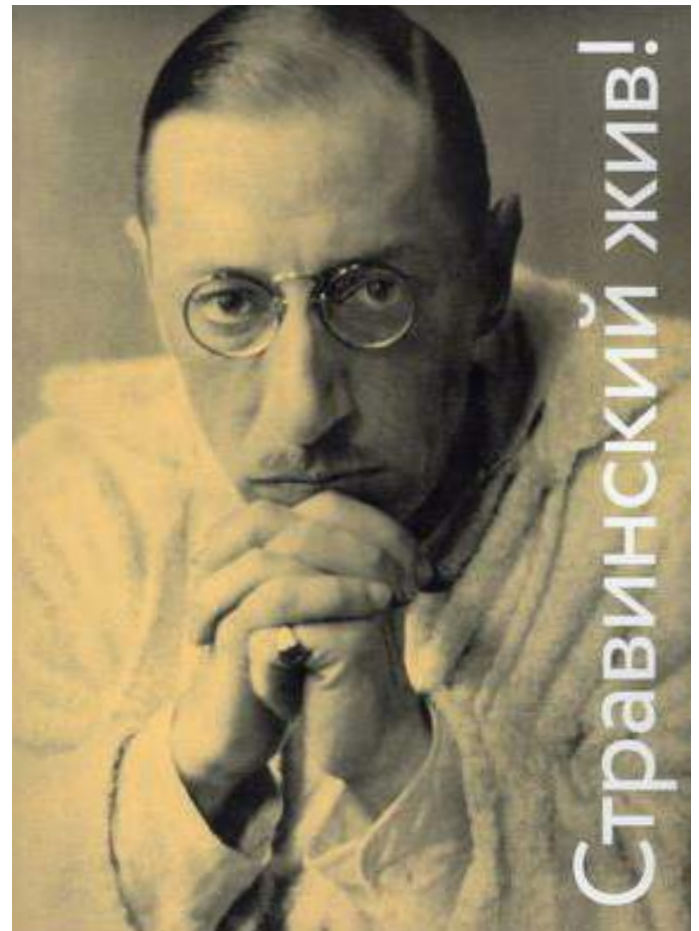
In the competition jury – National Artist of the USSR, professor, assistant to the Bolshoi’s music director and chief conductor Makvala Kasrashvili. “This competition is very important for young singers. I am proud of my 50 years of friendship with Elena Obraztsova. I am happy that almost every day since Elena passed away she is still with us, in our hearts.”

[topspb.tv](http://topspb.tv)

[Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre](#) opened its 101st season with a premiere of Igor Stravinsky’s opera The Rake’s Progress staged by director Simon McBurney and conductor Timur Zangiev. This is a co-production with Dutch National Opera and Aix-en-Provence Festival where it premiered in 2017.

The presentation of a new edition by [Kompozitor](#) publishing house Stravinsky Is Alive! was timed to coincide with the premiere. The book was presented at the theatre Salon on September 17. The selection is based on materials of the international research conference held by the State Art Institute to mark the 135 anniversary of the birth of the composer. This included articles about the history and genealogy of the Stravinsky family, his personal and professional communication, touching on issues that were important for the composer on the

global outlook and aesthetics as well as more specific information about the questions of composer’s method and style.



[Stravinsky Is Alive!](#) Selected articles edited and compiled by Evgenia D. Krivitskaya – M.: Kompozitor, 2019

### [Literaturnaya Gazeta](#)

About the staging of The Rake’s Progress at Stanislavsky Musical Theatre [website](#).

### [Kommersant](#)

The main part of Tom Rakewell was sung by tenor Bogdan Volkov who “graced the Bolshoi until recently and who is now touring successfully over the world while staying attached to Novaya Opera,” [Colta.ru](#) reports. The singer speaks about the roles that were most important in his artistic career – those in productions by Dmitri Tcherniakov: Lensky in the new cast of Onegin at the Bolshoi, Antonio in The Betrothal in a Monastery in Berlin and Gwydon in Saltan in Brussels. On September 24 at Novaya Opera Bogdan Volkov took part in the awards ceremony and the gala concert of Casta Diva prize winners, where they invented a special category for him – The Upswing.

[Muzykalnaya Zhizn](#) magazine offers a review on The Tale Of Tsar Saltan by Rimsky-Korsakov staged by Dmitri Tcherniakov at La Monnaie theatre. “The work of Bogdan Volkov was the mainsensation of this performance; from the musicaland singers’ point ofview Saltan was held by three performers - Volkov, Svetlana Ak-syonova and Olga Kulchinskaya as the Swan Princess.”

On September 22 at Opernhaus Zürich the opera [Več Makropulos by Leoš Janáček](#) (1854–1928) took place. Director – Dmitri Tcherniakov.

Music Director – Jakub Hrůša

Costume Designer – Elena Zaitseva.

Lighting Designer – Gleb Filishtinsky.

There will be performances on September 25, 28 and October 6, 9, 13, 17, 22 as well.

Russian media congratulated culture professionals on their birthdays.

On September 12 National Artist of the USSR, conductor and violinist Vladimir Spivakov turned 75.

[Trud](#)

[Vecherniya Moskva](#)

[Izvestia](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Novaya Gazeta](#)

and others.

On September 7 director Kirill Serebrennikov turned 50, media reports (more than 10 sources).

[Kommersant](#)

[Novaya Gazeta](#)

[Muzykalnoye Obozrenie](#)

[Seans](#) and others.

[Kommersant](#) on September 5

Reminded its readers of the birthday of Mikhail Shvydkoy, special ambassador of the RF President for international cultural cooperation.

The CEO of Moscow Kremlin Museums Elena Gagarina congratulated him:

[Moskovsky Komsomolets](#)

The author’s concert of composer Vladimir Dashkevich, who marks his 85th birthday, took place at Conservatoire Grand Hall. Vasilisa Berezhanskaya of [Moskovsky Komsomolets](#) spoke at the event.

Mezzo soprano Yulia Mazurova and tenor Stanislav Mostovoy performed at [Svetlanov Hall of the House of Music](#) on September 15.

[Kommersant](#): The 21st International Contemporary Dance Festival Open Look has ended in St-Petersburg

[Novaya Gazeta](#)



Yulia Mazurova and the symphony orchestra under the baton of Andrei Kolotushkin

Kristina Kretova was the host of cookery programme Light Food at [Tzargrad](#) channel. The ballet soloist shared the recipes of meals that help her to keep fit and stay vigorous.

## Debuts

[Eugene Onegin](#)

September 17

Irina Dolzhenko as Filippievna

September 18

Irina Rubtsova as Larina

The Mariinsky guest soloist [Pavel Yankovsky](#) first appeared at the Bolshoi in the main role, Stanislavsky Musical Theatre opera soloist [Elena Guseva](#) appeared as Tatiana.

[Swan lake](#)

September 21 (19:00)

Mikhail Lobukhin as Evil Genius (first appearance in Moscow, debuted during the Bolshoi London tour).

## Birthdays

**September 5** – public figure and statesman, theatre historian, special representative of the RF president for international cultural cooperation Mikhail Shvydkoy.

**September 6** – conductor, pianist, composer, chief conductor of the Bolshoi in 1963-1965, National Artist of the USSR Yevgeny Svetlanov (1928-2002)

**September 7** – director Kirill Serebrennikov – 50th birthday He debuted at the Bolshoi in 2011 with the pro-





Yevgeny Svetlanov



Tamara Milashkina



Kirill Serebrennikov

duction of *The Golden Cockerel* by Rimsky-Korsakov. In 2015 together with choreographer Yuri Possokhov he staged the ballet *The Hero of Our Time*. In 2017, also together with Possokhov, he staged the ballet *Nureyev* by Ilya Demutsky.

**September 9** — head of the Bolshoi development and special project department, artistic director of DanceInversion Festival Irina Chernomurova

**September 12** — violinist, conductor, National Artist of the USSR Vladimir Spivakov — the 75th birthday.

**February 13** — opera singer (lyric dramatic soprano), National Artist of the USSR, Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1958-1988 Tamara Milashkina — 85th birthday

Vladimir Urin, Tugan Sokhiev, Makvala Kasrashvili and the Bolshoi Theatre company sent Tamara Milashkina a telegram of congratulations.

**September 13** — Novaya Opera soloist, Bolshoi Opera soloist in 2012-2019 Stanislav Mostovoy

**September 15** — Bolshoi Opera soloist, Merited Artist of Russia Mikhail Kazakov



Dmitry Shostakovich

**September 25** — Bolshoi Ballet first soloist Alyona Kovalyova.

**September 26** — bass Ildar Abdrazakov The artistic director of Elena Obraztsova International Music Academy since 2014. Abdrazakov debuted at the Bolshoi in 2016 as Philip II in *Don Carlo* by Verdi.