



Newsletter

February 14, the Historic Stage — the premiere of the opera by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov *Sadko*, production by Dmitri Tcherniakov.

Having staged *The Tale Of Tsar Saltan* at the New Stage in the beginning of the 244th season, the Bolshoi goes on with the premiere of *Sadko*. This opera was staged for the first time at the Bolshoi in 1902 directed by Vyacheslav Suk (the production featured Antonina Nezhdanova as Volkhova, Anton Bonachich as Sadko and Feodor Chaliapin as Varangian merchant.) Since then the Bolshoi has turned to *Sadko* many times — in 1930, 1934, 1935, 1938, 1949 and in 1976 when the production was timed to coincide with the theatre's 200th anniversary, with Vladimir Atlantov as Sadko (conductor — Yuri Simonov, director — Boris Pokrovsky, set designer — Fyodor Fedorovsky.) The last time the Bolshoi heard the masterpiece by Rimsky-Korsakov was in February 1984 — 36 years ago.

The world renowned Russian opera director Dmitri Tcherniakov has a special relationship with Rimsky-Korsakov's legacy - in recent years the director has staged four operas of the composer in theatres all over the world: *The Invisible City of Kitesh* (2001), *The Tsar's Bride* (2013), *The Snowmaiden* (2017), *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* (2019).

His loyal team helped Tcherniakov to fulfill his creative idea.

Costume Designer — [Elena Zaitseva](#) (more than 630 costumes for the production)

Lighting Designer — Gleb Filshinsky

Assistant Set Designer — Ekaterina

Mochyonova

Director of Plastique Movement —

[Ekaterina Mironova](#)

Reconstruction of Historical Stage

Setting — [Alyona Pikalova](#).

The production features Bolshoi soloists and guest singers.

Main roles at the premiere performed by:

Sadko — Nazhmiddin Mavlyanov

Volkhova — Aida Garifullina

Lubava Buslaevna — Ekaterina Semenchuk

Nezhata — Yuriy Mynenko



Nazhmiddin Mavlyanov as Sadko.

Sergei Murzaev as Vision the old mighty warrior.

Aida Garifullina as Volkhova.

Ekaterina Semenchuk as Lubava Buslaevna.

Photos by Damir Yusupov

Varangian merchant — Dmitry Ulyanov

Indian merchant — Alexei Neklyudov

Venetian merchant — Andrey Zhilikhovsky

The Sea Tsar — Stanislav Trofimov

Whistle — Mikhail Petrenko

Fife — Maxim Paster

Vision the old mighty warrior — Sergei Murzaev

Foma Nazaryich — Roman Muravitsky

His wife — Alexandra Durseneva

Luka Zinovyich — Vladimir Komovich

His wife — Irina Rubtsova

Also in the premiere series roles performed by:

Sadko — Ivan Gyngazov

Volkhova — Nadezhda Pavlova
 Lubava Buslaevna — Ksenia Dudnikova
 Nezhata — Vadim Volkov
 Varangian merchant — Stanislav Trofimov
 Indian merchant — Bekhzod Davronov
 Venedetian merchant — Andrei Kymach
 The Sea Tsar — Nikolay Didenko
 Whistle — Andrei Popov
 Fife — Valery Gilmanov
 Vision the old mighty warrior — Sergei Murzaev
 Foma Nazaryich — Sergei Radchenko
 His wife — Evgenia Segenyuk
 Luka Zinovyich — Pyotr Migunov, Nikolai Kazansky
 His wife — Maria Barakova
 The production features 120 chorus singers, 40 pantomime actors, and soloists.

Chorus Master — [Valery Borisov](#).

Conductor — [Timur Zangiev](#). This is the maestro's debut at the Historic Stage and his second engagement with the Bolshoi after his successful direction of one-act ballets *Gaîté Parisienne* (nominated for The Golden Mask -2020 as Conductor's Work / Ballet) and *Symphony in C* at the New Stage.

The first performance series runs from February 14 until February 19.

On February 12, before the dress rehearsal, a press briefing was held in the White Foyer with the participation of the staging team and the actors.



Dmitri Tcherniakov speaks about the opera *Sadko*, the White Foyer, February 12. Photo by Natalia Vinogradova

On February 18 the French TV channel [Mezzo HD](#) will livestream the performance from the Historic Stage (19:00 Central European Standard Time/CET; 21:00 MSK)



[The premiere live streaming](#) from the Historic Stage – on Mezzo TV on February 18

From February 13 till March 30, 2020, at the Historic Stage foyer the exhibition *The Fairytale World of Rimsky-Korsakov* is being held.



The costume of Evgeny Nesterenko as Tsar Saltan, *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* (production of 1986.) Designer – Nikolai Zolotaryov. Photo by Natalia Vinogradova

The exhibition shows photos and drafts of operas Sadko, The Snowmaiden, The Tale of Tsar Saltan, The Golden Cockerel at the Bolshoi from the end of the 19th century to our time. Photo copies of paintings and graphics by Konstantin Korovin, Fyodor Fedorovsky, Vadim Ryndin and other artists are presented as well as costumes of soloists from productions of various years.

Events

February 5 and 6, the New Stage — the one-act ballet programme of *Symphony in C* and *Gaîté Parisienne*. The premiere took place on June 13, 2019.

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

Ballet master-repetiteur — [Elyse Borne](#) (16 December 2019).

Costume Designer — [Tatiana Noginova](#) (currently working on costumes for the one-act ballet *Made in Bolshoi* to music by Anatoly Korolyov, choreography by Anton Pimonov). Lighting Designer — [Sergey Shevchenko](#).

Gaîté Parisienne, the ballet by Maurice Bejart, is nominated for the Russian theatre award The Golden Mask as The Best Production.

Timur Zangiev is nominated in category Best Conductor's Work/Ballet for his work in *Gaîté Parisienne*; Georgy Gusev (Bim) and Igor Tsvirko (Offenbach) — for Best Male Role/Ballet — Modern Dance.

[See](#) the full list of nominees of 2020 at the website of the Russian national theatre award and festival The Golden Mask

Photos from rehearsals of the one-act ballets (c. Alexander Zemlyanichenko) published by Associated Press became an international hit last summer and were republished by dozens of media.

February 8 and 9, the New Stage — *Romeo and Juliet* to the music by Sergei Prokofiev in choreographic version by Alexei Ratmansky.

Stage and Costume Designer — [Richard Hudson](#)

Lighting Designer — [Jennifer Tipton](#)

Assistant Choreographers — [Greta Hodgkinson](#)

[Aleksandar Antonijevic](#)

The 242 Season premiere

Music Director — Pavel Klinichev.

[Casts](#)

February 12 and 13, the New Stage — *La Sylphide*. Choreography by August Bournonville to the music by Herman Severin Levenskiold, Libretto by Adolphe



Georgy Gusev as Bim and Igor Tsvirko as Offenbach — nominees of the Russian national theatre award The Golden Mask-2020: *Gaîté Parisienne*, the New Stage. Photo by Damir Yusupov from the premiere



Romeo and Juliet — Jacopo Tissi and Kristina Kretova, Artemy Belyakov and Anastasia Stashkevich. Photo by Fatima Okhtova /Instagram

Nourrit and Philippo Taglioni based on the novella by Charles Nodier Trilby (1822).

Choreographic version of 2008 by [Johan Kobborg](#).

Designer — [Peter Farmer](#)

[Performance details](#) [Casts](#)

Conductor — Alexei Repnikov.



Anna Nikulina as Sylphide (photo by Dmitry Yusupov)

February 15, 16 and 18, the New Stage — Masterpieces of the 20th century choreography — one-act ballets [The Cage](#), [Forgotten Land](#), [Etudes](#).

February 9, Beethoven Hall — to the 250th anniversary of the birth of the composer (1770-1827) — a concert by the Bolshoi Chamber Orchestra and Nikita Galaktionov (piano) [Beethoven Forever](#).

The concert was organised by the Foundation for Support of the Specialised Secondary Music School of Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory within the international music project Russian Muses to the World under the patronage of the RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture. Conductor — Mikhail Tsinman

February 11 and 13, Beethoven Hall — a concert of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program [Anthology of Russian Classical Romance. Modest Mussorgsky. Part II](#)

The concert of February 11 was timed to coincide with the memorial day of the prominent opera singer, Bolshoi Opera soloist, National Artist of the USSR Irina Arkhipova (January 2, 1925 — February 11, 2010.)

February 16, Beethoven Hall — a concert of the [Bolshoi Orchestra Artists Chamber Music. Wind instruments](#).

October 6, 7, 8, Pokrovsky Chamber Stage — premiere performances of [La Périochole](#) by Jacques Offenbach continue.

The première series took place on June 20-22, 2019. Stage Director and Set Designer — [Philipp Grigoryan](#).

Conductor of the premiere — [Philipp Chizhevsky](#).

[Casts](#)

February 9 (12:00 and 15:00) — symphonic fairy tale for children by Sergei Prokofiev [Peter and the Wolf](#).

[The performance details](#)

Conductors — Vladimir Agronsky (12:00), Alexei Vereshchagin (15:00). [Casts](#)

February 11 — opera by Vladimir Dashkevich [The Government Inspector](#). Libretto by Yliy Kim and Vladimir Dashkevich based on the work by Nikolai Gogol.

Stage Director — Olga Ivanova.

Conductor at the premiere — [Vladimir Agronsky](#).

[Cast](#)

February 14, 15 and 16 — opera by Pyotr Tchaikovsky Cherevichki, libretto by Yakov Polonsky based on the story by Nikolai Gogol [The Christmas Eve](#).

The premiere at Pokrovsky Chamber Theatre was on November 28, 2008.

Conductor of the premiere — Igor Gromov.

Stage Director — Olga Ivanova.

[Casts](#)

Conductor — Alexei Vereshchagin.

The Bolshoi continues to prepare the one-act ballet programme Seasons/Dancemania/Made in Bolshoi. The premiere will be at the Bolshoi New Stage on March 26.

The ballet to the music by Alexander Glazunov [Seasons](#) (1900) is staged by Bolshoi principal dancer [Artemy Belyakov](#) (graduated in 2015 with honours from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Ballet-Master Department, profile Choreographer's Art, professor Mikhail Lavrovsky).

Set and Costume Designer — Anna Kostrikova.

Choreographers [Vyacheslav Samodurov](#) stages the ballet [Dancemania](#); music was especially created by the prominent Russian composer Yuri Krasavin.

Set Designer — Alexei Kondratiev.

Costume Designer — Anastasia Nefyodova.

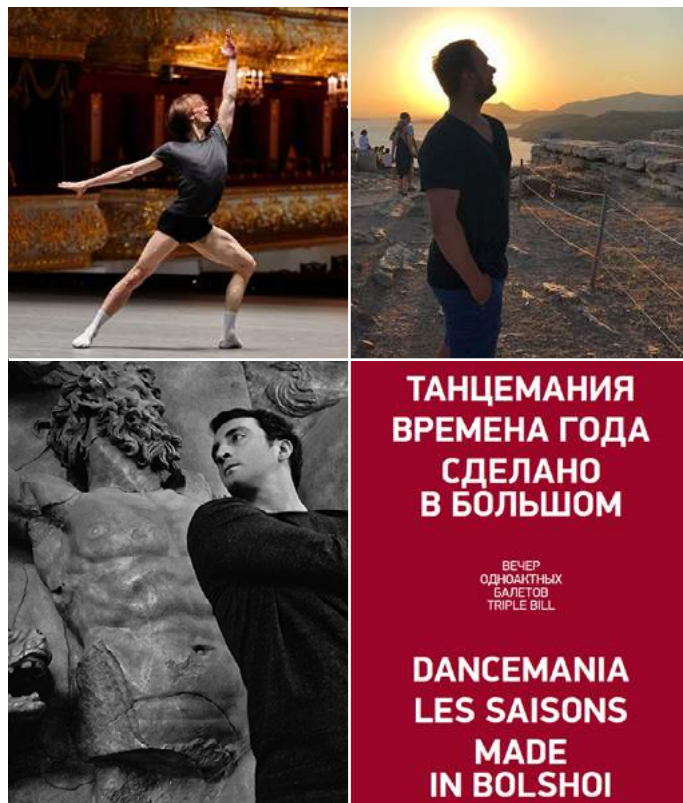
Lighting Designer — Anton Pomorev.

Choreographer [Anton Pimonov](#) stages [Made in Bolshoi](#) to music by Anatoly Korolyov.

Set Designers — Nastya Travkina, Sergei Zhdanov.

Costume Designer: Tatiana Noginova.

Lighting Designer — Konstantin Binkin.



Artemy Belyakov, Vyacheslav Samodurov, Anton Pimonov (photo/Instagram) working on the one-act ballets programme; the premiere at the New Stage — March 26

March 7, the Chamber Stage — premiere of the new staging of the one-act opera by Benjamin Britten [The Little Sweep](#).

The young and successful Moscow director Oleg Dolin works on set design and production.

Conductor — [Airat Kashaev](#)

Costume Designer — Evgenia Panfilova.

Lighting Designer — Narek Tumanyan.

The opera will be sung in Russian and in English. There are also matinee performances (12:00 and 15:00) on March 8 and 9.



Director Oleg Dolin (photo/Instagram) and conductor Airat Kashaev work on the opera [The Little Sweep](#) by Britten — the premiere will be at the Chamber Stage on March 7-9

On February 25 in Kaliningrad the ground breaking ceremony for the future branch of the Bolshoi; the construction is scheduled to finish in 2023.

The Bolshoi will also give a [gala](#) at the Amber Hall in Svetlogorsk on February 25 (Kaliningrad Region). The Bolshoi Orchestra, Choir, Opera and Ballet soloists will come on tour.



The first part will include arias, duets, instrumental fragments and choruses from famous operas. Solo-

ists — Anna Aglatova, Elchin Azizov, Agunda Kulaeva, Yulia Mazurova and others. Conductor — maestro Pavel Klinichev.

The second part will include pas de deux, adagios, scenes from the ballets *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Spartacus*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Don Quixote*.

On March 3 a gala of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program will be held for the first time at the Israeli Opera historic stage in Tel Aviv as a part of the Russian culture festival M.A.R.T. The YOP singers will perform accompanied by the Israel Symphonic Orchestra of Rishon-Le-Zion, conductor — maestro Alexander Soloviev.

The YOP artistic director — Merited Art Professional of Russia Dmitry Vdovin.

[The concert programme and tickets](#)



The concert version of the opera [Mazeppa](#) will be performed on March 10 as a part of the Bolshoi Choir and Orchestra tour in France, at the Halle aux Grains in Toulouse within the 2nd edition of [Les Musicales Franco-Russes Festival](#) and the programme [Les Grands Interprètes](#); also — on March 14 at Pierre Boulez [Grand Hall of Paris Philharmonic](#).



Julio Bocca — one of the most renowned ballet dancers of the last quarter of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century — guest at the [Bolshoi Green Salon](#).

The head of the Bolshoi press office Katerina Novikova talked to the famous Argentinian dancer.



Julio Bocca with Katerina Novikova at the [Bolshoi Green Salon](#)

On February 23 the Bolshoi together with partnering companies Pathé Live and Bel Air Media will livestream the ballet Swan Lake from the Historic Stage to world cinemas. The livestream starts at 18:00 MSK (UTC+3).

See more at our partners' websites.

[Pathé Live](#) (in Russia and around the world)

[TheatreHD in Russia](#)

[Livestreams of the theatre's jubilee 10th cinema season 2019/20](#)

Press analysis:

Russian mass media



The Bolshoi CEO Vladimir Urin – the hero of the programme Once Upon A Time... on the [NTV channel](#)

An interview with the Bolshoi CEO Vladimir Urin – The Big Man of the Bolshoi Vladimir Urin – in the pro-

gramme Once Upon A Time... on the [NTV](#) channel on February 2.

“Today he rules the giant empire of the Bolshoi Theatre: 50 real estate objects and 3200 theatre workers. In the new edition of the programme, Vladimir Urin remembered his first meeting with Maya Plisetskaya, spoke about the Bolshoi, about the power, and answered questions about why his best recollections are from his post-war childhood, who he still addresses in no other way than ‘maestro’, what work has turned into a hobby, and what in fact makes sense of his life.”

The Bolshoi director General Vladimir Urin gave a video interview (03’56”) to Rossia-Kultura channel: (Culture News, the air of February 10, 23:40):

“Theatre professionals of Russia have come forward with an initiative to create a monument to Marius Petipa. It will be set in Marseilles, the choreographer’s native city. Authors of the monument are sculptor Andrei Korobtsov and architect Konstantin Fomin. Early works are already completed.”

On February 12 [Kommersant](#) newspaper dedicated a special printed edition – a four-page review – to the premiere of Sadko at the Bolshoi.



Dmitri Tcherniakov at a rehearsal of Sadko. Photo by Damir Yusupov

On the eve of the premiere, the production’s director Dmitri Tcherniakov told [Kommersant](#) about his attitude to fabulousness in operas, about Rimsky-Korsakov’s scores, and how to find a theatrical approach to it today. The extensive interview was published under the title “I Always Wanted A Human Story On Stage.”

Participants of the premiere speak about their roles in the “opera-legend” – [“Our Sadko is a modern man.”](#) How the visual imagery of Dmitri Tcherniakov’s new production works – in the article [Old Artists for New Sadko](#).

On Dmitri Tcherniakov is returning to the Bolshoi with the production of Sadko — [Kommersant Weekly](#): “The previous production at the Bolshoi of the most renowned Russian opera director Dmitri Tcherniakov was presented almost nine years ago — Ruslan and Lyudmila was the first premiere after reconstruction of the main building and the first clamorous scandal in its new history. Some people were overly sensitive about the transformation of Pushkin-Glinka’s tale of maidens and knights into a hi-tech idyll ‘a la russe. One can only be happy about Tcherniakov’s return to the Bolshoi, and the new take on the history of the fairytale Russia promises to be no less interesting. No matter what, during these nine years the Russian audience has got more or less used to radical opera direction, in no small part thanks to that very Bolshoi Theatre.

Dmitri Tcherniakov — guest of the [Main Role](#) programme on February 11 on Rossia-K TV channel. Topic — the premiere of the opera Sadko.

[Rossia TV channel](#) “The new production became an experiment: this time the well known fairytale was presented as a phantasmagoria.”



Dmitri Tcherniakov, Aida Garifullina, Nazhmiddin Mavlyanov gave their comments to a reporter of [Rossia-1 TV channel](#)

[Kultura channel](#): “This opera has a fake reputation of being legendary, grand, far away and not about us. We are trying to step away from this cliché of a history schoolbook and understand what it is actually,” the production’s director Dmitri Tcherniakov says. For Ekaterina Semenchuk, prima of Mariinsky Theatre, this is a debut at the Bolshoi and the third production with Tcherniakov. “How to get rid of loneliness, how not to be dependent, how to be yourself and at peace with yourself” — the singer asks questions.

Dmitri Tcherniakov and Andri Zholdak were nominated for the ‘opera Oscar’ — the international prize Opera Awards, the website of [Teatr](#) magazine reports.



[Kultura channel](#)
[TV Centr](#)

“Among six contenders for the award in The Best Production category — The Tale of Tsar Saltan by Dmitri Tcherniakov, one of the most notable works by the director in recent years (the Belgian theatre La Monnaie/De Munt), and The Sorceress by Andri Zholdak (Lyon Opera). /.../

Two Russian names are among 10 contenders for the title of the best young performer. Mezzo soprano Vasilisa Berzhanskaya and soprano Lydia Furman can be nominated the ‘opera Oscar’ in this category.”

The Opera Awards have 18 categories of nominations. This year the awards ceremony will take place on May 4.

You may vote for Russian singers before March 27 on operaawards.org/vote/

[TASS](#) published an extensive article about the preparation of the opera premiere:

About the achievements of the Bolshoi Ballet — in an article by [Izvestia](#) “Tamed The Dragon: What The Bolshoi Lacked. How Makhar Vaziev managed to bring the ballet to a new level.” “Makhar Vaziev managed to win authority with the company quickly /.../.He observes the agreements meticulously, invites important people



Makhar Vaziev Photo by Alexander Kazakov/IZVESTIA

to the theatre, he is loyal ‘to the business, not to persons’, follows the state of the corps de ballet and the soloists’ creative growth attentively, and is generally reliable. This is what the Bolshoi has lacked in recent years.”

“The year 2019 was fruitful for the Bolshoi at the Golden Masks thanks to the epic and scandalous Nureyev by Kirill Serebrennikov; with all its deafening pomp it let male soloists show their talent anew: Vladislav Lantratov, Vyacheslav Lopatin, Denis Savin (8 nominations, 3 awards.) This season will definitely be no less fruitful. In 2020 at least three ballets by the Bolshoi are contender for the Golden Mask: Artifact Suite by William Forsythe, The Winter’s Tale by Christopher Wheeldon and Gaité Parisienne by Maurice Béjart.”

Dmitry Vdovin gave an interview to the online publication Newsru.co.il:

“Tell us, please, about international projects of your studio.”

“//..It is very important for young artists from different countries to meet and work together..It is important to share knowledge, tutors, experience and traditions. // we have long-lasting relationships with the Washington Opera youth programme, with Italian academies at La Scala, Opera Roma, Florence Musical May festival, Rossini Festival at Pesaro, Osimo Academy. We have cooperated with the Paris Opera Academy, participated in a very interesting and competitive project of Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris that has organised the festival of the world’s best youth programmes. We and our colleagues from Metropolitan Opera in New York, La Scala in Milano, Covent Garden in London, Staatsoper in Berlin and Paris Opera’s Atelier Lyrique took part in it with concerts.” //..//



The Bolshoi YOP soloists will perform at Israeli Opera.
Photo by Pavel Rychkov / Newsru.co.il

“On the performance programme in Israel: Did you complete it? What was the principle?”

“// It is out first time here... So it is important to us to present our singers and our work in their full genre scale: we will show arias and fragments from operas

by both Russian and foreign composers. I am very glad that two of our recent graduates — Vasilisa Berzhanskaya and Bogdan Volkov — are coming. They are making impressively successful international careers, and thus you will see or, more accurately, hear not only young artists as they progress, but some of the results which we are aspiring, too.“

Choreographer Edward Clug, who is staging the ballet Master and Margarita based on the namesake novel by Mikhail Bulgakov at the Bolshoi, gave an interview to RIA Novosti.

The premiere will be at the New Stage on May 21, 2020.

The choreographer said that the experience of working at the Bolshoi helps him a lot. ‘It is very valuable that I have already had the experience with Petrushka at the Bolshoi. Because during this time I have not only familiarised with the dancers but also learnt how the whole theatre mechanism works here. And it helps me very much now. I feel at home here, and that is very important. And I feel deeply responsible for the support I am getting now,’ RIA Novosti quotes Clug. He pointed out that for him the work at the Bolshoi — one of the best, if not the best theatre in the world — is a dream he couldn’t even think of coming true.



Edward Clug © RIA Novosti / Vladimir Vyatkin

Radio Sputnik publishes several articles with reference to a big article by RIA Novosti.

radiosputnik.ria.ru
radiosputnik.ria.ru
radiosputnik.ria.ru

BIZNES Online writes about the debut by Aida Garifullina at the Bolshoi: “All Moscow Is Going To Attend These Six Performances!” All six performances of the premiere series are sold out, and on February 18 one can see Sadko streamed Live on Mezzo TV channel. The cast includes Aida Garifullina who has been working with Tcherniakov continuously recently.

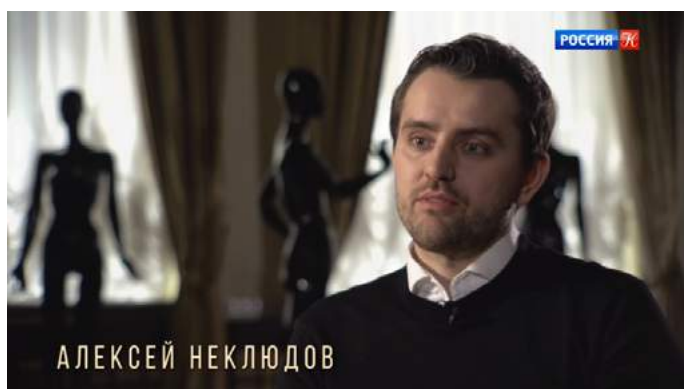
One of the world most sought-after mezzo sopranos, the Bolshoi guest soloist, the soloist of Mariinsky Opera Ekaterina Semenchuk: debuts at the Bolshoi as Lyubava in the opera Sadko by Rimsky-Korsakov. In her interview with [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) the singer told about her work with Dmitri Tcherniakov, chamber music, how it feels to try on the images of tragic heroines and to stay herself; about London's special love of solo concerts..

“For you the previous year started with a premiere of a production by Dmitri Tcherniakov, today's most popular and sought-after opera director. It was Les Troyenes at the Paris Opera.”

Ekaterina Semenchuk: Dmitri Tcherniakov is popular and fashionable because he works in overdrive, he is fanatically committed to his profession, to what he is doing. He knows the text to the last letter of it. It is incredibly interesting to work with him. // Lyubava in Sadko is a new role for me which is always interesting and appealing – and a debut in a theatre that is new to me! // Tcherniakov is an amazing artist who has mastered all colours of light and sound, he weaves his fabric expertly, working meticulously on every centimetre. Every note, every turn of the head turn is always a reasonable and important action giving birth to something new. He is notable for his fathomless fantasy, clear and genuine, with the honest view and evaluation of a child along with vulnerability and despotism. /.../”

[Kultura channel](#) continues its project The 21st Century Soloists. The hero of the programme's recent issue – Bolshoi guest soloist tenor Alexei Neklyudov:

“A soloist of the Moscow Novaya Opera and the Bolshoi. His performances are sold out in Germany, Hungary, France, Switzerland, China. He is constantly in motion. The main thing for him is to keep the tempo since he describes his life as ‘life in tempo allegro’.”



A documentary Soloists of the 21st Century.
Alexei Neklyudov – [Kultura channel](#)

The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia is very much represented at the 38th International Opera Festival named

after Feodor Chaliapin. The festival started on February 1 in Kazan.

Mikhail Kazakov sings the title role in [Boris Godunov](#) by Modest Mussorgsky (February 12), and Ramfis in [Aida](#) by Giuseppe Verdi (February 16.) Merited Artist of Russia Agunda Kulaeva – Amneris in Aida by Giuseppe Verdi (February 16.)

Merited Artist of Russia Agunda Kulaeva – Amneris in Aida by Giuseppe Verdi (February 16.)

Anna Nechaeva – Leonora in [Il trovatore](#) by Giuseppe Verdi (February 6), Liza in [The Queen of Spades](#) by Tchaikovsky February 9.).

National Artist of Russia Tatiana Erastova – the Countess in The Queen of Spades by Tchaikovsky February 9.).

The Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Alexei Tatarintsev – Almaviva in [Il Barbiere di Siviglia](#) by Gioacchino Rossini (February 11), the Prince in [Rigoletto](#) by Giuseppe Verdi (February 14.)

[Kommersant Weekend](#) magazine chose 20 must-sees from the Golden Mask lineup. The opera Il Viaggio A Reims by Gioacchino Rossini (the Bolshoi Historic Stage, March 3, 4, 5, 6.) “Simply and loyally meant story has almost by default become satirically dubious in the modern geopolitical context, and the director Damiano Michieletto and maestro Tugan Sokhiev make a very smart play with it.”

The Bolshoi Ballet guest soloist, the [ABT](#) (American Ballet Theatre) principal dancer David Hallberg gave an interview to Vogue fashion magazine where he tries on a haute couture fashions and speaks about ballet and the Bolshoi dancers, about beauty and his own sources of inspiration.



The Bolshoi Ballet guest soloist David Hallberg in the photo session for Vogue © Maria Popova

“Who inspires you in dance today?”

“Sharon Eyal – for power. Gosha Gusev – for energy. Margarita Shrayner – for brilliance.”

“What should we, the audience, pay attention to in the next ballet season?”

“... and to Alyona Kovalyova, Cesar Corrales. You definitely should follow incredible artists, dancers who are at the peak of their talent and bloom like flowers in spring. These are Ekaterina Kondaurova (Mariinsky Theatre), Semyon Chudin, Svetlana Zakharova, Katya Krysanova (the Bolshoi.)”

“Your last surprise in dance?”

“The Bolshoi corps de ballet. So much respect for them. Bow to the ground.”

[Muzykalnaya Zhizn](#) magazine publishes an interview with the Bolshoi Ballet prima Ekaterina Shipulina: “Having marked 20 years of her creative career, including world premieres, the leading roles in the main classic ballets (Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, Giselle, Esmeralda, Don Quixote, La Bayadere, Spartacus etc), the ballerina decided to expand her metier with another role – the one of artistic director of a private ballet school, following the route of her great predecessors such as Matilde Kschessinska, Tamara Karsavina, Isadora Duncan .”

The media continue to cover the tour of Astana Opera (Nursultan) on September 5-11, 2020, in Moscow, according to the touring contract and memorandum on cooperation between the Bolshoi and Kazakh Opera Ballet signed at the Bolshoi on February 4, 2020.)

[Vestnik Kavkaza](#)

“[The opera Abai will be presented in Moscow](#)” – information at Kazakh Embassy in Russia website.

Press analysis:

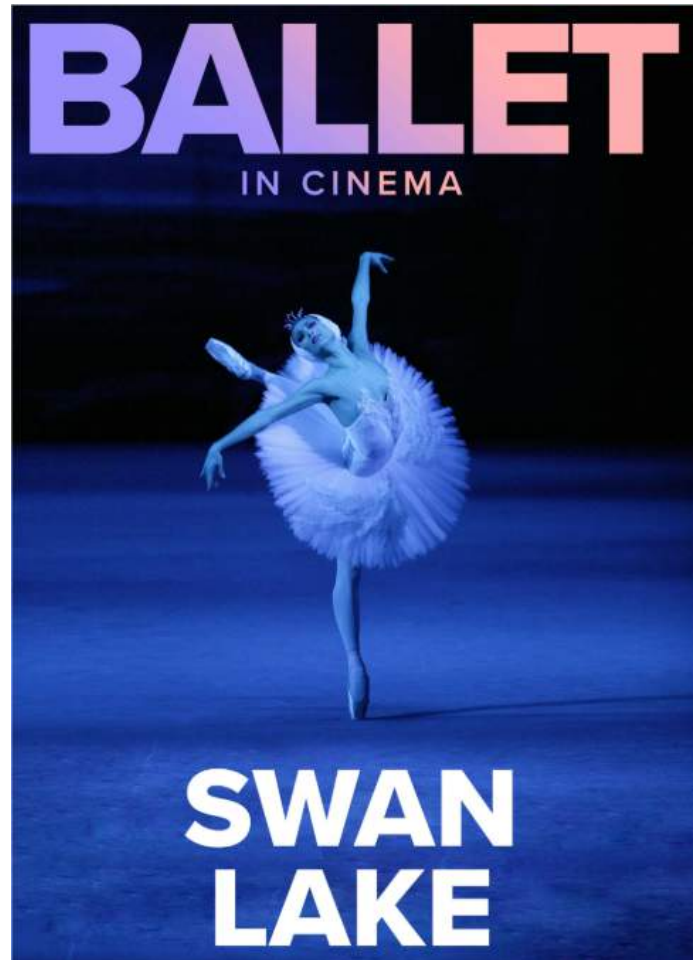
international mass media

International media announce the upcoming live transmission of the ballet by Pyotr Tchaikovsky Swan Lake in Yuri Grigorovich’s version from the Historic Stage to world cinemas on February 23. The on-line specialised entertainment news publication [Broadway World](#) announces the upcoming screening of the ballet in USA cinemas. “The Lark Theatre (San Francisco) is pleased to present Swan Lake, as part of the Bolshoi Ballet company’s 2019 - 2020 season celebrating their 10th anniversary.”

[Galway Advertiser](#) (Ireland)

[Newpost.gr](#) (Greece)

Yahoo Movies distributes the [video trailer](#) of the



Live transmission of the ballet [Swan Lake](#) on February 23 in Russian and world cinemas.

Bolshoi for the upcoming live screening of Swan Lake in cinemas.



Giselle Photo by Natalia Voronova

The online specialised entertainment news publication [Broadway World](#) announces the upcoming screening of Bolshoi’s Giselle in local cinemas. “Enjoy the timeless

and beloved ballet, Giselle, performed by the great ballet of Russia, The Bolshoi Ballet, in HD on the big screen at The Ridgefield Playhouse Sunday, February 16th.”

The French newspaper [La Depeche](#) (France) selects the top five shows of the week including “Violinist Renaud Capuçon returns to the Halle aux Grains for a French music concert by the National Capitole Orchestra conducted by Tugan Sokhiev.” February 15, Toulouse.

The website of the French regional broadcaster Via Occitanie TV offers a video report about the upcoming Franco-Russian Musicals and a short interview with Tugan Sokhiev. “The Musicales Franco-Russes are back in Toulouse from March 10 to April 3 with stars Tugan Sokhiev and the two orchestras he directs: the Capitole and the Bolshoi.” [Link to the video report](#)

The French online specialised classical music publication [Culture 31](#) publishes an article by Serge Chauzy who reports: “The National Capitole Orchestra’s January 8 concert” of Gustav Mahler’s Second Symphony in C minor, titled Resurrection. For this cover of one of the composer’s masterpieces, Tugan Sokhiev associates his orchestra with the Orfeón Donostiarra Choir and two solo singers: the soprano Jeanine De Bique and the mezzo-soprano Janina Baechle.” “Note that this same programme will be presented at the Philharmonie de Paris on Tuesday February 11 at 8:30 p.m. with the same performers.”



[Occitanie TV](#)

The French online specialised culture news publication [Culture 31](#) also publishes an article by Jérôme Gac announcing the performance by Tugan Sokhiev. “This evening will be broadcast at the end of the month on Radio Classique.”

The website of the French radio broadcaster [France Musique](#) presents a podcast by Lionel Esparza

titled Take it easy! with Tugan Sokhiev. The programme features nearly two hours of music conducted by Sokhiev. “Tugan Sokhiev conducts the National Capitoile Orchestra ... Tugan Sokhiev’s latest recording at the head of the National Capitoile Orchestra, Dmitri Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 8, will be released in March 2020 on the Warner Classics label. Finally, the chef is also the artistic director of the Franco-Russian Music Festival, the second edition of which takes place in Toulouse from March 10 to April 3.”

The Japanese specialised ballet news magazine Dance (Shinshokan) in its March 2020 edition publishes an article about Giselle at the Bolshoi. The premiere of the ballet staged by Alexei Ratmansky took place at the Historic Stage on November 21, 2019. The article includes photos of the two casts for main roles of Giselle and Albrecht — Olga Smirnova and Artemy Belyakov, Ekaterina Krysanova and Atrem Ovcharenko.

The online specialised dance news publication [Dance Tabs](#) (USA) publishes a review by Marina Harss of New Combinations: Voices (new Ratmansky) and Polyphonia, Bright, Opus19/The Dreamer at the David H. Koch Theater in New York on 31 January, 2020. She gives the production 4 stars of 5. “The intensity of the ballet waxed and waned. And yet, I never lost interest. There was always something new around the corner, a surprising shape, a witty step, an unlikely transition. It’s clear that Ratmansky felt liberated by the unusual structure and soundscape, and this sense of freedom inspired a new vocabulary, a looseness and exploratory feel that were, in themselves, engaging to watch. And how they danced it! With fierceness, courage, and utter commitment. That, too, is a pleasure to see.”

[The New York Times](#): “... Mr. Ratmansky’s first set to recorded voice, selections from Peter Ablinger’s Voices and Piano, a series featuring spoken recordings. Within this specific sonic atmosphere, it’s as if Mr. Ratmansky distilled a dancer’s distinctive energy and placed it under a microscope.”

[The Financial Times](#) (Apollinaire Scherr) gives the performance 4 stars out of 5. “The choreographer’s setting of a song cycle based on human speech creates a gorgeous canvas of human chaos.” “... the women we hear and the dancers we see coalesce into a single, stunning whole.”

The German specialised opera news magazine Oper! In its January 2020 edition publishes the poster of the upcoming Bolshoi premiere – the opera Sadko by Rimsky-Korsakov staged by Dmitri Tcherniakov.

The German specialised magazine Journal Staatsoper publishes an interview with Yulia Lezhnyova who will sing Morgana in Alcina by Handel at the Hamburg Opera on February 23 and 28. The Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Hulkar Sabirova will sing Alcina.

The Azeri news agency [Trend](#) announces the premiere performance of [Mazeppa](#) (concert version) at the Bolshoi Historic Stage. The Bolshoi Opera soloist, National Artist of Azerbaijan Elchin Azizov will appear in the title role on March 8.

Elchin Azizov – baritone, winner of international vocal competitions. The first Azeri to become a Bolshoi soloist. He has performed in many countries with great success. He has also been featured in films (Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey), and directed several cinema and theatre productions.

The English language Azeri online news publication [Azer News](#): “World-famous opera singer Elchin Azizov will perform in the Russian Bolshoi Theatre on March 7-8. The opera star will play the leading role in the opera Mazeppa by Pyotr Tchaikovsky. Elchin Azizov has been a soloist of the Bolshoi Theater since 2008.”



“Elchin Azizov will play Hetman Mazeppa.” Photo /[Trend](#)

The Romanian news and events publication [EVZ.ro](#): “Pleasant surprise for ballet fans in Romania.” “Two of the stars of the world ballet, Vladislav Lantratov and Ekaterina Krysanova, both principal dancers at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, confirmed their participation in the Stars Ballet of the Russian Ballet Gala to be held on March 9 at the Palace Hall in Bucharest.” “Vladislav Lantratov is fascinating, of rare elegance, but with a lot of passion that can turn him from a romantic hero into a wild character, but always with that irresistible dose of charisma that allows him to keep even his most demanding audience under his spell.”

The Polish political news magazine [Politka.pl](#) (Poland) publishes a review by Joanna Brych. “Last Sun-

day, the new Giselle appeared in the Bolshoi Ballet Live repertoire. The interest in the live broadcast was huge. In Multikino in Złote Tarasy (Warsaw) all seats were taken.” “Ratmanski’s Romeo and Juliet, just like Giselle now, continues to appear at the Bolshoi alongside the earlier version of Grigorovich. However, they differ radically. Ratmansky composed his own – from A to Z – choreography, led the narrative a little differently, introduced previously unknown solutions; new costumes and stage design were designed. He created a quality that had never been before. A sensational cast danced in the broadcast.” “Artemy Belyakov was sensational in the broadcast – the artist has been dancing in the Bolshoi Ballet since 2010, in the ballet hierarchy he achieved the highest rank of principal, the first dancer, a leading soloist. He has a perfectly mastered technique (his teacher is the famous Aleksander Vetrov), which he perfectly uses to build a role.”

Briefly

The composer Rodion Schedrin speaks about his life with Maya Plisetskaya, his friendship with Lilya Brik, of the 60s and the new opera Lolita, based on the novel of the same name by Vladimir Nabokov in an interview with Forbes. The performance will be shown for the first time in the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg on February 13, 15 and 24.

The XIX International [Ballet Festival Dance Open](#) has announced its programme, which will feature all styles of the art – neoclassicism and modern, break dancing and hip hop, and will take place in St Petersburg from April 14 to 27. Izvestiya reports: “The festival will open on April 14 with the fantasmagoria version of Midsummer Night’s Dream by the Swedish composer Alexander Ekman, a master of effective scenes and difficult technical decisions. During his time as a composer, the Norwegian opera house was flooded in six tonnes of water during a performance of Swan Lake, and the stage of the Paris Opera was covered in plastic balls during the performance of The Play. It’s now time to surprise the oldest theatre of Russia: the main stage of the Alexandrinsky Theatre will be covered in hay.”

[See more](#)

On March 21 the Kammerspiele stage of the Deutsches Theatre will host the premiere of a performance staged by Timofei Kulyabin, based on a play by August Strindberg Miss Julie. The sets and costumes are designed by Oleg Golovko. And the dramatists Klaus Caesar and Roman Dolzhansky are responsible for the adaptation of the play for the stage. It seems that this year’s

March will become the “Russian month” in the Deutsches Theatre, remarks [Teatr](#). On March 8 the theatre will host the premiere of Kirill Serebnnikov’s Dekameron, and on the 27th of the same month Jette Steckel will show off his take on the play Cat on a Hot Tin Roof .

The presentation of the [Festival International d’Art Lyrique d’Aix-en-Provence](#) was shown on February 10 on the stage of The Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre.

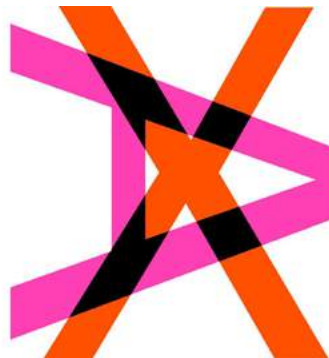
[Newspaper Kultura](#)

Dmitri Tcherniakov, who has been working with the festival for a long time, has joined forces with Pierre Odier, and is preparing for the premiere of a new production.

In 2019 Pierre Odier lead the festival: “The Festival Aix-en-Provence has bravely entered a new era, having remembered what made it great for over 70 years. Last year’s festival, which brought together large artists and new, original projects has received international acclaim from both the viewers and the critics alike. This success inspires us to continue in the same way” – [Orfei](#).

ПРЕЗЕНТАЦИЯ ФЕСТИВАЛЯ
В ЭКС-АН-ПРОВАНСЕ

МОСКВА
10 ФЕВРАЛЯ 2020



During the last decade Aix-en-Provence, along with the Bolshoi Theatre, has brought to fruition three performances – Mozart’s Don Giovanni (2010), Handel’s Alcina (2015) and Dido and Aeneas by Purcell (2018). Together with the Stanislavsky Theatre in Moscow – The Rake’s Progress (2017)

Sad news

An outstanding composer of our time, the oldest professor of the St Petersburg Conservatory, People’s Artist Sergei Mikhailovich Slonimski passed away on February 9, aged 88.

The Bolshoi Theatre expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Sergei Mikhailovich. Reports on the death:

[TASS](#)
[RIA Novosti](#)
[Ren TV](#)
[NTV](#)

[Kommersant](#) and dozens of other media.

Sergei Slonimski’s music for the ballet Icarus is known in the history of the Bolshoi Theatre as the first choreographic experience of Vladimir Vasiliev. Created on the initiative of Yuri Grigorovich (art director and conductor – Algis Zuraitis, scenography by Vadim Rydin, premiere on May 29, 1971).

Concert in honour of [Sergei Slonimski](#) at the Beethoven Hall of the Bolshoi took place on October 11, 2017.



The composer Sergei Mikhailovich Slonimski.
Photo by Alexander Slonimski

[Nello Santi](#) has died at the age of 88 on February 6. He was one of the greatest conductors of our time.



Nello Santi (September 22, 1931 – February 6, 2020).
Photo by Charles Chernous

Nello Santi’s creative biography is closely linked to the Zurich Opera, where he continued to perform until the end, despite severe illness.

A large article in honour of the composer has been published by [The New York Times](#).

Mirella Freni passed away on 9 February. She performed in every important theatre and worked with the greatest conductors of her time. In 1964 Freni performed on tour with La Scala in Moscow, during the tour she performed Amelia's part in Simon Boccanera by Verdi. (September 5, 1964).

Of the legendary singer's passing report:

[TASS](#)

[Rossia-K](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Izvestia](#)

[Kommersant](#)

[France Musique](#) and hundreds of world media.



Mirella Freni (February 27, 1935 – February 9, 2020) in Moscow, La Scala tour of September, 1964.

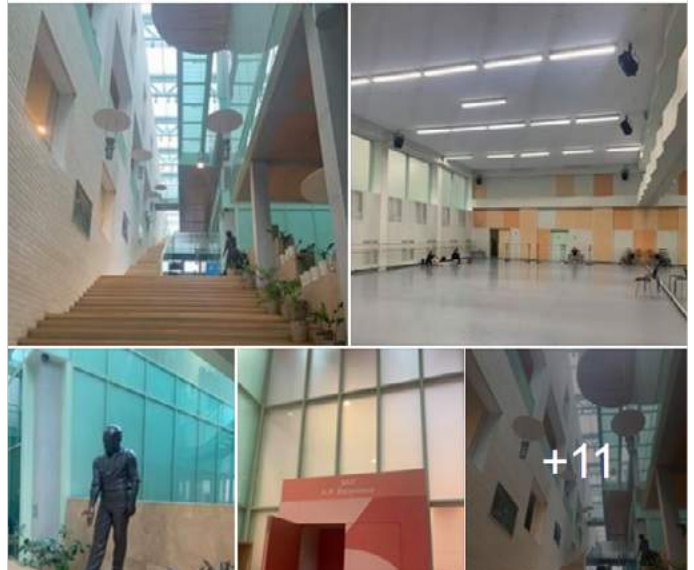
Photo by Giorgio Lotti/[France Musique](#)

Social networks



Vasilisa Berzhanskaya, the performer of the role of Romeo in [The Capulets](#) and the Montecchi by Bellini, production by Denis Krief and Daniele Gatti, and the performer of the role of Juliet, the Bolshoi Opera guest soloist [Mariangela Sicilia](#) (debuted at the Bolshoi New Stage in Vesperini's version of La Boheme the previous June) with their pets; Rome, January. Photo /[Instagram](#)

Академия Бориса Эйфмана совершенно поражает воображение . Какие пространства! Какие удобства! Забота о ребятах. Как все умно и продумано; ново, чисто, стильно. Невероятный учебный комплекс. Теперь ещё есть и свой театр. И учатся дети бесплатно ... Счастье есть . 🇷🇺



"Boris Eifman Academy grabs your imagination. How spacious! How convenient! Care for kids. Everything is smart and cleverly organised – new, clear, stylish. An incredible educational complex. Now they even have their own theatre. And children study here for free... Happiness is there." [Facebook](#)



Ballet legends: Tamara Karsavina and Margot Fonteyn
Facebook page of [Valery Lagunov](#)

Оксана Волкова сейчас здесь: Большой театр России / Bolshoi Theatre of Russia. 19 ч. · Москва · 🌐

Сегодняшний спектакль « Царская невеста» посвящён 95-летию выдающейся русской певицы Ирины Константиновне Архиповой. Я очень благодарна Большому театру России за то, что они пригласили меня исполнить мою любимую роль Любаши. В память о Великой певице ❤️❤️❤️ 12 лет назад, принимая участие в Международном Конкурсе Глинки в Челябинске, я и мечтать не могла, что она сама вручит мне 1 премию. Это было началом моей настоящей карьеры. Спасибо, Ирина Константиновна, за все! ❤️❤️❤️



“Today’s performance of The Tsar’s Bride is timed to coincide with the 95th anniversary of the birth of the prominent Russian singer Irina Konstantinovna Arkhipova. I am very grateful to the Bolshoi of Russia for their invitation to perform my favourite role of Lyubasha. In memory of the Great Singer...” Oksana Volkova on [Facebook](#)

Russian Australian Cultural Centre · 29 января · 🌐

“I do not try to dance better than anyone else. I only try to to dance better than myself.”- Mikhail Baryshnikov. Today is his birthday.



Mikhail Baryshnikov on [Facebook](#) of Russian Australian Cultural Centre

Александра Дурсенева с Евгением Варавко и еще 5 в Lovelyloft. 1 февраля в 22:44 · 🌐

Да, час настал!!!
26.02 буду ждать!!!
Звоните в рельсу!!!)



Alexandra Durseneva on [Facebook](#)

Debuts

Gaîté Parisienne

February 5. Margarita Shrayner — a Lover



Behind the scene after Gaîté Parisienne. February 5
Photo by Katerina Novikova

Symphony in C

February 5. Dmitry Smilevsky – two pairs in the Part 4. Romeo and Juliet (choreography by Alexei Ratmansky)

February 9. Denis Savin first appeared as Tibalt. Dmitry Smilevsky as Benvolio

La Périchole

February 7. Ekaterina Lukash first appeared at the Bolshoi chamber stage in the title role. Mikhail Yanenko as Piquillo

La Sylphide

February 12. [Xenia Zhiganshina](#) (tutor-repetiteur – Nadezhda Grachyova) made her debut in the title role.

Etudes

February 15 (12:00). [Margarita Shrayner](#) (tutor-repetiteur – Maria Allash) debuted in the main part of the Balletina.

Forgotten Land

February 15 (19:00). [Anna Nikulina](#) (tutor-repetiteur – Olga Chenchikova) – the Couple in Black. [Maria Mishina](#) (rehearsing under the guidance of Svetlana Adyrkhaeva) – the Couple in Red. [Igor Gorelkin](#) (graduated from Russian Ballet Academy in 2019 and joined the Bolshoi Ballet) – the Couple in Pink (also on February 18).

Cast alterations

Symphony in C

February 5. The Leading Couple in Part 2: Alyona Kovalyova replaced Yulia Stepanova. The Leading Couple in Part 3: Alexei Putintsev replaced Vyacheslav Lopatin.

February 6. Ana Turazashvili replaced Alexandra Trikoz in Two Couples in Part 4. The debut of Trikoz is postponed.

Gaîté Parisienne

February 6. Alexander Smolianinov replaces Vyacheslav Lopatin as Offenbach. Egor Khromushin replaced Erik Svolkin as the Principal Dancer

Romeo and Juliet

February 8. Anastasia Stashkevich and Artemy Belyakov appeared in the main roles. Previously announced performances by Evgenia Obraztsova and Vyacheslav Lopatin are cancelled.

Etudes

February 15 (12:00). Vyacheslav Lopatin replaces Igor Tsvirko

Forgotten Land

February 18. Artur Mkrtchyan replaces Vyacheslav Lopatin (the Couple in Red).

Birthdays

February 3 – conductor of the Bolshoi Pavel Klinichev

February 3 – opera singer, a soloist of the Moscow Operetta Theatre, Bolshoi opera soloist in 1988-2012, National Artist of the RSFSR Yuri Vedeneyev – 75th birthday

February 4 – opera singer (tenore leggero et robusto), Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1966-1989, tutor, National Artist of the USSR Vladislav Pyavko

February 5 – ballerina, choreographer, tutor, custodian of traditions of Russian classical school Elena Chernyshyova von Kittel (1939-2015)

February 6 – ballet dancer, ballet-master, National Artist of the RSFSR Yuri Kondratov (1921-1967)



Yuri Kondratov. Photo by Nikolai Sakhovsky /RIA Novosti

February 6 – opera singer (tenore leggero et robusto), the Bolshoi opera soloist in 1956-1984, National Artist of the RSFSR Vladimir Petrov (1926-2011)

February 6 — opera singer, “golden soprano” of Bolshoi Theatre (1915-1948), National Artist of the USSR Ksenia Dzerzhinskaya (1889-1951)



Ksenia Dzerzhinskaya

February 6 — Vitaly Biktimirov, first soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet

February 7 — stage manager, ballet soloist (working under contract) Irina Zabiroya

February 9 — Bolshoi Ballet soloist Yulia Grebenshchikova

February 10 — ballet dancer, ballet-master, National Artist of Russia Shamil Yagudin (1932-2005)

February 12 — opera singer (baritone), Bolshoi soloist in 1956-1976, music tutor, National Artist of the RSFSR Evgeny Kibalko (1932-2003)

February 12 — one of the greatest ballerinas of the 20th century Anna Pavlova (1881-1931)

February 13 — famous Russian singer (bass) Fyodor Chaliapin (1873-1938)

February 13 — Bolshoi Ballet soloist Kristina Karasyova.

February 13 — Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Jacopo Tissi.

February 15 — stage designer, multiple winner of the Golden Mask award Zinovi Margolin



Anna Pavlova

February 15 — ballet-master, Merited Artist of Russia, Sergei Vikharev (1962-2017). At the Bolshoi, he had staged the famous Mikhail Fokin production of Petrushka (2010), completed the revival of the ballet Coppelia (2009)

February 16 — Bolshoi Ballet dancer Roman Simachev.

February 18 — Bolshoi Ballet principal dancer Semyon Chudin.



Semyon Chudin as the Principal Dancer in Lander's Etudes.
Photo by Damir Yusupov

February 18 — opera singer, the Bolshoi Opera soloist 1998-February 2019 Oksana Gorchakovskaya.

February 18 — CEO of The Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation of CIS, Director General of the Bolshoi (2000-2013) Anatoly Iksanov

February 19 — outstanding opera singer, National Artist of the USSR Valdimir Atlantov

February 19 — Bolshoi Ballet soloist (working under contract), Merited Artist of Russia Denis Medvedev

February 19 — composer, pianist, tutor, National Artist of Russia Alexander Tchaikovsky. The opera One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Tchaikovsky at the Bolshoi Chamber Stage.

February 20 — Bolshoi Ballet soloist (working under contract), Merited Artist of Russia Andrei Bolotin.

February 21 — Bolshoi Ballet soloist Karim Abdullin.



Valdimir Atlantov as Hermann.
The opera by Pyotr Tchaikovsky The Queen of Spades.
The Bolshoi Theatre