



The traditional meeting of the Bolshoi company on the eve of the new 246 theatrical season took place on September 13 at the Historic Stage. Photo by Batyr Annadurdyev, Katerina Novikova, Damir Yusupov, Olesya Kupriyanova.

EVENTS

- The company meeting took place at 15:00 on September 13, in the stalls of the Historic Stage.

Besides the theatre management, the meeting was presided over by Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Alla Manilova, General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre's general sponsor, PJSC Ingostrakh, Andrey Larkin, Head of the Bolshoi's Privileged Partner Credit Suisse in Russia, Maxim Arefiev and Chairman of the Bolshoi Theatre Foundation Gleb Ermakov.

The meeting began with the traditional screening of a comic film about the Bolshoi's previous season (a special booklet was also issued following the results of the 245th season).

General Director of the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre of Russia [Vladimir Urin](#) noted that the Bolshoi experienced an extremely difficult season, and expressed his deep gratitude to the entire team for their expertise, endurance and patience, which allowed the theatre not to cancel a single premiere. The current repertoire remained virtually unaffected, too; neither the audience limitation, nor other difficulties prevented the artists from entering the stage and doing their job.

Six opera and three ballet premieres await the audience in the 246 season.

Renowned director Simon McBurney will stage the opera [Khovanshchina](#) by Mussorgsky at the Historic Stage by June 22, 2022. Conductor - [Tugan Sokhiev](#). [Lohengrin](#) by Richard Wagner will appear as part

of cooperation agreements with the Metropolitan Opera (Conductor - [Evan Rogister](#), Director — François Girard) – the premiere will be on February 24, 2022. [Don Giovanni](#) by Mozart (Conductor - Tugan Sokhiev) will be staged at the New Stage by Semyon Spivak (the debut in the opera by the head of the St Petersburg Theatre on Fontanka was planned for the 244th season but was interrupted by quarantine measures introduced in spring 2020.) The première is scheduled on November 3, 2021.

The Bolshoi will create three opera productions at Pokrovsky Chamber Stage.

October 29, 2021 – an evening of two titles — Maddalena by Sergei Prokofiev and L'heure espagnole by [Maurice Ravel](#) (Music Director - [Alexei Vereshchagin](#); the Bolshoi continues its cooperation with director Vladislavs Nastavševs after the successful production of the opera Les pêcheurs de perles by Bizet)

March 10, 2022 – [Falstaff, ossia Le tre burle](#) by Antonio Salieri (Director - Alexander Khukhlin; Conductor - to be announced)

June 9, 2022 – [Linda di Chamounix](#) by [Gaetano Donizetti](#) (Conductor - Anton Grishanin, Director - Roman Feodori.)

- The Ballet will prepare three premieres (two of them also postponed from the “pre-covid” season): a ballet to music by Alfred Schnittke [Master and Margarita](#) by [Edward Clug](#) at the New Stage on December 1, 2021, also there will be a contemporary choreography evening with three new one-act ballets to music by Russian composers — [Dancemania](#) by Vyacheslav Samodurov (music by Yuri

Krasavin), [Les Saisons](#) by Artemy Belyakov (music by Alexander Glazunov) and [Made in Bolshoi](#) by Anton Pimionov (music by Anatoly Korolyov) – July 7, 2022. On April 7, 2022, the Historic Stage will see a new work by [Alexei Ratmanský](#) The Art of the Fugue to music by Johann Bach, created especially for the Bolshoi Ballet.

- The Young Artists Opera Programme and Young Artists Ballet Programme will continue their work in the 246 season.

- The Bolshoi Theatre, together with its partners Pathé and BelAir Média, will resume livestreams of the Bolshoi in Cinema project from the Historic Stage: viewers from all over the world will be able to see [Spartacus](#) (November 7, 2021), [Jewels](#) (January 23, 2022) and [La Fille du Pharaon](#) (May 1, 2022.) The recordings of the ballets The Nutcracker (December 19, 2021) and Swan Lake (March 6, 2022) will be shown.

- Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Alla Manilova congratulated everyone on the season opening and wished inspiration and new achievements and victories.



Ballets Spartacus, Jewels and La Fille du Pharaon will be livestreamed from the Bolshoi in the 246 season.
Photo by Damir Yusupov



Maria Vinogradova, Agunda Kulaeva, Artemy Belyakov and Ekaterina Vorontsova - award winners following the results of the 245 season.

The theatre's Chief Conductor and Music Director [Tugan Sokhiev](#) recalled the large-scale plans for the beginning of the new season and introduced the new trainee artists: soprano Anna Shapovalova and bass Daniil Akimov, as well as new members of the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Programme. In 2021, the artists joining the YOP programme are Anna Akishina, Zarina Bagaeva, Nikita Volkov, Bogdan Guenok, Lilit Davtyan, Danil Knyazev, Alexey Kursanov, Albina Tonkikh and accompanist Evgeny Zakharov.

Artistic Director of the ballet company [Makhar Vaziev](#) noted that the past season was not only challenging, but also very important: the Bolshoi Ballet opened it with four premieres - an unprecedented event that has given hope to ballet dancers around the world. In a difficult situation, the Bolshoi Ballet proved to be most courageous - emphasised its artistic director, expressing his gratitude to all the theatre's employees.

He reminded the Bolshoi of the ballet's plans for the 246 season and introduced the new artists who had joined the company.

Seven dancers from different regions of Russia who had been admitted to the Young Artists Ballet Programme to study at the Bolshoi (all of them applied for the competition, and all passed the live qualifying round) were also introduced at the company meeting.



[The presentation booklet The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia 246 Season - *.pdf](#)

The Board of Trustees annual awards were presented. The prize For Outstanding Performance In the Season 245 was given to

the ballet leading soloist [Maria Vinogradova](#), the ballet leading soloist [Igor Tsvirko](#), ballerina [Ekaterina Smurova](#), opera soloist [Agunda Kulaeva](#),

Margarita Petrosian, the Bolshoi Opera accompanist Pavel Medveditsyn, the extras member Stanislav Izmailov, the Bolshoi Orchestra accompanist [Alexei Vereshchagin](#), Conductor of Pokrovsky Chamber Stage

[Valery Borisov](#), Chief Chorus Master

The ballet company principal [Artemy Belyakov](#) received the Ingosstrakh Prize (a financial grant and a package of insurance) as the most impressive performer in the Four Characters in Search of a Plot project.

The opera company soloist [Ekaterina Vorontsova](#) got the Credit Suisse Prize as a new young talent.

- A colourful booklet was issued following the results of the 245 season.

- The Company Meeting—2021 — [see more](#) on the theatre website

In the evening after the company meeting the opera [Queen of Spades](#) by Tchaikovsky was performed at the Historic Stage (Conductor - [Tugan Sokhiev](#), (also September 14 and 15)

— the opera's Music Director, the Bolshoi Chief Conductor.

Stage Director - [Rimas Tuminas](#).

Pokrovsky Chamber Stage opened the Bolshoi 246 season with performances of Georges Bizet's opera [Les pêcheurs de perles](#), — September 13, 14 and 15.

The premiere took place on December 10, 2020.

Music Director - Alexey Vereshchagin (all days at the pulpit.) Director and Set Designer - [Vladislavs Nastavševs](#) (on October 29-31, the Chamber Stage will present Maddalena by Sergei Prokofiev and L'heure espagnole by Maurice Ravel)



Artists and creators of The Queen of Spades after the 246 season first performance; the Historic Stage, September 13.

Photo by Katerina Novikova



Artists and creators of The Queen of Spades after the 246 season first performance; Pokrovsky Chamber Stage, September 13. Photo by Anastasia Zonova



The September 16 press conference on the occasion of the Bolshoi Theatre tour in Nizhny Novgorod

• On September 13 and 14, the Bolshoi Ballet and Orchestra presented the ballet [The Taming of the Shrew](#) to music by Shostakovich (choreography by Jean-Christophe Maillot) at Samara Opera Ballet as part of the festival Shostakovich. XX Century (held from September 11 to 26, 2021, in Samara and Togliatti.) Conductor - [Alexei Repnikov](#).

The Bolshoi in Samara - [see more](#).
[Shostakovich. XX Century festival events](#)



Choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot and his assistant Bernice Coppeters rehearse The Taming of the Shrew with the Bolshoi's dancers. Photo by Damir Yusupov



On September 16, a ballet gala took place at Nizhny Novgorod Opera Ballet

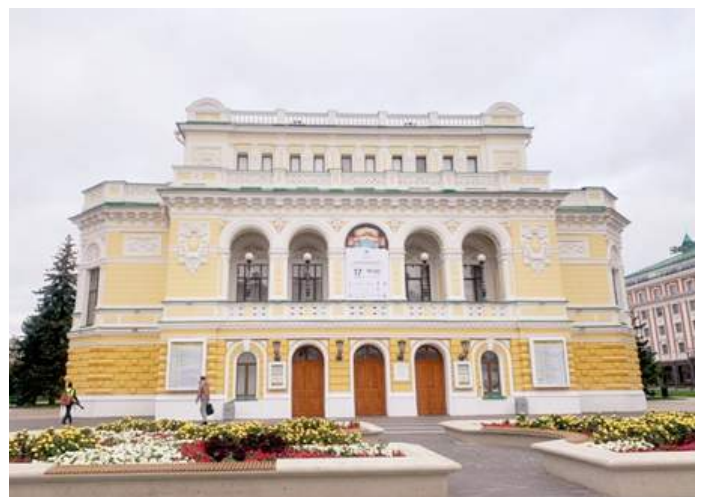
• The season tour schedule continued with the performances of the Bolshoi Opera, Ballet and Orchestra soloists in Nizhny Novgorod on September 16 and 17, 2021, at the city's 800th anniversary celebrations.

The ballet gala at Nizhny Novgorod Opera Ballet on September 16, 2021, was held with the support of Ingosstrakh.

The ballet [gala programme of September 16](#) (*.pdf)

The opera gala took place at Gorky Drama Theatre on September 17. It opened the famous All-Russian Pushkin Festival of Opera and Ballet Art Boldinskaya Osen.

The opera [gala programme of September 17](#) (*.pdf)
[The Bolshoi to Nizhny Novgorod](#)



September 17 - the Bolshoi opera gala at Gorky Drama Theatre



The Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Olga Lyubimova presented the award to the Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet Makhar Vaziev, Bolshoi Theatre, 6 September. Photo by Elena Timoschenko

• On September 6, the Bolshoi Theatre hosted the state awards presentation ceremony for culture and art professionals.

The honorary title National Artist of the Russian Federation was given to the Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet Makhar Vaziev.

Also an honorary title Merited Artist of the Russian Federation was given to the Bolshoi Orchestra Conductor Pavel Klinichev and Bolshoi Ballet principal Semyon Chudin

Covered by:

[TASS](#)

[The First Channel](#)

[RT](#) and other media.

• Earlier this year, on August 31, the honorary title Merited Artist of the Russian Federation was given to the Bolshoi Ballet principal Artem Ovcharenko,

Also the title was given to the Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Aida Garifullina.



Artem Ovcharenko receives the honorary title sign Merited Artist of the Russian Federation shown together with his partner Anna Tikhomirova; the House of the Government of the Russian Federation, August 31. Photo /Instagram

Covered by:

[TASS](#)

[The First Channel](#)

[Rossia-Kultura](#)

and numerous other media.

• National Artist of the USSR, the Bolshoi ballet master-tutor Mikhail Lavrovsky — was awarded the Order For Merit to the Fatherland, the 4th rank, for his Major Contribution to Development of National Culture and Art, and Long-Time Fruitful Career.

Mikhail Lavrovsky will mark his 80th birthday on October 29



Photo /[FB of Valery Lagunov](#)

• The Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Programme member (2017-21) Dmitry Cheblykov— winner of the 13th International Elena Obraztsova Young Opera Singers' Competition held from 14 to 21 August at the St Petersburg State Academic Capella).

In addition to the First Prize, he was also awarded the Public Prize, the Radio Orpheus Prize and the special Best Baritone Prize associated with the name of Yuri Mazurok, the Bolshoi Theatre's Golden Age singer, whose 90th birthday is celebrated this year.

The Second prize was taken by our bass Alexei Kulagin (joined the YOP in 2019)

217 young singers from 21 countries around the world were admitted to the audition.

This year, the competition jury included outstanding singers and musical theatre figures from Russia, Italy, France, Switzerland, and Great Britain: Makvala Kasrashvili, Olga Borodina, Larisa Gergieva, Sergei Leiferkus, Marina Meshcheryakova, Julia Lagauser, Alessandro Ariosi, Andrea Castello and Teddy Gerstel.



The Bolshoi YOP members: Dmitry Cheblykov (in the photo with Sergei Leiferkus) and Alexei Kulagin received awards. Photo /[FB and St Peterburg TV](#)

TASS

[Sankt-Peterburg TV Channel](#)

[Piter.TV](#)

[Muzykalnaya Zhizn](#)

[Kommersant](#)

[Russki Mir](#) online publication

Albina Tonkikh, a soprano from Belarus who recently joined the Young Artists Opera Programme, won a diploma and a special prize (a concert at the Leric Festival in Liguria, Italy).

Soprano [Elmira Karakhanova](#) (joined the YOP in September 2018) — won the 2nd prize at the new vocal competition OperaBella in Moscow; the YOP graduate countertenor Mikhail Shirochenko received a special prize of the competition.

- The Bolshoi will hold the 21st International Festival [DanceInversion](#) at five theatre venues of the capital (the Bolshoi New Stage as well as Stanislavsky Musical Theatre, Vakhtangov Theatre, Helikon Opera and Theatre of Nations) — from September 21 to November 17.

The Contemporary Dance Festival has existed for over 20 years, becoming a Biennale in the last 10 years. Even the pandemic did not knock it off schedule, and having held



A one-act ballet *The Soul Chain*. Choreographer - Sharon Eyal in collaboration with Guy Behar. Staatstheater Mainz - part of the the DanceInversion Festival - September 21 and 22



On September 21, the Helikon Opera Theatre hosted a press conference dedicated to the upcoming DanceInversion Festival.

the 20th anniversary festival in 2019, this fall it returns to Moscow again.

This year, the festival will host five companies from Germany, France, Italy and Great Britain.

"We present in Moscow teams that we have long dreamed of bringing here.

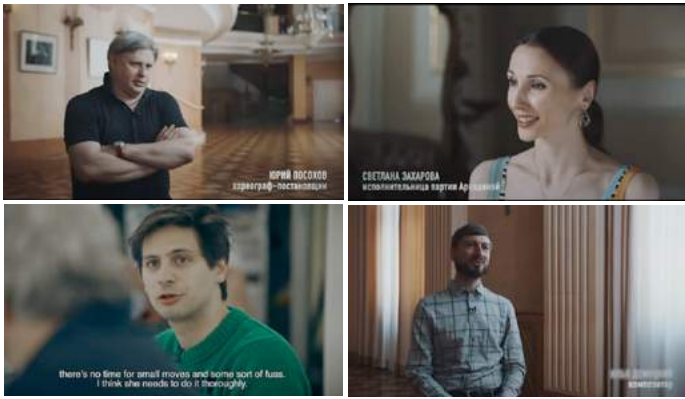
For the first time we will have a dance theatre from Mainz and Viviana Durante's company. On the playbill, the contemporary choreography stars - Marco Goecke, Sharon Eyal, Eric Gauthier - stand next to the classics: Frederic Ashton and Angelin Preljocaj /... / ", says the artistic director of the festival [Irina Chernomurova](#).

The programme of DanceInversion-2021 includes: September 21, 22 - *The Soul Chain*, Staatstheater Mainz, Germany (Helikon Opera); October 2 and 3 - *Dying Swans Live Experience*, Gauthier Dance Company, Germany (Vakhtangov Theatre New Stage), October 5 and 6 - *Vivaldina*, Spellbound Contemporary Dance Company, Italy (Helikon Opera); October 19 and 20 - *Soyuz*, Innovative Ballet Theatre, Kaluga, Russia (Theatre of Nations); October 27 and 28 - one-act ballets: *Isadora Now*, *Furies' Dance*, *Five Brahms Waltzes in the Style of Isadora Duncan*, *Unda*, - Viviana Durante's Company, Great Britain (MAMT), November 16 and 17 - *Swan Lake*, Preljocaj Ballet (costumes created by Russian fashion designer Igor Chapurin), France (Bolshoi New Stage).

This year, the festival is supported by the Roman Abramovich Foundation, the French Embassy, the French Institute in Russia, the Goethe-Institut, the Cartier company, Vengaya, Mediart, and Diaghilev P.S.

On September 21, the Helikon Opera Theatre hosted a press conference dedicated to the upcoming DanceInversion Festival.

- The full version of the film [The Seagull](#) (48'03 «) - the project Ticket to Bolshoi (shown on Rossia-K TV channel on August 13, 18:45 MSK) - dedicated to the premiere



Anna Nikulina as Odette/Odile and Artemy Belyakov as Prince Siegfried at a Swan Lake rehearsal, September 2021. Photo by Sasha Gusov

of the ballet *The Seagull*, is available on the Bolshoi YouTube channel.

“The renowned choreographer Yuri Possokhov and drama director Alexander Molochnikov - representatives of different generations and completely different outlooks - came together at the Bolshoi to stage the ballet *The Seagull*. How to translate Chekhov’s text into dance? They were looking for common ground and chiselled the performance detail by detail, assembling it bit by bit. Why did the company’s best dancers want to take part in the production and what happened to be the most difficult for everyone?”



The Bolshoi Theatre general director - [Vladimir Urin](#) spoke at the 2nd Federal Educational Marathon the New Knowledge in Nizhny Novgorod in the History and Culture section

• “Vladimir Urin: A Success Story: What Is the Bolshoi Theatre— at the New [Knowledge Marathon](#) in Nizhny Novgorod.

• On September 17, the ballet company opened the season in Moscow with Tchaikovsky’s ballet [Swan Lake](#) in the version by [Yuri Grigorovich](#).

Also on September 18 and 19.

Sets and Costumes - [Simon Virsaladze](#) (1908/09 -1989)

Music Director - Pavel Sorokin.

Ballet is Same as Symphony — [performance details](#)

Conductor - [Pavel Klinichev](#) (September 17, matinee 18, 19,) [Alexei Bogorad](#) (evening September 18.)

[Casts](#)

• September 17, 18 (12:00 and 19:00) and 19 (14:00) the opera company opens the season at the New Stage performing Rossini’s opera [Il Barbiere di Siviglia](#) staged by Evgeny Pisarev

Set Designer: Zinovy Margolin

Costume Designer: Olga Shaishmelashvili

Lighting Designer: Damir Ismagilov

Choreographer: Alberts Alberts

Chief Chorus Master: Valery Borisov

The premiere took place on November 3, 2018.

[Casts](#)

Il Barbiere di Siviglia matinee performance on September 18 was part of the Bolshoi to Youth programme. (Tickets were sold on September 6 for a special price - 100 and 500 roubles.)

• September 20, the New Stage - a concert version of [Rigoletto](#) by State Academic Symphonic Capella of Russia Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave, after Victor Hugo’s play *Le roi s’amuse*. Conductor - Valery Polyansky

• The exhibition from the funds of the Bolshoi Theatre Museum - [The Creator of Eternal Music ...](#), dedicated to Tchaikovsky, is being held in the historical and cultural complex Vyatskoye (Nekrasovsky district, Yaroslavl region.)



Il Barbiere di Siviglia by Rossini (photo by Yuri Bogomaz) opened the Bolshoi opera season in Moscow - the New Stage, September 17-19.

The exposition features photographs, set sketches, posters for Tchaikovsky's opera and ballet performances of different years and original costumes of outstanding Bolshoi artists. A special section of the exposition introduces visitors to the history of the Bolshoi's buildings.

The exhibition was prepared for the 180th anniversary of the composer's birth, celebrated in 2020. It will run until November 21, 2021.

A video report by [Vesti. Yaroslav!](#)

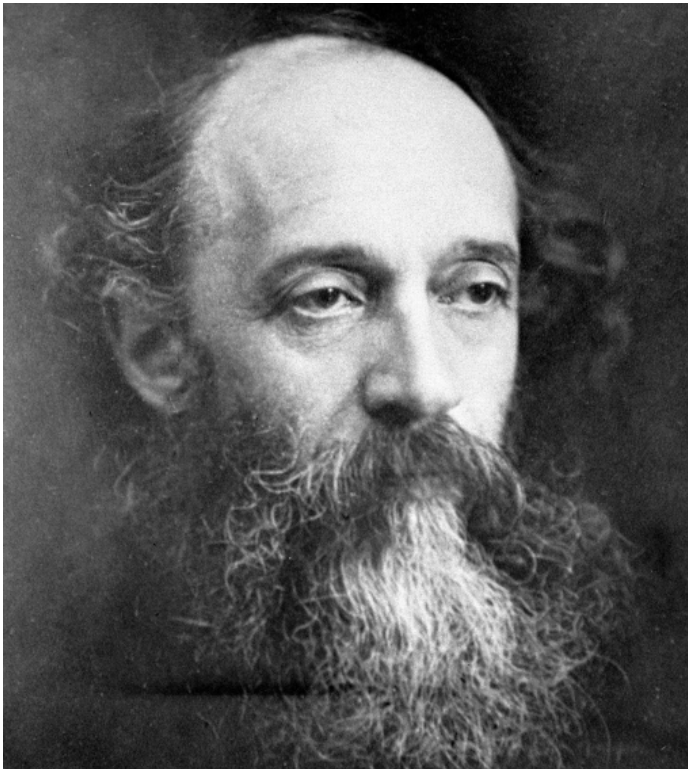
A video (01'56") on [YouTube](#)

- The Bolshoi marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Gorsky (August 6, 1871 — October 20, 1924), a great reformer whose 20 years of service to the Bolshoi Ballet transfigured the company completely.

An exhibition, dedicated to the Honoured Artist of the Imperial Theatres (1915), choreographer, teacher and Bolshoi ballet master, opened in the Grand Exposition Foyer on September 13. Presented are photographs and scenery sketches and costumes for ballets Gorsky staged at the Bolshoi - The Sleeping Beauty (transfer of the production by Marius Petipa), Don Quixote, Gudula's Daughter, or Esmeralda, Golden Fish, La Bayadère, Le Corsaire, La Fille du Pharaon, Salammbô, Raymonda, and others.

To Gorsky for the 150th Anniversary of His Birth — [see more.](#)

Contents, life and career chronicle, creative materials, - introductory fragments (*.pdf)



Alexander Gorsky. Moscow. 1920. - exhibitions at the Grand and Minor Exposition Foyers of the Historic Stage for the 150th anniversary of the birth of prominent choreographer, tutor and ballet-master.

- The Bolshoi marks several important dates in the 246 season. In January 2022, the Bolshoi celebrates its great patriarch - [Yuri Grigorovich](#) who will turn 95.

- The concert performance of Tosca at the Bolshoi Historic Stage on October 25, 2021, to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the birth of National Artist of the USSR [Galina Vishnevskaya](#) (1926 - 2012)

- The Bolshoi Museum is preparing several large-scale exhibitions timed to coincide with these dates as well as for the anniversaries of the birth of [Lyudmila Semenyaka](#), [Makvala Kasrashvili](#), and 150th anniversary of Leonid Sobinov's (1872–1934) birth.

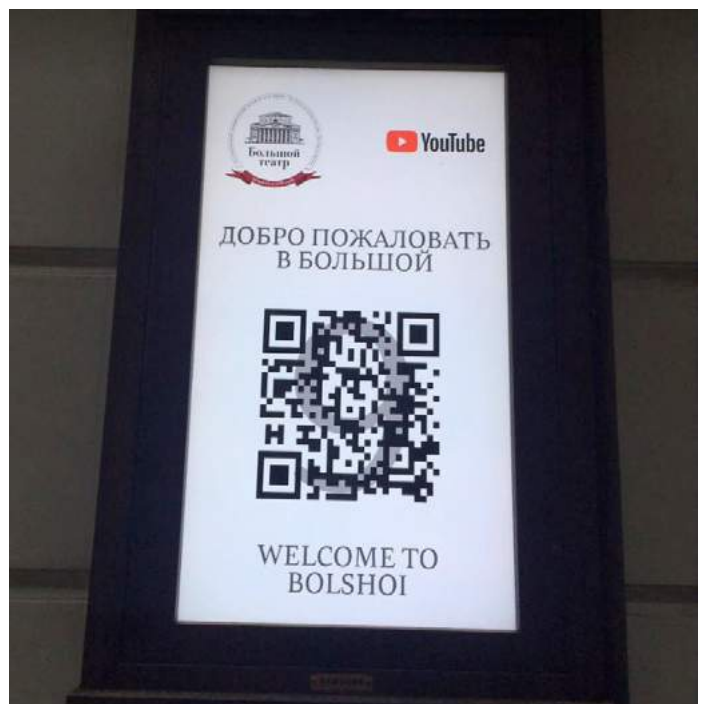
- On September 10, two days before the official opening of the 246 season, the Bolshoi Theatre, together with Google, presented a series of virtual panoramic 360 ° video tours on the [Bolshoi YouTube channel](#) , nine videos.

Anywhere in the world, YouTube users can feel like they are inside the theatre.

Using special QR codes located on the media panels on the Bolshoi Theatre building, as well as on the Bolshoi official YouTube channel, viewers can get on a virtual 3D tour in the following spaces: The Historic Stage, Behind the Scenes, the New Stage, Dressing Rooms, the Upper Stage» (rehearsal area under the roof of the Historic Stage), Beethoven Hall, the White Foyer, the Imperial Foyer, the Orchestra Pit...

For the correct display of the video tours, you need to install the YouTube application, the full immersion effect is better perceived with a smartphone.

The project [press release](#) (*.pdf)



RUSSIAN MEDIA



The Bolshoi Theatre has opened its 246 season.

Photo by Olesya Kurpyaeva /RG

• The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia company meeting and the opening of its 246th season is widely covered by domestic news agencies, broadcasting companies, printed and online media:

[Rossia-1 \(Vesti\)](#)

[Rossia-Kultura](#)

[OTR](#) (Daria Kuznetsova)

[TASS](#) (Olga Svistunova)

[TASS](#) (the English version)

[RBK](#)

[Interfax](#)

and numerous other publications (the full list - at the press service.)

[TV Centr](#): "The Bolshoi Theatre has opened its new 246 season. They promise nine premieres - with outstanding performances and luxurious sets"

[Moskovskaya Pravda](#) publishes a report The Most "Humourous" Company Meeting - at the Bolshoi Theatre.

[News-w.org](#) offers a full republication of the article.



The Bolshoi Company Meeting © TV Centr

• On September 13, the day of the Bolshoi season opening, Vladimir Urin was the guest of the Main Role programme on [Rossia-Kultura](#) channel.

On September 14 [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) held a Business Lunch with the Bolshoi management.

Questions to the General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia Vladimir Urin, the Chief Conductor and Music Director Tugan Sokhiev, Artistic Director of the ballet company Makhar Vaziev, - [according to the newspaper](#), — could be asked from all Russian regions from 10.00 to 11.00 MSK by free phone, by e-mail, as well as by fax.

[The Business Lunch video](#) is available on the newspaper website - On What Conditions the Audience Will Be Admitted to the Bolshoi Theatre in the New Season.

• Federal and regional TV channels and news agencies cover the Bolshoi opera and ballet tour in Nizhny Novgorod on September 16 and 17:

The Bolshoi Theatre took part in the celebrations dedicated to Nizhny Novgorod 800th anniversary. - [TASS](#)

[Kultura channel](#) (a report)

[Vremya Novostei](#) (a report)

[RIA Novosti](#): "The Bolshoi Theatre has not stopped cooperation with foreign artists amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic," said Vladimir Urin, the Bolshoi General Director, at a joint press conference with Ingosstrakh.

• Media report that, two days before the official opening of the 246 season, the Bolshoi Theatre, together with Google, presented a series of virtual panoramic 360° video tours on the Bolshoi YouTube channel.

[Moskva 24](#)

[NA InterMedia](#)

[NA Moskva](#)

[Kulturomania](#)

and other media.



RG: "Vladimir Urin, Tugan Sokhiev and Makhar Vaziev feel optimistic about the Bolshoi Theatre's future"

Photo Sergei Kuksin/RG



[Muzykalnaya Zhizn Reviews](#) the Results of the Season 2020/2021 (Paula Murrthy – Ariodante, and Luca Pisaroni – King of Scotland)

• In spite of the Pandemic: Muzykalnaya Zhizn Reviews the Results of the Season 2020/2021

Moscow music critics noted:

Olga Rusanova:

The Bolshoi Theatre is ahead of all, distinguished not only by the number (seven), but also by the quality of the premieres. Among them, those made by international teams stand out: Handel's Ariodante (Conductor - Gianluca Capuano, Director - David Alden) and Strauss's Salome (Director - Claus Guth, Music Director - Tugan Sokhiev, co-production with the Metropolitan Opera).

Person of the Year - in my opinion, in the 2020/2021 season this is the Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin, who, in the tough conditions of the pandemic, initiated and implemented an incredible number of projects, including those with the participation of world stars. In addition to the opera premieres listed above, there were also three ballet premieres, including the world premiere of The Seagull (Composer - Ilya Demutsky, Choreographer - Yuri Possokhov, Director - Alexander Molochnikov, Conductor - Anton Grishanin), as well as concerts and performances with the participation of Placido Domingo, Anna Netrebko, Ildar Abdrazakov, etc. As a result, the Bolshoi had one of the best seasons of recent times, with no discounts for exceptional circumstances.

... Bizet's Les pêcheurs de perles at the Bolshoi Chamber Stage staged by Vladislavs Nastavshevs, who took up

the opera for the first time and hit the target immediately: the performance turned out to be laconic, no frills, but very meaningful, expressive and interesting.

Speaking more specifically about the 2021/2022 season, I am particularly interested in some Bolshoi's projects - for example, Lohengrin. First, because this is a co-production with the Metropolitan Opera, and second, because it will be the first Wagner at the Historic Stage in many years, again with an international production team. / ... /

[Moskovsky Komsomolets](#): "... The Bolshoi Theatre, which, despite the pandemic, kept inviting production teams from abroad, ended up winning: its 'imported' productions became striking events. And the last premiere - Ariodante by Handel - sounded like a splendid final chord in the somewhat nerdy score of the last opera season, which generally ran under the slogan «Nice and Easy ...», — writes Ekaterina Kretova.

• The Bolshoi started with a performance by Placido Domingo, who made his debut at the Bolshoi Theatre as a conductor in Puccini's opera Manon Lescaut. The performance was inspirational - the very presence of Maestro Domingo in the orchestra pit tuned both the audience and the musicians to an enthusiastic mood.

/... /Admittedly, the Bolshoi managed to maintain this emotional level throughout the season. In March, the magnificent Salome resounded, staged by the Chief Conductor Tugan Sokhiev and the German director Claus Guth. Asmik Grigorian performed the title role - and it was unforgettable both in terms of the musical quality and the director's concept. Never slowing down the pace, the theatre presented Tosca, abundant with stage luxuries up to the golden rain in the finale, over which one could have been ironic to their heart's content, if it was not for the excellent quality of musical performance with the participation of wonderful yet again visiting singers. Well, and the season finale - Ariodante by Handel staged by an international team, in which both Russian singers and guest artists from Italy, Ireland, France, Switzerland, performed excellently under the strict guidance of the Italian maestro Gianluca Capuano and the English director David Alden.



Placido Domingo. Photo/[MK](#)



A scene from the ballet Orlando. Olga Smirnova as Orlando. Semyon Chudin as Elizabeth I. Photo by Natalia Voronova /MK



Albina Latipova as Ginevra. Paula Murrhiy as Ariodante (the premiere of July 22, 2021, at the Bolshoi Theatre. Photo by Damir Yusupov

• Pavel Yashchenkov about ballet premieres of the season ([Moskovsky Komsomolets](#)):

“There were six world ballet premieres (!) by six (mostly foreign) choreographers at the Bolshoi during the pandemic season. /.../

The Bolshoi’s top-class artists - its key to success.

Besides the Bolshoi’s evergreen étoile Svetlana Zakharova, it was Olga Smirnova and Ekaterina Krysanova as well as the company principal Artemy Belyakov who became the “main heroes” of the past season. That season, Ekaterina Krysanova received a ballet Oscar - the Benois de la Dance prize - for the classical role of Giselle in the same-name ballet, Olga Smirnova was nominated for the Golden Mask for this role, and her partner in this ballet Artemy Belyakov became a laureate of this prestigious theatre award for the role of Count Albrecht.



A scene from The Seagull. Artem Ovcharenko as Treplev. Photo by Elena Fetisova /MK

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

• The French online culture news publication [Le Dauphine](#) announces: “After a hiatus of more than a year due to the health crisis, the Metropolitan Opera, the Bolshoi Ballet and the Comédie Française will once again broadcast their shows by satellite from New York, Moscow and Paris in the theatres of the Pathé Les Halles cinema in Chambéry. The broadcasts will resume from October 9, for 19 shows. The Bolshoi Ballet will kick off with Spartacus on November 7, before The Nutcracker on December 19 and Swan Lake in March 2022.” [chambery-les-ballets-du-bolchoi-et-la-comedie-francaise-de-retour-au-cinema-a-partir-du-9-octobre](#)



The Bolshoi In Cinema project will resume with the livestream of *Spartacus* on November 7, 2021.

- The Bolshoi Theatre, together with its partners Pathé and BelAirMédia, will resume livestreams of the Bolshoi in Cinema project from the Historic Stage: viewers from all over the world will be able to see [Spartacus](#) (November 7, 2021), [Jewels](#) (January 23, 2022) and [La fille du Pharaon](#) (May 1, 2022.) The recordings of the ballets *The Nutcracker* (December 19, 2021) and *Swan Lake* (March 6, 2022) will be shown.

- The Hungarian events news publication [CSEPPEK](#) announces upcoming performances of the Bolshoi Ballet in Hungarian cinemas.

- [The Times \(UK\)](#) newspaper publishes an article by Janice Turner who writes about a visit to the opera in London. "I'd assumed I could make myself appreciate opera by forgetting my childish prejudices that it was silly, shrill and overblown. After all, I learnt to love ballet after being sent to Moscow to interview the Bolshoi's male principal dancers. (But then who wouldn't?)"

- The French daily newspaper [Le Depeche](#) selects the top five show of the week. This includes "An electric duo will open the new season of the National Capitol Orchestra: its Music Director Tugan Sokhiev will reunite with Uzbek pianist Behzod Abduraimov." "Tugan Sokhiev will then offer us the moving song of Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 10*." Friday September 10 at 20:00 at the Halle aux grains, Toulouse.

- The Italian online specialised dance news publication [Giornale della Danza](#) announces "The world of Carla Fracci in Positano. The capital of dance returns as every year to connect with the global excellence of dance art for a special edition, the 49th, of Positano Premio la Danza - Léonide Massine, Saturday 11 September at 21:00" "The twinning between the Positano Award and the Prix Benois de la dance of the Bolshoi of Moscow continues."

The Italian local online news publication [Positano News](#) announces: "A short documentary and e-book publication will be dedicated to Carla Fracci and her link with the Léonide Massine prize, drawing on the precious archive of the municipality of Positano, and beyond. The work, curated by Laura Valente, will be presented on December 2021." "The 49th Edition of the [Positano Premio la Danza](#) - Léonide Massine will be dedicated to Carla Fracci" i [Positanonews](#)

- The Italian newswire [ANSA](#) announces: "The world of Carla Fracci in Positano. The capital of dance returns as every year to connect with the global excellence of dance art for a special edition, the 49th, of Positano Premio la Danza - Léonide Massine, 11 September at 21:00 Carla Fracci (1936-2021) will be celebrated in the churchyard of Santa Maria Assunta, a homage with the 'direction' of her lifelong companion, Beppe Menegatti." "Symbol of the event is a stage sketch of Paolo Ricci's 'San Carlo' for *Petrushka*, one of the ballets of the Ballets Russes choreographed by Massine and of which Nureyev, an icon of Positano, was one of the ideal interpreters. The award is twinned with the Prix Benois de la dance of the Bolshoi."

- The Turkish daily newspaper [Daily Sabah](#) reports: "Russia's prestigious Bolshoi Theatre has included Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca* in its repertoire this season. In the latest representation of the work, Turkish tenor Murat Karahan, general director of the State Opera and Ballet of Turkey, will perform as Mario Cavaradossi."

- The Greek online events and entertainment news publication [Proto Thema](#) announces: "Black Swan Ballet Gala! Famous names such as the top dancers of Bolshoi Eugenia Obraztsova and Anna Nikulina, Ruslan Skvortsov and Semyon Chudin, also the top ballerinas of Mariinsky Ekaterina Kondaurova and Ekaterina Osmolkina. Svetlana Lunkina among guest artists at the Herodion stage of Athens."



Murat Karahan will appear as Cavaradossi in the Bolshoi's *Tosca* on October 12.

- The Hungarian online events and entertainment news publication Index.hu (Hungary) publishes an announcement by Felícia Korcsmáros who writes: "Live Metropolitan Opera and Bolshoi Ballet broadcasts will continue this year from ...the world's most acclaimed ballet theatre, the Bolshoi in Moscow. This year's broadcasts of the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow consist of five performances." The article lists the dates of the Bolshoi performances and the leading cast members and links to a video trailer of the Bolshoi.

BRIEFLY

- [The 6th Musical Theatres Festival Seeing Music](#) started in Moscow

The Bolshoi press centre hosted the festival opening press conference on September 10.



The 6th Musical Theatres Festival Seeing Music opening press conference. Photo by Katerina Novikova

Within the Festival, Rostov State Musical Theatre gave performances at the Bolshoi New Stage:

September 12 — [Spartacus](#) by Khachaturyan,
September 13 — [Silva](#) by Kalman,
September 15 — [Turandot](#) by Puccini



[Silva](#) by Rostov State Musical Theatre at the New Stage — September 13.

The performances of Puccini's opera and Kalman's operetta were held within the Pushkin Chart programme.

- On September 6, the winners and laureates of the competition teams of the [National Open Championship of Creative Competencies ArtMasters](#) were announced in the Beethoven Hall and at a gala at the Bolshoi New Stage.

In total, the winners were announced in 19 competencies of the championship.

The Bolshoi Ballet principals Vladislav Lantratov and Maria Alexandrova, and the Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Aida Garifullina took part in the concert at the Historic Stage.

The ArtMasters Championship is supported by the Presidential Grants Fund, the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, and the Moscow Government.

Covered by:

[TASS](#)

[The First Channel](#)



Production designer Maria Tregubova congratulates the winners and laureates of the ArtMasters team competition at Beethoven Hall; September 6.
Photo by Katerina Novikova

- On the eve of the annual Day of Moscow, state awards, city awards, as well as Moscow prizes were given out in the field of literature and art.

In 2021, 11 people received Moscow city awards in the field of literature and art in six categories.

[Boris Messerer](#), Academic-Secretary of the Theatre and Film Design Department of the Russian Academy of Arts, Head of the theatre design creative workshop, was awarded in the Fine Arts category.

There are four winners in the Theatrical Art category - including the head of the Moscow Pushkin Drama Theatre, director [Evgeny Pisarev](#), and set designer [Zinovy Margolin](#).

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[Muzykalnoye Obozrenie](#)



Evgeny Pisarev and Zinovy Margolin - winners of Moscow city prize in the field of literature and art. September 10, 2021.
Photo /[the director's FB](#)

• [Rossia-Kultura](#) TV channel presented the documentary series *Moscow Conservatory. Musical Story* from September 13 to 16. This is a film about how the institution came to be, about the difference between requirements for applicants in 1866 and now, as well as about the outstanding musicians brought up by the conservatory.

Moscow Conservatory marks its birthday. This year, it turns 155.



Nikolai (1835-1881) and Anton (1829-1894) Rubinstein in a postcard of 1910 /[TASS](#)

A formal gala on *Rossia-Kultura* channel on September 19, 14:30.

[TASS](#): "The start of Russian musical education. How Rubinsteins opened conservatories"

[NTV](#)

[Mir 24](#): "A Temple of Music: Moscow Conservatory Turned 155"

[RIA Novosti](#)

[Orpheus](#)

• On September 14, the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Programme graduate Maria Motolygina appeared as Joanna d'Arc in a concert performance of Tchaikovsky's *The Maid of Orleans* at the opening of the 31st season of the Novaya Opera.

[Muzykalnaya Zhizn](#) presented the first big interview with the opera singer, laureate of such prestigious competitions as the International Moniuszko Vocal Competition and Tchaikovsky Competition. Sergei Bulanov talked to Maria Motolygina before her debut in *The Maid of Orleans* at the Novaya Opera.



Photo / Dmitry Vdovin's FB

• The online classical music news publication *Slipped Disc* publishes a short article by Norman Lebrecht who writes: "The gifted Belorussian conductor Dmitry Matvienko who won the Malko Competition earlier this year has quit the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. He writes: 'Today I learned that while I was on tour that I was agreed on last May, I was REMOVED from the production of *Samson and Delilah*... The current leadership of the theatre believed that 1.5 months of my participation in the production is too small... I consider these actions to be very mean and I do not see a chance to stay in this theatre...' Local observers note Matvienko's departure follows a mass exodus of Belorussian artists from the theatre." <https://slippedisc.com/2021/09/winning-conductor-walks-out-on-his-job/>

The conductor's post on [FB](#)

"Conductor Dmitry Matvienko has no intention to keep working at the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus," [Orpheus](#) also

reports. — “In June, Matvienko won Nikolai Malko International Competition for Young Conductors in Copenhagen. In addition to recognition and a cash prize, he received engagements to perform with leading orchestras from 14 countries, support from the competition organisers and the opportunity to study with Fabio Luisi.”

See also:

[RG](#)



Dmitry Matvienko, winner of Nikolai Malko International Competition for Young Conductors in Copenhagen. Photo by Mikhail Dzhaparidze /[RG](#)

• The online specialised culture news publication [Culture Whisper](#) publishes an article by Teresa Guerreiro. “An evening with Sergei Polunin’ at the Palladium Theatre (15 October) combines words and dance in an event that will delight his many fans.” “He will perform two solos, Ravel’s Bolero, choreographed by Royal Ballet-trained former dancer and choreographer Ross Freddie Ray; and Paradiso from the three-part Dante Metanoia dedicated to Dante’s 700 anniversary, which premiered at the Ravenna Festival in September. Choreography is by the Czech Jiří Bubeníček. The event marks the launch of his new photo autobiographical book, Free: A Life in Images and Words.”

• An orchestra concert — a new work by [George Benjamin](#), British composer (opera *Written on Skin*, 2012), pianist, conductor and tutor, — is available on [YouTube](#) (in Berliner Festspiele — Musikfest Berlin 2021: Mahler Chamber Orchestra, — from 59’06”).

DEBUTS

• **Swan Lake**

September 17

Victoria Brilyova - a Swan/Three Swans

September 18

A Moscow Ballet Academy graduate, Bolshoi Ballet dancer since 2021 Eva Sergeenkova - a Friend / Friends to

the Prince (12:00). In the evening on September 18 the ballerina debuts as a Swan/Three Swans

A Moscow Ballet Academy graduate, the Bolshoi Ballet dancer since 2021 Ivan Sorokin - The Fool (September 18, 12:00)

• **Il Barbiere di Siviglia**

September 18

Dmitry Cheblykov (winner of the 13th Elena Obraztsova International Young Opera Singers Competition) - Fiorello

Alexei Kulagin (the 2nd prize winner of the 13th Elena Obraztsova International Young Opera Singers Competition) - Police Sergeant

• **Four characters in Search of a Plot**

September 22

Erick Swolkin and Mark Orlov debut in the one-act ballet Just.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Photo by Vadim Shcherbakov/[Instagram](#)



Sasha Gusov. “The Bolshoi Theatre Grand Chandelier! Moscow 2021”/[Instagram](#)



#dengorodamoskva on [Instagram](#)



[The 16th World Ballet Festival](#) (August 13-16, 19 -22)
on Instagram of [Olga Smirnova](#), [Vladislav Lantratov](#), [Maria Alexandrova](#), [Ekaterina Krysanova](#)