



Newsletter

Events

A gala concert commemorating the 80th anniversary of the birth of the prominent 20th century ballerina – [In Honour Of National Artist of the USSR Ekaterina Maximova](#) (1939-2009) was presented at the Historic Stage on February 1.

Producer – National Artist of the USSR, Maximova's life-long partner on and off-stage Vladimir Vasiliev. Taking part in the concert: Olga Smirnova, David Hallberg, Ekaterina Krysanova, Vyacheslav Lopatin, Evgenia Obraztsova, Vladislav Lantratov, Daria Khokhlova, Artemy Belyakov, Anna Nikulina, Ruslan Skvortsov, Gennadi Yanin and other artists of the Bolshoi as well as the soloists of Mariinsky theatre, Kazan Opera Ballet, Kremlin Ballet and Kiev Modern Ballet.

[The concert programme](#)



On February 4 the Bolshoi Choir led by the chief conductor and music director of the Bolshoi Tugan Sokhiev performed at Tchaikovsky Concert Hall of the Moscow Philharmonic, The Bolshoi Orchestra, Tugan Sokhiev, Vasily Ladyuk. The programme included the Cantate Spring for baritone, choir and orchestra, Opus 20 by Sergei Rakhmaninov, the choreographic scene Polovtsonian Dance from the opera Prince Igor by Borodin, Symphony #2 E-moll, op.27, by Rakhmaninov.



An exhibition from the Bolshoi Museum collection for Ekaterina Maximova's anniversary at the foyer of the Historic Stage



After the concert on February 4. Photo by Alexander Shveidel/ Facebook

[See more about the concert](#)
[Informaion on MSAC website](#)

Also, the programme will be performed at the Paris Philharmonic as part of the French tour of the choir, opera company and orchestra. [The tour](#) will be on March 13-17 at La Halle aux Grains, Toulouse, and at the Paris Philharmonic.

[See more](#)

January 29, 30, 31 and February 2,3 at the Historic Stage — [The Queen of Spades](#) by Tchaikovsky. The Queen of Spades staged by Rimas Tuminas and Tugan Sokhiev, the 243 season premiere (February 15, 2018). [See more about the production](#)

[Cast details](#)

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



Anna Netrebko, pop singer Philipp Kirkorov and participants of The Queen of Spades performance. The Historical stage, February 2. Photo/ [Instagram of Anna Netrebko](#)

On February 1 one of the most romantic ballerinas in the history of the Bolshoi (1951-1978), ballet mistress of the Bolshoi (since 1988), National Artist of the USSR Marina Kondratieva marked her 85th birthday.



Marina Kondratieva giving an interview at the Green Room of the Bolshoi Theatre

The Bolshoi congratulates Marina Kondratieva on her birthday and dedicates the performance of Don Quixote at the Historical stage, February 13, to [her](#).

On this day the role of Kitri in the three-act ballet by Ludwig Minkus will be performed by three of Marina Kondratieva's students — Natalia Osipova, Olga Smirnova, Margarita Shrayner.

Marina Kondratieva at the Green Room of the Bolshoi Theatre — video from 2013 on the theatre [YouTube channel](#).

A photo exhibition for Marina Kondratieva's birthday at the foyer of the New Stage is on until the middle of March.



February 5 at the Historic Stage — a theatrical concert performance of the operetta [Candide](#) by Leonard Bernstein. Premiere performances were on September 29 and 30, 2018, — for the composer's centenary. Stage Director — Alexei Frandetti. Conductor — the chief conductor and music director of Bolshoi Theatre Tugan Sokhiev.

[Materials prepared for the premiere](#)

[Cast detail](#)

[See more about Olga Pudova's debut](#)



Svetlana Zakharova as Aegina, Alexander Volchkov as Crassus in Spartacus production by Yuri Grigorovich at the Historic Stage on February 7, 8, 9 (12:00 and 19:00) and 10

February 7, 8, 9 (12:00 and 19:00) and 10 at the Historic Stage — [Spartacus](#) by Aram Khachaturyan, pro-

ducer Yuri Grigorovich. Conductors — Pavel Sorokin (February 7, 8), Pavel Klinichev (February 9, 10)

[Casts](#)

In summer the production will be shown as part of the Bolshoi tour in Australia (Brisbane, June 23 - July 8) and in the United Kingdom (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, July 25 – August 17).

January 26 (12:00 and 19:00) and 27 (14:00) at the New Stage — one-act ballets, masterpieces of the 20th century choreography [The Cage](#), [Etudes](#), Carmen Suite.

The part of Novice in [The Cage](#) by Jerome Robbins, music by Stravinsky, performed by: Antonina Chapkina, debut (January 26, 12:00) and Daria Bochkova (January 26, 19:00 and 27).

[Cast details](#)

Conductor — Anton Grishanin.

[On the history of the ballet's creation](#)

Conductors — Anton Grishanin ([The Cage](#) and [Etudes](#)) and Pavel Sorokin ([Carmen Suite](#)).

[Cast details](#)



Semyon Chudin, Daria Khokhlova and Mark Chino at curtain calls after the evening performance of [Etudes](#) by Harald Lander, the New Stage, January 26.

Photo/ Instagram of Daria Khokhlova

January 29, 30 and 31 at the New Stage the ballet [Onegin](#) by John Cranko, to music by Tchaikovsky (arrangement and orchestration by Kurt-Heinz Stolze).

[Casts](#)

February 2 (12:00 and 19:00) and 3 (12:00) at the New Stage the ballet [The Bright Stream](#) by Dmitry Shostakovich, choreography by Alexei Ratmansky, libretto by Adrian Piotrovsky and Fyodor Lopukhov.

Designer — Boris Messerer

Music Director — Pavel Sorokin

[See cast details at the theatre website](#)



Curtain calls after [Onegin](#) by John Cranko, January 30.

Photo by Marina Milverton

Conductor — Pavel Klinichev (February 2, 12:00) and Pavel Sorokin (February 2, 19:00, and 3). Next time the ballet will be performed at the New Stage will be May 14 and 15.

In summer, the production will be shown as part of the Bolshoi London tour (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, July 25 – August 17).

About the history of productions and versions of [The Bright Stream](#) ballet, [see the theatre's website](#).



Angelina Vlashinets as Ballerina in [The Bright Stream](#) by Dmitry Shostakovich. Photo by Damir Yusupov

On February 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 at the New stage — the comic opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart [Così Fan Tutte, Ossia La Scuola Degli Amanti](#).

Production (the premiere was in May 2014) by an international team led by the Stage Director Floris Visser (Netherlands) and the Music Director Stefano Montanari.

Hammerklavier part — [Artem Grishaev](#) (all days).

Conductor — maestro Tugan Sokhiev (all days).

[See more](#)



Così Fan Tutte, Ossia La Scuola Degli Amanti by Mozart
at the New stage on February 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

January 22, Beethoven Hall – a concert of the Bolshoi Chamber Orchestra [Fêtes Galantes](#) (19:30)

The programme included pieces by Jean-Baptiste Lully, Camille Saint-Saëns, Maurice Ravel, Claude Debussy.

[See more](#)

January 24 and 26 – Bolshoi Theatre Young Artists Opera Program concert [Anthology of Russian Classical Romances. Sergei Rachmaninov. Part II](#)

[See more](#)

January 27 – Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra artists concert [Franz Schubert Chamber Music](#).

On January 31 at 17:00 the Bolshoi continued its already established tradition with the second [Children of the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra Artists Concert](#) at Beethoven Hall.

The participants are young musicians still at school. The programme consists of pieces by Russian and European composers.

[The first Children of the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra Artists Concert](#) was at Beethoven Hall on January 18.

February 12 – a concert of the [Bolshoi Orchestra artists Quartet Night](#) at Beethoven Hall.

Franz Schubert and Dmitri Shostakovich's string quartets.

January 30 at Pokrovsky Chamber Stage – Puccini one-act opera night – [Il Tabarro](#) (stage directors Boris Pokrovsky and Igor Merkulov) and [Gianni Schicchi](#) (stage directors Boris Pokrovsky and [Valery Fedorenko](#)).
Music Director – [Vladimir Agronsky](#).

[Cast details for Il Tabarro](#)

[Synopsis for Il Tabarro](#)

[Cast for Gianni Schicchi](#)

[The history of the opera's creation](#)

Conductors – Vladimir Agronsky (Il Tabarro) and [Alexei Vereshchagin](#) (Gianni Schicchi).

February 1 and 2 at Pokrovsky Chamber Stage – a one-act opera by Richard Strauss [Ariadne auf Naxos](#), libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal (Second version, 1916).

Stage Director – Hans-Joachim Frey. Music Director and Conductor – Alexei Vereschagin.

[Cast details](#)



Opera by Richard Strauss Ariadne auf Naxos
at the Chamber Stage

February 3, 14:00 at the Chamber Stage – one-act operas [The Impresario](#) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Stage Director – Boris Pokrovsky; premiere was on December 2, 1975) and Pimpinone by Georg Philipp Telemann (Stage Director – Arne Mikk, the premiere was on March, 1983). The revival premiere of The Impresario was on August 28, 2013, Pimpinone – May 22, 2009. Revival Director – Valery Fedorenko.

February 7, 8, 9 at Pokrovsky Chamber Stage – opera [Cherevichki](#) by Tchaikovsky, libretto by Yakov Polonsky based on the story Christmas Eve by Nikolai Gogol.

[See more](#)

The opera was first performed at the Bolshoi Theatre on January 31, 1887. Conductor – [Alexei Vereshchagin](#).

[Cast details](#)

In the 2018/19 season at the New Stage the Bolshoi is going to present a premiere of a new production of Antonín Dvořák's [Rusalka](#), [Timofei Kulyabin](#) continues the rehearsals. Music Director – [Ainārs Rubiķis](#) (since the 2018-19 season the chief conductor of Berlin



German Yukavsky as Devil, Olga Berezanskaya as Solokha in opera Cherevichki on February 7, 8, 9



The book presentation at the New Manège, January 30.
Photo/ [Nina Verkhoyanskaya](#)

Komische Oper). Set Designer — [Oleg Golovko](#). Costume Designer — [Galya Solodovnikova](#). Lighting Designer — Damir Ismagilov. Video Designer — Alexander Lobanov. Dramatist — [Ilya Kukhareenko](#).

The premiere will be on March 6, 2019.



Timofei Kulyabin at the rehearsal of Rusalka.
Photo by Damir Yusupov

On January 30 at the New Manège within the exhibition [Museum And Theatre. 100 Years Together](#) (1918-2018) the books were presented — Bolshoi Theatre And Museum. 1918-2018. From The State Academic Bolshoi Theatre Of Russia Museum Collection and Alexander Gorsky: Choreographer, Artist, Photographer published at the initiative of the Bolshoi Theatre Museum by Kuchkovo Pole publishing house supported by Link Of Times foundation.

The Bolshoi director general Vladimir Urin, the Theatre Museum director Lidia Kharina, the director of Kuchkovo Pole publishing house Georgi Kuchkov, the author of the compilation and the scholarly paper Tatiana Saburova, the Bolshoi head of press office Katerina Novikova took part in the presentation.

For the Bolshoi Museum 100th anniversary the museum curators have prepared a unique book — the first detailed publication of the items from the Museum collection that dates back as far as the Petrovsky Theatre, i.e. to 1776, the official date of the Bolshoi's foundation. Most of the photos presented in the book have never been published before.

The three parts of the second book present the heritage of Alexander Gorsky (1871–1924) — choreographer, artist, photographer. [See more](#)

At the same time, another exhibition from the Bolshoi Theatre Museum funds, [Fantasie Teatrali](#), continues until February 24 in Italy.

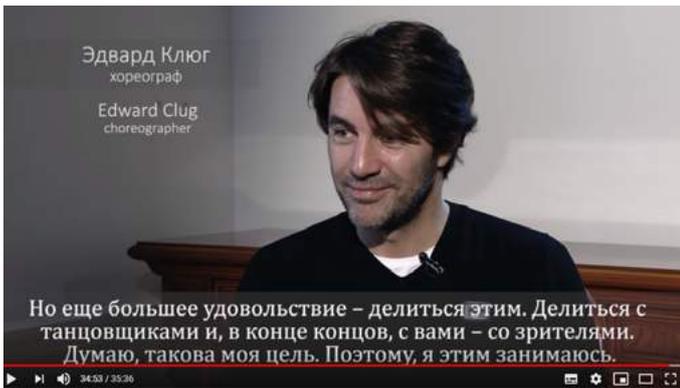
[Free admission with online check-in](#)

[See more about the exhibition](#)



An exhibition from the Bolshoi Theatre Museum funds, Fantasie Teatrali is held at Villa Reale in Monza till February 24

There is a recorded interview from the Green Room cycle on the [Bolshoi official YouTube channel](#) (new space this time). The head of the Bolshoi press office Katerina Novikova hosts famous choreographer Edward Clug who has created an original choreographic version of the ballet *Petrushka* especially for the Bolshoi dancers. The production was the first premiere of the 243 season as part of a night of one-act ballets. [Next series of performances](#) will be on February 22-24.



Choreographer Edward Clug gave an interview for the [Green Room cycle](#)

Now you can purchase from Bolshoi Theatre shop without leaving home — the Bolshoi has opened a large [online store](#).

A large range of products, colourful pictures of products, easy navigation, detailed descriptions — we have done everything so that you can easily find the desired souvenir, carefully consider it and quickly make a purchase. The online store of the Bolshoi theatre has more than 100 items, some products are presented in different versions, so that you choose the one that you prefer. Our souvenirs can be not only a wonderful reminder of your visit to the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow and Russia, but also a wonderful gift to all fans of theatre, ballet, opera.

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

Russian media widely covered the anniversary of Ekaterina Maximova's birth.

[Rossia-Kultura channel](#) prepared a special memorial programme — a screening cycle Remembering The Great Ballerina (January 29 – February 3).

“Ekaterina Maximova had immaculate classic technique and was open to experiments. Great choreogra-

phers — Yuri Grigorovich, Maurice Béjart, Roland Petit — staged their productions for her. They said that the ballerina's talent was universal and her capability was boundless. And Maximova's acting genius flourished in ballet films created especially for her. The name of Ekaterina Maximova has become one of the symbols of the national ballet school of the 20th century.”

Vladimir Vasiliev in the [Main Role](#) programme at Kultura channel tells about the character traits of Ekaterina Maximova, her straightforwardness and vulnerability, about why she was jokingly called M-me No. What he selected for the concert programme and why he wants to move the audience to tears — in his interview to Yulian Makarov.



Vladimir Vasiliev in the Main Role programme at [Kultura channel](#)



A fragment of the gala concert at the Historic Stage on February 1. Photo by Sergei Karpukhin / [Kommersant](#)

[RT in Russian](#): A Ballerina Outruns Her Time [tass.ru](#)

Several materials on the topic published by Rewizor.Ru:

[rewizor.ru](#)
[rewizor.ru](#)

[IA InterMedia](#)

[IA REGNUM](#)

[Izvestia](#): “It is most important to be remembered. Katya is.”

[Kommersant](#): Incomparable And Matchless.

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Izvestia](#)

[Teatral](#)

[Argumenty&Fakty](#)

[Moskovsky Komsomolets](#)

The anniversary of Marina Kondratieva’s birthday is also received considerable media attention.

[Kultura TV channel](#): “Kondratieva devoted more than 60 years of her life to Bolshoi Theatre. First she danced on its stage herself, then continued her career as a ballet-mistress. Among her students there are Natalia Osipova, Olga Smirnova, Anna Antonicheva, Nadezhda Gracheva, Ekaterina Shipulina, Nina Kaptsova.”

See a documentary *Ballerina Marina Kondratieva* dedicated to the artist’s birthday at [Kultura TV channel](#).

[Mir24](#)

“Katya Maximova and I happened to have our birthdays on the same day, February 1, and she would have turned 80 today. It was decided that first there will be the Ekaterina Maximova memorial concert at the Bolshoi and my birthday will be celebrated on February 13, as if in Old Calendar, and mine is not a milestone, too,” Marina Kondratieva [noted jokingly](#).

Tatiana Kuznetsova of [Kommersant](#) interviews Natalia Osipova about the event and about the appearance of the prima-ballerina of London’s Royal Ballet at Moscow International House on January 28 and 29: “On February 13 students of my favourite teacher Marina Kondratieva will dance *Kitri* in celebration of her birthday,” Natalia Osipova says. “I was given the 3rd act. So I’m practising the classics seriously here — en pointe, then about an hour of classical variations, fouette drilling - I haven’t done it properly for about a year and a half. And only then I fall onto my knees.”

[Kultura newspaper](#)

Online publications congratulate Marina Kondratieva, including [Rewizor](#), [Teatral](#) and many other media.

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) announces the concert of the Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra and Choir led by Tugan Sokhiev, soloist Vasily Ladyuk, at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall on February 4.

Media note the Bolshoi general director Vladimir Urin participating in a Ministry of Culture teleconfer-



Marina Kondratieva in *The Sleeping Beauty*.
Photo by Alexander Makarov / RIA Novosti

ence with other heads of Russian federal theatres as well as heads of regional cultural departments on February 4. [Fontanka.Ru](#): “The Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky ordered all federal theatres to prepare a production for 350th anniversary of the birth of Peter I in 2022.” “Theatres must send in applications before February 7, 2019,” Vladimir Medinsky said. “A contest for young dramatists for the best drama about Peter I is also planned.”

“Federal theatres will present event programmes for the 350th anniversary of Peter the I” — at the [RF Ministry of Culture website](#).

The book presentation at the New Manège within the exhibition [Museum And Theatre. 100 Years Together \(1918-2018\)](#) attracted attention of media.

[Radio Rossii](#)

[IA InterMedia](#)

[Teatral](#)

[Rewizor.Ru](#)

[REGNUM](#)

[Kulturomania](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Teatr magazine](#)

[Moskvich Mag](#)

An Industria Kino programme aired on [Vesti-24 TV channel](#) is dedicated to the screening of the ballet La Bayadere within the Bolshoi In Cinema project.

[filmpro.ru](#)

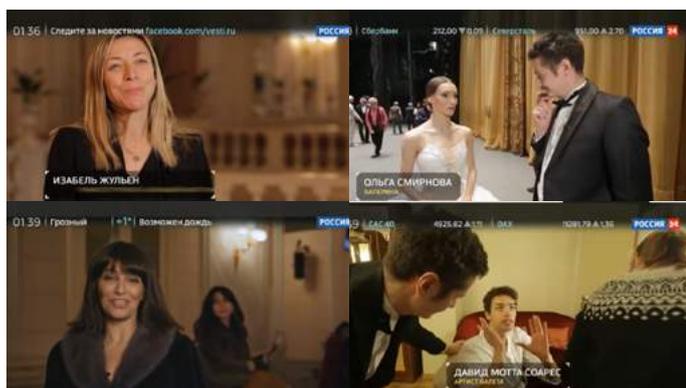
The online cinema news publication FilmPro also offers its readers a report about the release:

“Isabelle Julien, the director of the Bolshoi In Cinema project: ‘For me La Bayadere is the ballet of ballets. A true masterpiece by Petipa. Especially the 3rd act... It is so spectacular that the audience literally becomes transfixed.’”

This season of Bolshoi In Cinema includes eight productions, five of them were live screenings. The French distributors – Pathé Live and Bel Air Media. European leaders in showing of alternative content at the cinema, has refined the technology after 10 years. ... There are three more chances to see Bolshoi In Cinema before the season ends.”

[rutube.ru](#)

Next live screening will be on May 19.



Industria Kino about La Bayadere screening / [Rossia 24](#)

Live screenings in the cinemas

[Around the world](#)

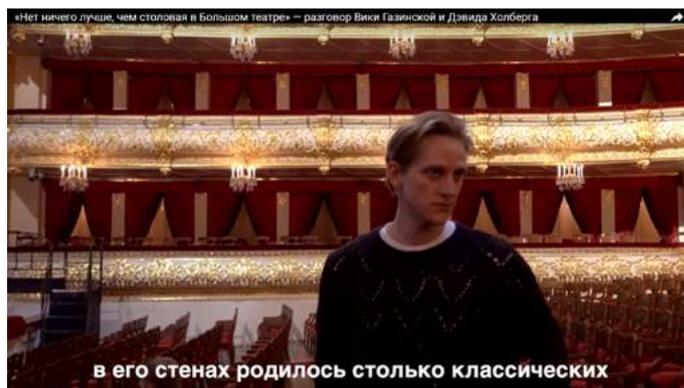
[The cinema season 2018/19 at the Bolshoi website](#)

David Hallberg performing Onegin in January – the hero of [Buro 24/7](#) publication.

Portal O Mode offers a compiled video and various materials concerning dress code, style, ballet, art and even the “art programme” of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia. The answers of the American dancer to his acquaintance, Moscow fashion designer Viktoria Gazinskaya, are given with a catchy headline “There’s nothing better than the Bolshoi canteen.” “I am having such a good time here,” says David Hallberg.

[Video of the interview on YouTube](#)

The Russian Federation ambassador in UK Alexander Yakovenko, speaking about cultural cooperation with Britain, mentioned the Bolshoi upcoming tour in



David Hallberg in the video “There’s nothing better than the Bolshoi canteen” / [YouTube](#)

London that will be on July 25 – August 17, 2019. [RIA Novosti](#) publishes the ambassador’s words in relation to the opening of Zurab Tsereteli exhibition in London. This year, Yakovenko said, a cross-cultural year of Russian and British music is planned.

The media also covers the Bolshoi general director’s participation in the first meeting of the Public Council of the Gosduma Cultural Committee on January 28 ([Modern Ways Of Communication Between State And Culture](#)).

“A few words about my perception of the meeting, an insider’s view, so to say,” Kultura newspaper quotes Vladimir Urin. “The discussion was important, useful and effective. It was friendly though participants were people of different tastes and beliefs, even opposite sometimes. ... We touched on various issues such as current prohibitions and limitations of cultural legislation, ways to support art and of course the concept of the Cultural law. It shall become the subject of a particular discussion in all aspects, with the Public Council staff extended considerably. I’d say that the main problem is that of communication between authorities and culture. And I mean not only federal government but local authorities, too, since their approach to cultural issues lacks due professional understanding”

[TASS](#) and [RIA Novosti](#) announce: “Presidents of Russia and Turkey Vladimir Putin and Recep Erdogan will launch the bilateral Year of Culture and Tourism between two countries on April 8 at the Bolshoi Theatre”

[SM News](#): “Opera Troy will open Russian-Turkish bilateral Year of Culture”

[Gazeta.Ru](#) “Putin and Erdogan will meet at the theatre”

[The Moscow Post](#)

and about 20 more media.

Press analysis:

international mass media

The UK daily newspaper The Times (UK) publishes a feature The Week in Pictures including the Bolshoi guest soloist Dmitri Gudanov and Tatyana Predeina of Chelyabinsk Ballet rehearsing a piece from Leda And The Swan by Debussy before a gala at the Bolshoi in memory of the dancer Ekaterina Maximova. [Photo / ALAMY](#)

The January/February dance magazine Danza and Danza (published in both English and Italian versions) announces the winners of the Danza and Danza Awards.



Iga Smirnova on the cover of Danza & Danza –2019, [Jan.-Febr.](#)

The Bolshoi Ballet and its dancers were awarded: The Special Mention (tour in Milan) for the company

and Best dancers of the year 2018 awards went to Olga Smirnova and Semyon Chudin.

The award Best Dancer Of The Year was given for the performances of Smirnova and Chudin during the Bolshoi Ballet's tour at La Scala in 2018.

The annual prize recognizes dance excellence.

Links to the articles about the awards and the interview with Olga Smirnova

[ENG](#)

[ITA](#)

The online specialised classical music publication [Slipped Disc](#) publishes an article by Norman Le Brecht who reports “Vladimir Urin, the chief executive who has pulled the Bolshoi out of prolonged doldrums, has told the TASS news agency that he will retire in August 2022, when his contract is up and he reaches 75. He expects to recommend two or three potential successors to the Kremlin a year from now.”



Vladimir Urin

Local newspapers and online publications announce upcoming screenings of Bolshoi Ballet productions in local cinemas. [Marin Independent Journal](#) announces the upcoming screenings of La Bayadere by the Bolshoi in the USA.

The California newspaper [Grass Valley Union](#) (CA, USA) announces upcoming screenings of Bolshoi's Don Quixote and La Sylphide in local cinemas “For ballet-lovers, there is nothing like the impeccable classicism and daring performances of the Bolshoi Ballet. For the next two weeks, audiences will be treated to two timeless classics broadcast exclusively for a cinema audience on Monday evenings at Sutton Cinemas in Grass Valley.”

[Oregon Arts Watch](#) (Oregon, USA) announcing upcoming screenings of various Bolshoi Ballet performances in local cinemas.

[Concord Insider](#) (USA) announces screenings of Bolshoi's Don Quixote in local cinemas.

[The Sheridan Press](#) (Sheridan, Wyoming, USA) announces the upcoming screening of the Bolshoi's La Bayadere in local cinemas.

[Aska News](#) (Italy) publishes a report "The Bolshoi Theatre offered a show of the highest opera level last night, for the president of the Italian Senate Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati on an official visit to Moscow: the version of the The Queen of Spades by Tchaikovsky of the original production by Lithuanian director Rimas Tuminas and his team. With Tugan Sokhiev. The work has been sold out for several nights."

The online specialised opera news publication [Opera Wire](#) publishes an article by Nicole Kuchta who reports that "Russian baritone Ilya Kutjukhin has been announced the winner of the 2019 Paris Opera Competition. He is this year's recipient of both the Claude Dassault First Prize and the Audience Prize." "Kutjukhin is a native of Pyatigorsk, Russia, and is a guest soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre, the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program soloist in 2014-17."

[Opera Wire](#) publishes an article by Francisco Salazar who reports "The Washington National Opera is set to present Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin for the first time in 30 years. The company will revive Robert Carsen's classic production, originally created for the Metropolitan Opera. In the lead roles, the company has lined up two Bolshoi Opera singers. In the title role, baritone Igor Golovatenko will make his American and WNO debut and Anna Nechaeva will sing Tatiana. Rounding out the cast will be Alexey Dolgov as Lensky, Eric Halfvarson as Prince Gremin and Elena Zarembo as Madame Larina." Performances set to run 9-29 March 2019.

[Danza and Danza](#) (Italy) announces the Danze in Fiera 2019 in Florence 21-24 February 2019. Guest artists include "already announced two true superstars of classical ballet. From the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow comes the enchanting Evgenia Oboznenko, a classical dancer in purity and a fascinating creature."

Ilya Demutsky speaks about the Bolshoi theatre, Yuri Possokhov, A Hero of Our Time and Nureyev ballets and Kirill Serebrennikov in an extensive interview published by an online bilingual publication [Russian Chicago Magazine](#) on the eve of a new joint premiere in the capital of Middle West.

"The main event of Joffrey Ballet's season 2018-2019 is the world premiere of the ballet Anna Kareni-

na staged by one of the world famous choreographers Yuri Possokhov. The real sensation was that for the first time in its history Joffrey Ballet didn't use the existing scores but placed a commission for original music for the ballet. Young Russian composer Ilya Demutsky got the commission. //

"Are your creative plans for the nearest years scheduled already?"

"I am currently finishing a one-act ballet on commission from, I daresay, our already great contemporary ballerina for her new programme. The premiere will be at the Bolshoi and then it will be shown all over the world. Alas, I cannot tell you more about this project yet. Though I'm sure it will be something really brilliant.

Also, I was commissioned by the Bolshoi to write a big serious opera. The premiere will take place the season after this. It will be The Glittering World based on Alexander Grin's fantastic novel. I am working on it.

There are plans for other ballets (in Europe and the USA), for soundtracks, for other operas, yet they are too early to talk about. See you at the premiere of Anna Karenina!" (Tanya Vassilyeva, "[Ilya Demutsky: Serebrennikov has thrown me into the ballet world](#)".)

[Joffrey Ballet](#) will show 10 performances of Anna Karenina in total in Chicago: February 13, 15, 16 (14:00 and 19:30), 17 (14:00), 21, 22, 23 (14:00 and 19:30), 24 (14:00).

[The article copied by ClassicalMusicNews](#)

In brief

There was a sell-out international gala Les Etoiles-2019 in Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome for the 100th anniversary of the birth of Margot Fonteyn. "The Bolshoi principal dancers Maria Alexandrova and Vladislav Lantratov presented the adagio from the ballet Nureyev "evoking particular expectations" – Tatiana Kuznetsova of [Kommersant](#) reports from Rome. "Maria Alexandrova and Vladislav Lantratov didn't fail them: they performed the adagio of Margot and Rudolf, full of spectacular lifts, with psychological subtlety – the story of a relationship between a mature English ballerina and a young Soviet barbarian was read like a fascinating melodrama."

Italian local online news publication [Frui.it](#) reports, "The friendly custom of the gala by Daniele Cipriani, which appeals to the romantics, is to host couples of the first dancers who are also couples in life for further alchemy on the stage. In this gala the "in love" couple is the one formed by Maria Alexandrova and Vladislav Lantratov."

On January 25 the premiere of an opera duology by Hector Berlioz based on Vergil's The Aeneid (The Capture of Troy, The Trojans in Carthage) took place at Opéra-Bastille in Paris. Director – Dmitri Tcherniakov. Conductor – Philipp Jordan.

The Trojans was also performed on January 28 and 31 as well as on February 3, 6, 9, 12.

The premiere continues to gain the attention of French, Russian and world media.

“Paris Opera marked its anniversary with a production by a Russian director,” – [Euronews](#) reports. “Opéra-Bastille, one of the two Paris theatres united by the name “Paris Opera”, celebrates its 30th anniversary. ... Decades ago, The Trojans by Hector Berlioz was the first production staged at Opéra-Bastille. On its 30th anniversary Russian director Dmitri Tcherniakov presented the French capital with his own vision of this monumental duology based on Vergil's The Aeneid .”



The premiere of the opera by Hector Berlioz the Trojans staged by Dmitri Tcherniakov at Opéra-Bastille on January 25. Photo by Vincent Pontet /OnP

Dmitri Tcherniakov, the director: “The more complicated the task, the more I am interested in it, it is of no interest to me to stage an easy low hanging fruit. I like to do something that... well, when it is completely unclear what to do with it! This is when I feel drive and curiosity.”

[The Financial Times](#) publishes a review by Shirley Apthorp who gives the production four stars out of five.

“...an outstanding production of Berlioz's opera The singing and conducting are superb ... Tcherniakov sets the Trojan first half in a war-torn country that could be Syria, Bosnia, or any other modern theatre of war. A corrupt ruling family is on the brink of implosion; the Trojan Horse is Enée, who has brokered what he wrongly thinks is a peace deal with the hostile Greeks.” “...In all, it is an outstanding evening of opera.”

[Le Figaro](#)
[Le Monde](#)

[New York Times](#)

[Link to the performance fragment on YouTube](#)

[PH Kommersant](#) offers its readers a review by its Paris correspondent Alexei Tarkhanov: “After the first part, The Capture Of Troy, the director received a unanimous ovation... The audience was filled with rarely seen enthusiasm /./”

Dmitri Tcherniakov recollects his working at the Bolshoi in an extensive interview for [Kommersant](#):

“... When I come to, say, the Bolshoi, where I used to work, and meet choir singers, staff, costumers etc. I feel like it would be wonderful to stay there with them. To rehearse in Russian.”

[Colta.ru](#), [Sobaka.ru](#) and other media report that the International Opera Awards-2019 nominees have been announced. Russia is represented by the Bolshoi Choir, director Vasily Barkhatov, conductor Maxim Yemeliyanchev, the Novaya Opera Theatre orchestra and MusicAeterna orchestra, singer Ildar Abdrazakov and composer Alexander Raskatov. Calixto Bieito (Spain), Rodula Gaitanou (Greece), Katie Mitchell (UK), David Pountney (UK) and Krzysztof Warlikowski (Poland) will compete for the Best Opera Director award. The winners of International Opera Awards 2019 will be announced at Sadlers Wells in London on April 29.

[Opera News Rhinegold Media](#) (UK) publishes an article by its deputy editor Lucy Thraves who reports that the short list for The International Opera Awards for 2019 has been announced. “Among the short listed are the Bolshoi Opera for Best Chorus and Wagner: Tristan und Isolde, d. Dmitri Tcherniakov (Staatsoper Berlin) – for Best New Production.”

Mikhail Vedernikov has been appointed music director of Mikhailovsky Theatre on February 1 and conducted the [Queen of Spades](#) production by Stanislav Gaudasinsky on February 2.

He will also conduct [Un Ballo In Maschera](#) on February 17 and Aida.

[See more in TASS report](#)

National Artist of Russia Valery Gergiev was awarded with the Stella d'Italia order and the rank of Officiere Supremo for his major and continuous contribution to development of Russian-Italian cultural connections. The award ceremony took place at the Italian Republic consulate in Moscow, [TASS reports](#).

[The RF Ministry of Culture website](#) and a dozen of central media.

Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra performed at Zaryadie Hall in Moscow. The programme included Shostakovich and Mahler. Soloist – Sergei Khachatryan (violin). [Rossia-K](#) report by Irina Razumovskaya.

On January 28 and 29 at Music House (MMDM) there was a premiere of the programme [Light Breath](#) by the prima of London Royal Ballet Natalia Osipova.

[Kommersant](#) /Tatyana Kuznetsova

[Rewizor.Ru](#)

[Nezavisimaya Gazeta](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)



Prima of London Royal Ballet Natalia Osipova presented her programme [Light Breath](#) at MMDM. Photo by Alexander Muravyov

On February 1 in Kazan the 38th Chaliapin International Opera Festival started timed to coincide with the 145th anniversary of Kazan Opera and the 80th anniversary of Tatar opera theatre. [Tatarstan-24](#) TV-channel and other local media report.

[rewizor.ru](#)

Director of Vakhtangov Theatre Kirill Krok speaks about how to train successors for now-working leaders. The article [A Stagehand's Dream](#) published by Izvestia newspaper. "Actually, I have thought many times about sharing my experience. And when time and again I refused to, referring to being busy, they told me: Kirill, are you saying you are busier than the head of the Bolshoi Vladimir Urin? (Professor of Moscow Art Theatre School Producers Department, – Izvestia.) Surely not busier, so you can always find time if you want to'."

Social networks

On January 27 Nikolai Fadeychev marked his birthday.

[Valery Lagunov](#) congratulates the National Artist of the USSR.



Aluda Todua (Deputy / Flemish deputies) and Roman Burdenko (Marquis of Posa, debut) at curtain calls after the performance of *Don Carlo*, the Historic Stage, January 26.

Photo by Alexander Schwartzstein/ [Facebook](#)

Maryana Shirokova on her [Facebook](#): "Today we have attended a very interesting excursion, and now I look at my old acquaintance Bolshoi Theatre with new eyes. ... There is a vast and complicated world backstage where the glory of the remarkable theatre is being built in everyday concerted efforts of all team members."

A new series of original photos on [Instagram fatox511 \(Fatima\)](#) presents debuts of Bolshoi dancers – 29 photos).



Carmen Suite on Instagram [fatox511](https://www.instagram.com/fatox511)

Alexei Ratmansky didn't miss the noticeable dates either – the choreographer marked Mikhail Baryshnikov's birthday (a portrait by American animation artist David Cowles on January 27) and George Balanchine anniversary (photos from *The Sleeping Beauty* by Russian Ballet on January 22) by two [Facebook posts](#).

["Happy Birthday, Mr. B!"](#)

["May the cherished memory of heroes and martyrs live forever. Never forget the Siege"](#). Social media were on this topic on January 27.



"The commemoration meeting for the great ballerina was very heart-warming," Irina Alexandrova writes on her [Facebook](#).



"A very heart-warming recital with an amazing opera diva, the Bolshoi soloist with fantastic international career, Nina Terentieva was held on February 4 at the



[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Central House of Actors,” Natalia Ignatenko wrote on her [Facebook](#) that evening.



Photo / [facebook of Natalia Ignatenko](#)

Olga Kulchinskaya informs on her [Instagram](#), that she has finished her performances as Leyla at [Les Pêcheurs De Perles](#) at Zurich Opera.



Olga Kulchinskaya on [Instagram](#), Zurich Opera, February 1

Debuts

The Cage

January 26 (12:00)
Antonina Chapkina debuts as Novice

Carmen Suite

January 26 (12:00)
Margarita Shrayner debuts as Carmen
Ana Turazashvili as Fate

Candide

February 5

Mariinsky Theatre soloist Olga Pudova debuted at the Bolshoi as Cunegonde
Nikolai Kazansky as Pangloss / Narrator
Andrei Grigoriev as Doctor

Così Fan Tutte

February 7

For the first time [Erika Grimaldi](#) sings Fiordiligi in the Bolshoi production (February 9 also). The Italian soprano debuted at Bolshoi last season as Countess Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart

[Anastasia Sorokina](#) (entered the opera company in 2018, graduated from Vishnevskaya Opera Centre, tutor Makvala Kasrashvili) as Despina

Spartacus

February 9 (12:00)

Ruslan Skvortsov debuted as Crassus.

February 9 (19:00)

Olga Smirnova's first appearance as Aegina

February 10 – Yulia Stepanova as Aegina

Cast alterations

Carmen Suite

January 26 (19:00) Alexander Volchkov replaced Denis Rodkin as Jose

January 27 Mikhail Lobukhin replaced Denis Savin as Torero

The Cage

January 27 Daria Bochkova appeared as Novice

Onegin

January 29 and 31 Kristina Kretova replaced Anastasia Stashkevich as Olga

The Bright Stream

February 3 Angelina Vlashinets replaced Ekaterinja Krysanova as Ballerina

Così Fan Tutte

February 6, 8 and 10 Yuri Gorodetsky appeared as Ferrando Evgeny Akhmedov appeared in the same role on February 7 and 9

Spartacus

February 8

Mikhail Lobukhin replaced Denis Rodkin in the main role

February 9 (12:00)
Ekaterina Shipulina replaced Ekaterina Krysanova
as Aegina

Birthdays

January 27 – ballet master of the Bolshoi, National Artist of the USSR Nikolai Fadeychev



Ekaterina Maximova and Nikolai Fadeychev in Giselle

January 27 – ballet dancer, actor Mikhail Baryshnikov.

January 28 – prominent set designer Karl Valts, Merited Artist of the Russia, worked at Bolshoi Theatre for 65 years (1846-1929)

January 28 – Kristina Kretova, leading soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet.

January 29 – the Bolshoi Ballet soloist (working under contract), Merited Artist of Russia Alexei Loparevich

January 29 – Ivan Maximeyko, soloist of the Bolshoi Opera

January 30 – opera singer (tenore leggero) and tutor, the Bolshoi Opera soloist, National Artist of the RF Anton Grigoriev (1926-2001)

January 31 – Ekaterina Shcherbachenko, soloist of the Bolshoi Opera

January 31 – the Bolshoi principal dancer, Merited Artist of Russia Ruslan Skvortsov

January 31 – the Bolshoi guest conductor, Merited Artist of Russia, Igor Dronov

February 1 – one of the most romantic ballerinas in the history of the Bolshoi (1951-1978) and the ballet mistress of the Bolshoi (since 1988) National Artist of the USSR Marina Kondratieva – 85th anniversary of her birth.



Marina Kondratieva at the gala concert in her honour, February 2014

February 1 – a prominent ballerina of the Bolshoi, ballet-mistress, tutor, National Artist of the USSR Ekaterina Maximova (1939-2009) – 80th anniversary of her birthday

February 2 – conductor, National Artist of the USSR Ariy Pazovsky (1887-1953), was the art director and the chief conductor of the Bolshoi in 1943-1948.

February 2 – concert master of the Second Violins Group of the Bolshoi Orchestra Kirill Filatov

February 3 – conductor of the Bolshoi Pavel Klinichev – 45th birthday



Conductor Pavel Klinitchev at the Golden Mask awards ceremony, 2014. Photo by Dmitry Dubinsky

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

February 6 – Vitaly Biktimirov, first soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet.

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

February 9 – Yulia Grebenshchikova, soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet – 35th birthday



Yulia Grebenshchikova as Henriette in Raymonda.
Photo by Damir Yusupov



Shamil Yagudin in a concert piece A Bashkir Hunter Dance.
Photo from the Bolshoi Theatre Museum

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

February 12 – opera baritone, mentor, National Artist of the RF Evgeni 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 – Kristina Karasyova, soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet.

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

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