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[Press Room](#)

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
MARIINSKY BALLET AND ORCHESTRA IN ALEXEI RATMANSKY'S
***CINDERELLA*, THURSDAY–SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1–4**

BERKELEY, August 20, 2015—Cal Performances' diverse 2015–2016 dance season begins with five performances by the renowned [Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra](#), performing the West Coast premiere of a signature work in its repertoire, **Alexei Ratmansky's** *Cinderella*. Commissioned by the Mariinsky in 2002, this *Cinderella* helped launch Ratmansky's career as one of the world's most in-demand ballet makers, earning him a reputation for revitalizing classic works with wit and sophistication. **Gavriel Heine** conducts the Mariinsky Orchestra in Prokofiev's inventive, expansive score. Performances take place Thursday–Saturday, October 1–3 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, October 3, at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, October 4, at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Opening night will feature the “heart-stoppingly beautiful” (*The Guardian*, London) **Diana Vishneva** as Cinderella dancing with **Konstantin Zverev** as the Prince.

As part of Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL programming, pre-performance talks are planned on Thursday, October 1, and Saturday, October 3, in Zellerbach Hall; beginning times to be announced. The events are free and open to performance ticketholders.

Ratmansky's *Cinderella*, praised by *The New York Times* for “updating the ballet while making an explicit nod to its classical fundamentals,” is set in the 1930s and imbued with an urban sense of style and modern sense of humor. The Bolshoi-trained choreographer combines classical ballet with mime, contemporary dance, and references to Broadway and pop culture in this production, complemented by a spare set design and elegantly tailored costumes.

The Mariinsky's principal cast for the tour includes nine celebrated dancers. In addition to Diana Veshneva, Cinderella will be danced by **Nadezhda Batoeva** (10/2), **Anastasia Matvienko** (10/3 matinee), **Kristina Shapran** (10/3 evening), and **Nadezhda Batoeva** (10/4). Konstantin Zverev dances the prince twice (opening night & 10/3 evening) while **Vladimir**

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Shklyarov (10/2), **Filipp Stepin** (10/3 matinee), and **Vladimir Shklyarov** (10/4) each dance one performance.

St. Petersburg's [Mariinsky Theatre](#) has endured as a bastion of arts excellence for more than two centuries. Its alumnae include dance luminaries Balanchine, Baryshnikov, Nijinsky, and Nureyev; Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov premiered operas there; and Mahler, Berlioz, and Rachmaninoff conducted on its stages. The Mariinsky comprises an orchestra, chorus, ballet, opera company, and record label, and is currently under the leadership of artistic director Valery Gergiev, presenting a home season and touring internationally.

Alexei Ratmansky, a 2013 MacArthur Fellow, was born in St. Petersburg and trained at the Bolshoi Ballet School in Moscow. He has choreographed ballets for the Mariinsky Ballet, the Royal Danish Ballet, the Royal Swedish Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, the Australian Ballet, and Kiev Ballet, as well as for Nina Ananiashvili, Diana Vishneva, and Mikhail Baryshnikov. Ratmansky was named artistic director of the Bolshoi Ballet in January 2004, and since 2009 he has been Artist in Residence at American Ballet Theatre.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra**'s *Cinderella*, Thursday–Saturday, October 1–3, at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, October 3, at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, October 4, at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$45.00 to \$175.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at www.calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances' 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

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Thursday–Saturday, October 1–3, at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 3, at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 4 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Dance

Cinderella

Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra

Alexei Ratmansky, choreographer

Gavriel Heine, conductor

Ilya Utkin and Yevgeny Monakhov, set design

Elena Markovskaya, costume design

Program:

Cinderella; music by Prokofiev; choreography by Alexei Ratmansky

Tickets:

Prices range from \$45.00 to \$175.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

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