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[Press Room](#)



Images of Eifman Ballet's *The Pygmalion Effect* are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
EIFMAN BALLET IN THE US PREMIERE **TOUR** OF
THE PYGMALION EFFECT
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, MAY 31–JUNE 2
IN ZELLERBACH HALL
ADDED SATURDAY MATINEE PERFORMANCE**

Berkeley, April 29, 2019 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley closes its 2018–19 season with the United States premiere **tour** of the newest production from Saint Petersburg's Eifman Ballet, *The Pygmalion Effect*, with evening performances on Friday–Saturday, May 31–June 1 at 8pm; and matinee performances on Saturday, June 1 at 2pm and Sunday, June 2 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall. The tragicomic work is choreographed by artistic director Boris Eifman and is inspired by the ancient myth of Pygmalion, the sculptor who creates a statue so beautiful and lifelike that he falls in love with her. The work explores themes of obsession, inspiration, transformation, and the nature of happiness.

In Eifman's production, the role of the creator falls to a successful ballroom dancer who is challenged to "sculpt" a virtuoso performer from a clumsy girl. The young dancer's transformation into a star is set to the lush symphonic music of Johann Strauss Jr. The work's title is borrowed from the field of psychology, where the phrase "Pygmalion effect" is defined as the phenomenon where an individual's behavior and self-confidence are influenced by the expectations of others. The drama of Eifman's work follows the struggle of the dancer to find inner happiness even as she achieves outward success. Trained in the classical style of Russian ballet, Eifman is known for a distinctively theatrical language of movement, that fuses narrative drive with philosophical inquiry. Long preoccupied with genius and the mysteries of the creative process, Eifman's past work has explored the psychology of artists such as Tchaikovsky, Molière, and the ballerina Olga Spessivtseva. *The Pygmalion Effect* premiered in February at the Alexandrinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg. Running time is two hours, with one intermission.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Eifman Ballet, The Pygmalion Effect* on Friday, May 31 at 8pm; Saturday, June 1 at 2pm and 8pm; and Sunday June 2 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$36–\$135 (prices 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 calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, May 31, 8pm
Saturday, June 1, 2pm & 8pm
Sunday, June 2, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana St.
UC Berkeley campus

Dance

Eifman Ballet

The Pygmalion Effect (United States premiere **tour**)

Program: For 40 years, across a shifting political climate for artists in his native Russia, choreographer Boris Eifman has created "works that hinge on extreme theatricality, acrobatic *pas de deux*, and spectacular effects" (*The New Yorker*) for his Saint Petersburg company. Here, Eifman

Ballet performs the United States premiere **tour** of *The Pygmalion Effect*, a new tragicomic work set to a score by Johann Strauss Jr., that is inspired by the ancient myth of Pygmalion, the sculptor who creates a statue so beautiful and lifelike that he falls in love with her.

**A 2pm matinee performance on Saturday, June 1 has been added*

Tickets: \$36–\$135 (prices subject to change)

– Cal Performances –