

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**  
**THE BOLSHOI BALLET & ORCHESTRA**  
**IN THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF DECLAN DONNELLAN'S *ROMEO AND JULIET***  
***NOVEMBER 3 & 4***

**PLUS**

**YURI GRIGOROVICH'S PRODUCTION OF THE CLASSIC *RAYMONDA***  
***NOVEMBER 5 – 7 IN ZELLERBACH HALL***

**Season Celebration Benefit Gala Wednesday, November 3 features performance of *Romeo & Juliet*; pre-performance caviar, champagne and vodka reception; and post-performance gala dinner with new Bolshoi artistic director Alexei Ratmansky and members of the company**

**BERKELEY, October 1, 2004** – "The Bolshoi Ballet has been and remains a barometer of Russian culture at its finest and classical ballet at its most exciting...a major cultural event by any standard," said the *San Francisco Chronicle* of the legendary company's sold-out engagement at Cal Performances in 2002. Under the dynamic artistic direction of Alexei Ratmansky and accompanied by the famed Bolshoi Orchestra, the company brings to Berkeley two productions that spotlight both the celebrated present and glorious future of this distinguished ensemble. **Program A, Wednesday, November 3** and **Thursday, November 4**, a collaboration by famed avant garde British theater director **Declan Donnellan** and Moldovan choreographer **Radu Poklitaru**, is a radical new interpretation of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. This daring and imaginative production strips the traditional tale down to its bare essentials, updates the passionate story with a contemporary setting, and provides the company with a decidedly "modern" balletic vocabulary. **Program B, Friday, November 5** through **Sunday, November 7** features **Yuri Grigorovich's** grand classical production of *Raymonda*, set to a sumptuous score by Alexander Glazunov. Incorporating elements of Petipa's original choreography, this medieval tale of romance and chivalry is a feast for the eyes, featuring luxurious sets and costumes, plus dazzling solos by the Bolshoi's brilliant dancers. (Performance times vary; see calendar at end).

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The November 2004 performances of the Bolshoi Ballet and Orchestra at Cal Performances will feature principal dancers **Maria Aleksandrova, Anna Antonicheva, Nadezhda Gracheva, Dmitry Belogolovtsev, Sergey Filin,** and **Yury Klevtsov**. Soloists in the performances of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Raymonda* include **Maria Allash, Yan Godovsky, Ekaterina Shipulina, Alexander Volchkov,** and **Ruslan Skvortsov**. The Bolshoi Ballet Orchestra will be led by conductors **Pavel Klinichev** and **Pavel Sorokin**.

### **SEASON CELEBRATION BENEFIT GALA**

Cal Performances 99<sup>th</sup> season will be celebrated at a **Benefit Gala** on **Wednesday, November 3** featuring the Bolshoi Ballet and Orchestra's new production of *Romeo & Juliet*. Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. with a pre-performance caviar, champagne and vodka reception, followed by a 7:00 p.m. performance of Prokofiev's *Romeo & Juliet*. After the performance, Bolshoi Ballet artistic director Alexei Ratmansky and members of the company will join guests in Pauley Ballroom (across Lower Sproul Plaza from Zellerbach Hall) for a sumptuous post-performance dinner and auction, where patrons will bid on a host of travel, leisure and arts offerings. The Season Celebration Gala is a benefit for Cal Performances' Arts and Education Programs.

Tickets for the 2004/05 Season Celebration Benefit Gala on Wednesday, November 3 range from **\$250.00** to **\$1,000.00** and are available by calling Cal Performances Development Office at (510) 643-8783. The Season Celebration Benefit Gala Honorary Chair is **Natalia Makarova**. Gala Chairs are **Ann Getty** and Cal Performances Trustee **Erika Hills**. The 2004/05 Season Celebration Benefit Gala is sponsored by **Wells Fargo**, and by **Bank of America, Boucheron, The Grubb Company, Hermès Paris,** and **Macy's West**.

### **PROGRAM A: NOVEMBER 3 & 4**

“Among the most daring and imaginative ventures” in the company’s history, cheered *The Moscow Times* when the Bolshoi Ballet's contemporary staging of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* premiered in 2003. This “seamless stream of dance drama” represents a momentous *jeté* into the 21<sup>st</sup> century for the Bolshoi, which entrusted the staging to Englishman **Declan Donnellan**, director of London's inventive Cheek by Jowl theater company. Donnellan engaged 32-year-old Bolshoi lead dancer **Radu Poklitaru** to create the choreography, and designer **Nick Ormerod**, Donnellan's frequent collaborator in the UK, to conceive the *mise-en-scène*. With the Bolshoi Orchestra playing Sergei Prokofiev’s beloved score, Donnellan and Poklitaru “tell the story of

*Romeo and Juliet* perhaps as clearly, as succinctly and with as much convincing passion as it has ever been told on stage or on film,” contends *The Times*. Casting will be announced.

### **PROGRAM B: NOVEMBER 5 – 7**

Program B at Cal Performances features the Bolshoi Ballet and Orchestra in a production of Russian classical ballet at its finest, **Yuri Grigorovich's *Raymonda***. First created in 1984 by Grigorovich and designer **Simon Virsaladze**, *Raymonda* was remounted by the Bolshoi in 2003 in a highly acclaimed, refurbished staging, following a three year absence from the repertoire. Based on the scenario provided by Lidia Pashkova for the last of legendary ballet master Marius Petipa's full-length ballets, Grigorovich incorporated fragments of choreography by Petipa and from Alexander Gorsky's later version. The work was first brought to Moscow in 1900 by Gorsky, Petipa's protégé, who later mounted his own interpretation while serving as ballet master from 1901 to 1924. After three decades Leonid Lavronsky created yet another production for the Bolshoi, one which remained in the repertoire for nearly 40 years. Yuri Grigorovich's *Raymonda* remains true in spirit to Petipa's original vision, adeptly marrying classical ballet conventions to Hungarian folk dance in this enduring tale of fidelity and love set in medieval France.

### **ALEXEI RATMANSKY**

**Alexei Ratmansky** (Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet) was born in Leningrad and graduated from the Moscow Ballet School in 1986. From 1992 to 1995, he was a Principal with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, where he danced in works by Balanchine, Ashton, Tudor, and Tharp; and made guest appearances with the Bolshoi Theatre, the Imperial Russian Ballet and Copenhagen's Pantomime Theatre. In 1997, he joined the Royal Danish Ballet as a Soloist where he was acclaimed for his roles in ballets by Nureyev, Lifar, Robbins, MacMillan and Duato. In 2000, he became Principal at the Bolshoi Ballet. As a choreographer, Alexei Ratmansky has created over twenty ballets, among them *Turandot's Dream* (2001), and *Anna Karenina* (2004) for the Royal Danish Ballet; *Carnival of the Animals* (2003) for San Francisco Ballet; *The Firebird* (2002) for the Royal Swedish Ballet; *Poem of Ecstasy* and *Middle Duo* (1998), and *Cinderella* (2002) for The Kirov Ballet; and for the Bolshoi Ballet, *Capriccio* (1997), *Dreams about Japan* (1998), *The Bright Stream* (2003) and *Leah* (2004). Among the many awards Ratmansky has received are the Golden Mask Award, the Nijinsky Prize at the Moscow Diaghilev Ballet Competition (1992) and Merited Artist of the Ukraine. In January 2003, Alexei Ratmansky became Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet.

### **DECLAN DONNELLAN**

With designer Nick Ormerod, **Declan Donnellan** (director) formed the Cheek By Jowl theatre company in 1981—acclaimed "one of the ten great theater companies in the world" by *Time* magazine--which introduced British audiences to previously unperformed European classics, including Racine's *Andromache*, Ostrovsky's *A Family Affair*, Lessing's *Sarah*, and *Le Cid* by Corneille. Other notable productions for Cheek By Jowl include *Lady Betty*, which he wrote, and Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul* which he also directed for the New York Theatre Workshop in 2001. Cheek By Jowl has regularly performed in Russia with productions of *Measure For Measure* (1994), *The Duchess Of Malfi* (1995), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (1998). As Associate Director of the Royal National Theatre, Donnellan directed *Fuente Ovejuna* (1990), *Peer Gynt* (1991), *Sweeney Todd* (1993), and both parts of Kushner's *Angels in America* (1991-4). Donnellan's work in Russia includes *The Winter's Tale* for St. Petersburg's Maly Dramatic Theatre, and for the Russian Theatre Confederation, *Boris Godunov* (2000), *Twelfth Night* (2003), and in 2005, Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. He was the founding director of the RSC Academy in Stratford, and directed their inaugural production of *King Lear* in 2002. Declan Donnellan is currently preparing the British premieres of *The Mandate* by Nicolai Erdmann and *Masquerade* by Lermontov for the Royal National Theatre.

### **RADU POKLITARU**

**Radu Poklitaru** (choreographer) was born in Kishinyov. His father Vitaly Poklitaru and his mother Lyudmila Nedremkaya were leading soloists with the ballet company of the Moldavian Theater. In 1991, he joined the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet of the Republic of Byelorussia as a dancer, and in 1999, he graduated from the choreographers' faculty of the Byelorussian State Academy of Music. From 2001-02, Poklitaru served as chief choreographer of the National Opera of Moldavia. Among the many awards for choreography that he has received are First Place prizes in The Oleg Danovsky Competition (Romania), Music World Festival (Italy), Third Serge Lifar Competition for Choreographers (Ukraine), Varna 2000 Dancers Competition (Bulgaria), The Arabesque 2000 Dancers Competition (Russia), and the Moscow Competition for Ballet Dancers and Choreographers; as well as Best Choreography at the Vitebsk Festival of Contemporary Choreography (Byelorussia). His recent ballet productions include: *Carmen* (Bizet-Shchedrin) for the Odessa Theatre, *The World Does Not End at the Doors of the Home* (Dupré-Mahler) for the Minsk Music Theatre, *Le Braiser de la Fée* for the Bolshoi of Byelorussia,

*Pictures from an Exhibition* and *Le Sacre du Printemps* for the Shevcheko Ukrainian National Opera, and *Bolero* and *La Valse* (Ravel) for the Moldavian National Opera.

### **YURI GRIGOROVICH**

**Yuri Grigorovich** is one of the most outstanding Russian choreographers of the 20th century. He was a soloist of the Maryinsky Theatre for 18 years and for a short time headed its Kirov Ballet. His first productions at the Kirov were *The Stone Flower* and *The Legend of Love* which marked the birth of a new trend that for many years determined the development of ballet in Russia. Beginning in 1964 and for over 30 years, Grigorovich was the artistic director of the Bolshoi Ballet. It was one of the most fertile artistic periods for the company. He created ballets which garnered worldwide acclaim, among them *Nutcracker* (1966), *Spartacus* (1968), *Ivan the Terrible* (1975), *Romeo and Juliet* (1982), and *The Golden Age* (1982). He also choreographed new versions of such masterpieces of the past as *Sleeping Beauty* (1963, 1973), *Raymonda* (1984), *La Bayadere* (1991), *Don Quixote* (1991), *Giselle* (1987), and *Le Corsaire* (1994). Yuri Grigorovich has staged his ballets in Stockholm, Rome, Paris, Copenhagen, Vienna, Milan, Ankara, Prague, Sofia, Genoa and Warsaw.

### **HISTORY OF THE BOLSHOI THEATER**

The National Academic Bolshoi Theater of Moscow, Russia, was founded on March 17, 1776 when the government granted Prince Petr Urussov the privilege of creating a permanent company in Moscow. His troupe of actors, students and serfs performed in a private house until 1780 when a new stone theater was built on the site of the present theater. Named the Petrovsky Theater after the street on which it was built, it was the first professional theater in Moscow. Fires in 1805 and 1853 destroyed previous theaters, at last reconstructed by architect Albert Kavos and reopened in 1856. With only minor alterations over the years, it remains the Bolshoi Theater of today. The legacy of Piotr Illych Tchaikovsky—operas such as *Eugene Onegin*, *The Queen of Spades*, *Massepa*, *Iolanta*, and the ballets *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Nutcracker*—is intertwined with that of the Theater, as are those of nearly every great Russian composer, conductor, opera singer and ballet dancer. The Bolshoi Theater maintains a company of nearly 2,500 creative and technical staff. Under General Director Anatoly Iksanov, and Musical Director and Chief Conductor Alexander Vedernikov, the creative team numbers about 900, including opera singers, choral singers, orchestral musicians, a pantomime group and a children's choir.

## THE ORCHESTRA OF THE BOLSHOI THEATRE

Founded in 1776, the **Bolshoi Theater Orchestra** is the oldest orchestra in Russia and one of the world's largest symphony orchestras. According to a decree by Catherine II, the opera orchestra was to incorporate 35 musicians. Made up of serf musicians bought by the Treasury from their landowner-masters, as well as foreigners and other free people, it began by taking part in all of the theater's musical dramas and opera productions. Today, the Bolshoi Theater Orchestra consists of 300 first-class musicians including many outstanding performers who frequently appear in ensembles and as soloists in their own right both at home and abroad. The Orchestra is led by maestro Alexander Vedernikov who took the position of Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Bolshoi Theatre in 2001.

## TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Bolshoi Ballet & Orchestra** on **Wednesday, November 3** at **7:00 p.m.**, and **Thursday-Saturday, November 4-6** at **8:00 p.m.**, **Saturday, November 6** at **2:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, November 7** at **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$48.00, \$68.00, \$88.00** and **\$110.00**. Performance tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount. Tickets for the Season Celebration Benefit Gala are **\$250.00** to **\$1,000**, and available through Cal Performances Development Office at (510) 643-8783.

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The *San Francisco Chronicle* is a season sponsor of Cal Performances; *San Francisco* magazine and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2004/05 performing arts season.

Cal Performances' programs are supported in part by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation

Cal Performances' presentation of the Bolshoi Ballet & Orchestra is made possible with the generous support of DoubleTree Berkeley Marina.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Wednesday, November 3**

**Zellerbach Hall and Pauley Ballroom**  
UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

**04/05 SEASON CELEBRATION BENEFIT GALA**  
**HONORARY CHAIR: NATALIA MAKAROVA**  
**GALA CHAIRS: ANN GETTY AND ERIKA HILLS**

**6:00 p.m.:** Caviar, Vodka and Champagne Reception, lobby mezzanine, Zellerbach Hall

**7:00 p.m.:** Performance of *Romeo & Juliet*, Zellerbach Hall

**Post-performance:** Gala Dinner and Auction, Pauley Ballroom

*Special Event*

**Bolshoi Ballet Season Celebration Gala**

**Program:**

*Romeo & Juliet* (2003): music by Sergei Prokofiev; choreography by Radu Poklitaru; directed by Declan Donnellan; design by Nick Ormerod (Bay Area premiere)

**Tickets:** \$250-\$1,000, available through Cal Performances Development Office at (510) 643-8783.

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**Wednesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Thurs. & Fri., November 4 & 5 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, November 6 at 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, November 7 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Special Event*

**Bolshoi Ballet & Orchestra**

**Alexei Ratmansky**, Artistic Director

**Pavel Klinichev & Pavel Sorokin**, Conductors

**Program A:** Nov. 3 & 4: *Romeo & Juliet* (2003): music by Sergei Prokofiev; choreography by Radu Poklitaru; directed by Declan Donnellan; design by Nick Ormerod (Bay Area premiere)

**Program B:** Nov. 5 – 7: *Raymonda* (1984): music by Alexander Glazunov; choreography by Yuri Grigorovich

**Tickets:** \$48.00, \$68.00, \$88.00, and \$110.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door.