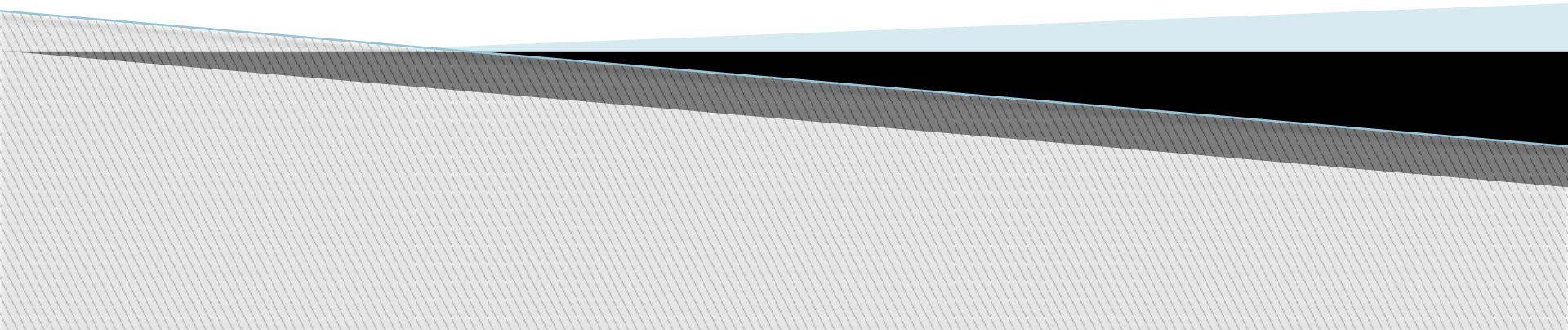


**Presentation  
made by  
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# **Russian Ballet**



# The History of Russian Ballet

- ▶ The first ballet performance in Russia, took place on February, 1672 at the palace of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich in Preobrazhenskoe. An actor portraying Orpheus was singing German verses and then two dancers appeared at the stage and started dancing.



# Imperial Russian Ballet

- ▶ Until 1689, ballet in Russia was nonexistent. It wasn't till the rise of Peter the Great that Russian society opened up to the West. Under Peter I, dances appeared in Russia in the modern sense of the word: minuets, counterdances were introduced. Peter the Great decreed that dances had to become the main part of court etiquette, and the noble youth were obliged to learn dancing.



- ▶ In 1738, the French dance master **Jean-Baptiste Landé** opened the first ballet dance school in Russia – the “Dance Her Imperial Majesty School” (now the Academy of Russian Ballet named after A. Vaganova). In Winter Palace, Landé began training 12 Russian boys and girls. Pupils were from simple families. Schooling was free of charge, students were fully supported.



- ▶ In 1742, the first ballet troupe was formed from students of the Landé School.
- ▶ During the reign of Catherine II, ballet in Russia gained even greater popularity. From the epoch of Catherine II, the tradition of serf ballets emerged in Russia, when landlords organized theatrical troupes formed of serfs.



# Imperial Russian Ballet in XIX

- ▶ In the reign of Alexander I, the Russian ballet continued its development. At this time in 1801 French ballet master Carl Didelot arrived in Russia. Under his leadership began to shine such dancers as Evdokia Istomina, Ekaterina Teleshova and Vera Zubova. Ballet in Russia had reached unexpected popularity. Derzhavin, Pushkin and Griboedov glorified the ballets of Didelot and his pupils Istomina and Teleshova.



- ▶ In the reign of Alexander II dancing took over plastic and mimicry. The ballet masters in this period were: Jules Perrot (1849–1859), Arthur Saint–Leon (1859–1869) and Marius Petipa (1869–1903). In the reign of Alexander III, ballets were given at the Mariinsky Theatre twice a week – on Wednesdays and Sundays. The ballet master was still Marius Petipa.



# Russian Ballet in XX century

- ▶ At the beginning of the 20th century, the academic traditions were supported by such artists as: Matilda Kshesinskaya, Agrippina Vaganova, Olga Spesivtseva. Ballet master Mikhail Fokin was inspired by modern art. Tamara Karsavina, Vaclav Nijinsky and Anna Pavlova became famous due to the ballets of Fokin.





- ▶ Russian ballet of Dyagilev – ballet enterprise, founded by the Russian figure of theatre and art Sergey Dyagilev. Grown from the “Russian Seasons” of 1908, it functioned for 20 seasons until his death in 1929. Using great success abroad, especially in France and the UK, it had a significant impact not only on choreography, but also on the development of world art in general. The popularity of his seasons led Europeans to the fascination with the traditional Russian costume.



# Soviet Ballet in XX century

- ▶ The first tour of the Bolshoi Theatre in Europe and the USA was a remarkable success: Western audiences were fascinated by talented ballerinas Nina Semenova, Galina Ulanova and Maya Plisetskaya. They embodied the romantic images of Juliet, Giselle and Odette – Odile on stage.



- ▶ Natalia Dudinskaya and Konstantin Sergeyev were the most popular performers of the Kirov Theatre. Kirovsky was focusing on the classical ballet school, reviving the traditions of Petipa.
- Ballet in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia had a significant impact on the development of ballet art all over the world.
- ▶ Nowadays Kirovsky Theatre has returned its original name – Mariinsky Theatre.



**Thank you for your attention !**

