**The 8th International Festival of Arts - DIAGHILEV. P.S. – 2017**

**On November 23**, one of the Festival’s most regular participants - indeed one of its most welcome visitors and now almost a Festival mascot! – the **Orchestra MusicAeterna of the Perm Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre** will formally open this year’s programme of events in the Grand Hall of the St Petersburg Academic Philharmonia. Under their conductor **Teodor Currentzis** they will perform ***Gustav Mahler's Symphony No.1,*** together with**Alban Berg**'***s*** **Violin Concerto** played by the Austrian-Swiss soloist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**

The creative relationship between Currentzis and Kopatchinskaja began in 2014, when they collaborated in Perm in a performance of *Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto*, played alongside his *Symphony No. 4*. European tours together followed, with several performances by Patricia Kopatchinskaja at the International Diaghilev. PS. Festival. Their joint concerts always convey new insights, and make for events where the reality exceeds expectations every time. Both seem able to unlock hidden depths in utterly familiar works, playing them with an invigorating freshness which is in no way dependent on previous interpretations.

**23 November, Thursday 20:00**

**Grand Hall of St Petersburg Philharmonia**

### **On November 24,** there will be three performances at the Youth Theatre on the Fontanka: ***Coco Chanel*** by **Jo Strømgren (Norway) & Ulrike Quade (Netherlands)**, together with ***AB3*** and ***Pas de Danse*** fromthe dance company **Norrdans (Sweden).** Characteristically ironic and witty, Norwegian Jo Strømgrenhas here created the opus-ballet *Coco Chanel* as a moving and wistful story about the solitude of the Artist. The participation of dancers combining with a talking puppet makes this performance an unexpected combination of media. The premiėre was given in May 2017.

### The Swedish ballet troupe **Norrdans** will dance ***AB3***in which the starting point is the imaginary world that typically belongs to a child: an object may transform into something else, shifting its functions as it does so. In the miniature ***Pas de Danse****,* created by the great **Mats Ek**,edgy movement and gestures are accompanied by music on harmonica, accordion and violin. Founded in 1995, Norrdans troupe focuses on young generations as its main audience. In the repertoire of the company, the compositions of heavyweight modern dance exponents such as Mats Ek coexist with pieces by talented young choreographers - Jo Strømgren, Fernando Melo and Martin Forsberg among others.

**24 November, Friday 19:00**

### **Youth Theatre on the Fontanka**

**November 25** sees the opening of the **photo exhibition "*Impresario. The Trajectory of Dance*"** in the Sheremetev Palace and is dedicated to the dance projects of the contemporary impresario **Sergei Danilyan.** "Kings of Dance"such as **Nikolai Tsiskaridze, Ivan Vasiliev, Marcelo Gomes, Denis Matvienko** and **David Hallberg** will appear alongside outstanding female dancers **Diana Vishneva, Natalia Osipova, Polina Semionova** in the work of brilliant international photographers. The exhibition will also feature costumes, sketches and posters for the ballet projects and a documentary film by a Golden Globe and BAFTA award-winner, director Charles Evans Jr.

**25 November, Saturday,**

**Public talk with Sergei Nikolaevich and Sergei Danilyan 17:00**

**Opening of the exhibition 18:00**

**Sheremetev Palace**

This season, The International Festival DIAGHILEV. P.S., is - for the first time in its history - taking on a new role: it will be c**o-commissioner of a brand new creation by Wayne McGregor** – ***Autobiography*.** This production will be presented in St Petersburg by the Company Wayne McGregor **on the 26th of November,**  only a month after its world premiėre in London.

In the summer of 2017, award-winning choreographer Wayne McGregor embarked on arguably his boldest and most intimate collaboration to date, as he allowed world-leading geneticists to sequence his entire genome. Combining memoir, documentary, and a re-processing of nature’s code through an act of human imagination, this new work charts McGregor’s adventure into his autobiography, and asks how we understand a life.

**Autobiography**
*Artistic Collaborators
Choreography: Wayne McGregor, in collaboration with the dancers
Music: Jlin
Lighting design: Lucy Carter
Set design: Ben Cullen Williams
Dramaturg: Uzma Hameed*

**26 November, Sunday 20:00**

**Theatre of Musical Comedy**

**On November 27**, eminent violinist **Vadim Repin** will appear as special guest of the Festival at the Grand Hall of the Philharmonia. Together with the **St Petersburg State Academic Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alexander Titov,** he will perform ***Jean Sibelius’s Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D Minor, Op. 47.***

The St Petersburg State Academic Symphony Orchestra, under the Alexander Titov’s leadership, has worked with such renowned soloists as Sviatoslav Richter, Natalia Gutman, Elena Obraztsova, Grigory Sokolov and many others. The Orchestra’s repertoire includes pieces from all eras, genres and styles, and it has featured in many première performances of contemporary composers. The Orchestra tours widely to cities in Russia, the Baltic countries, Scandinavia, Korea, Japan and the USA. It was established in 1967 by three outstanding masters of the Leningrad conducting school: Nikolai Rabinovich, Karl Eliasberg, and Edward Grikurov.  This year the orchestra celebrates its **50th anniversary.**

**On November 27**, as the first part of its concert on the stage of the Grand Hall of the Philharmonia, the Orchestra will perform Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s Symphonic Suite *Scheherazade* – a piece inextricably linked with the name of Sergei Diaghilev.

**27 November, Monday 20:00**

**Grand Hall of St Petersburg Philharmonia**

**On November 28, Svetlana Zakharova** – prima ballerina of the Bolshoy theatre and star of the international ballet world, will present her triumphant **solo programme: *Amore*** at the Alexandrinsky theatre, produced by MuzArts:*Francesca da Rimini. Ballet in one act
Pyotr Tchaikovsky
Choreographer: Yuri Posokhov
Costume Designer: Igor Chapurin
Lighting Designer: Sergei Shevchenko

Rain Before It Falls. Ballet in one act
Johann Sebastian Bach, Ottorino Respighi, Carlos Pino Quintana
Scenario: Jean François Vazelle
Choreographer: Patrick de Bana
Costume Designer: Stephanie Boyerli
Lighting Designer: James Angot

Strokes Through the Tail. Ballet in one act
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Choreographer: Marguerite Donlon
Costume Designer: Igor Chapurin
Lighting Designer: Andrei Abramov*

**28 November, Tuesday 19:00**

**Alexandrinsky Theatre**

**On November 29, the Festivals presents the Russian premier of the “Atomos” Film.** The screening will be followed by a lecture by a historian of ballet, curator of the St Petersburg State Museum of Theatre and Music **–** Ludmila Mochalova.

In “Atomos”, bodies, movement, film, sound and light are atomised into miniature shards of intense sensation. Taking creative points of departure from atomised film, music and biometric data, McGregor’s choreography is woven into an intense 70 minute film, performed by the incredible dancers of Company Wayne McGregor in his distinctive style – sculptural, rigorous, jarring and hauntingly beautiful.

Directed by McGregor and Ravi Deepres. Duration: 70 min

**29 November, Wednesday, 18:00**

**St Petersburg State Museum of Theatre and Music**

**On November 30, the International Liberal Arts Conference “In Diaghilev’s Circle. The Phenomenon of** *Les Saisons Russes* **in the Context of European Culture”** will take place at the Museum of Theatre and Music.Among the speakers: Nina Tarasova (State Hermitage), Boris Illarionov (Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet), Elena Bespalova (Moscow), Carole Boulbes (France), Ann-Marie Wrange (Sweden).

The documentary by Moscow director **Svetlana Astresova, “*The Merchant at All Times. The Virtual Museum of Sergei Diaghilev*”,** will be presented within the framework of the conference.

The film was conceived as a journey through the "virtual" museum of Sergei Pavlovich Diaghilev, where each room tells about a particular field of his activities. An "excursion" through the halls is led by "guides" – iconic figures from different spheres of art related to Diaghilev’s various activities: these include writer and historian **Edvard Radzinsky;** People's Artist of Russia and rector of the Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet **Nikolai Tsiskaridze;** and art critic and a fashion historian **Alexandre Vasilyev**.

**30 November, Thursday, tba**

**St Petersburg State Museum of Theatre and Music**

**December 1,** the final day of the programme will feature a performance by the **Centre Chorégraphique National** - **Ballet de Lorraine** (France). The Festival will present the Russian premiėre of three ballets: ***Record of Ancient Things, Rain Forest*** *and* ***Relâche***(in two acts with a cinematographic intermission).

At various times **the Ballet de Lorraine** has been directed by Patrick Dupond, Pierre Lacotte, Françoise Adret and Didier Deschamps. Today it is Petter Jacobsson - dancer, choreographer, and graduate of both the Vaganova Ballet Academy and the Royal Swedish Ballet School – who leads the company. Retaining its imperial style and gloss, even with today's modern dance choreography, the company is not afraid of experiment and leans towards creating a synthesis of arts.

The ballet ***Record of Ancient Things* (2017)** – a game of illusions and transformations – forms the programme’s first act. Its creators are **Petter Jacobsson** and **Thomas Caley**, who worked for many years in the Merce Cunningham’s company. Three choreographic scenarios are played out in a glimmering translucent space, mutating from stage to ballroom, and finally to the arena. Each of these platforms dictates its own "rules of the game."

The second act will present the ***Rain Forest* (1968)** by **Merce Cunningham**, the legendary American choreographer and one of the great innovators of the second half of the 20th century. His surreal dances, in which different parts of the body often move as if they were independent from each other, are challenging for performers and used to provoke irreconcilable controversy among viewers and critics. Nowadays they are considered classics of modern dance. The set design for the ballet belongs to no less an iconic American artist - **Andy Warhol.**

Finally, the evening will culminate with the ballet ***Relâche*** **(1924 / 2014)** – a unique creation by several illustrious masters of the European avant-garde in the 1920s. This piece became a fount of inspiration and ideas for many masters of the 20th century. The Ballet de Lorraine’s ***Relâche*** is a re-enactment of the paradoxical French artist Francis Picabia’s 1924 conception, staged by Jean Börlin with music by Erik Satie - eccentric composer and friend of Diaghilev. A silent film by the great René Clair is woven into the fabric of the ballet. The original audience was promised ‘an instantaneous ballet in two acts, a cinematographic entr’acte and “The Dog’s Tail”’. ‘Instantaneous’ obviously means ‘happening in an instant’ or ‘created on the spot’, but whatever was meant by the "The Dog's Tail" has remained a mystery.

The ballet’s formal title is thought perhaps to have been a Dadaist joke in itself, since the word “relâche” was used on posters to indicate that a show had been cancelled. In point of fact, the first performance was indeed cancelled, due to the illness of Jean Börlin, a former student of Michael Fokine’s, who was the principal dancer and choreographer, and later the director of the *Ballets Suédois (*which took much after the *Ballets Russes)*. The original show "Relâche" eventually took place a week later, December 4, 1924 in Paris’s famous Théâtre des Champs-Élysées.

The guest tour of the Centre Chorégraphique National - Ballet de Lorraine is supported by the French Institute in Russia.

**1 December, Friday 19:00**

**Tovstonogov Bolshoi Drama Theatre**

 For further information about the DIAGHILEV. P.S. Festival: www.diaghilev-ps.ru

Programme of the DIAGHILEV. P.S. Festival 2017: <http://www.diaghilev-ps.ru/en/dps_prg.html>

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For more background information on accreditation for the Festival events and requests for interviews please contact us:

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