



DIRECT FROM RUSSIA... TCHAIKOVSKY'S 'SLEEPING BEAUTY' JETÉS TO JORGENSEN

Thurs, Mar 30, 2017 at 7:30 pm

Critics have called the Russian National Ballet Theatre, directed by the legendary Bolshoi principal dancer Elena Radchenko, “the real thing.” Combine with that Tchaikovsky’s *The Sleeping Beauty*, the classic story of love awakened from a 100-year nap, and you have a night of dance passion on the stage of Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, Thursday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m.

The Sleeping Beauty is Tchaikovsky’s longest and middle ballet, sandwiched between *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*, with choreography by the Russian master, Marius Petipa. It is a supreme demonstration of the challenge of Petipa’s style - steel point work, sharply accented spinning turns, soaring leaps, high extensions, brilliant battery (beats in the air), daring lifts and, in addition, it gives a fairy tale plot lavish stage treatment.

In this production, the King and Queen put on an ornate christening for their daughter Aurora, inviting all the fairies in the land to bestow gifts. But, woe to those who leave an evil one off the guest list; an angry Carabosse rushes in to deliver the curse that the princess will prick her finger on a spindle and die. But, wait, the Lilac Fairy has yet to come forward. She assures the royal court that the princess will indeed prick her finger, on her 16th birthday, but only fall asleep for 100 years.

The ballet includes a prologue, covering the curse, and three acts. In the first, Aurora turns 16 and dances the “Rose Adagio” with four princes in a rose ceremony that would make producers of *The Bachelor* turn green with envy. Then she pricks her finger and the spell begins. In Act II, the Lilac Fairy visits Prince Charming and introduces him to a vision of the *Sleeping Beauty*. His fate is cast, and, in Scene Two, he delivers the wake-up kiss. In Act III, the wedding extravaganza unfolds, with appearances by fairy tale characters, such as the Bluebird, Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf.

The Russian National Ballet Theatre was formed in Moscow during the Perestroika period in the late 1980s, when the nation’s great dancers and choreographers were exercising a new creative freedom. Then called the Soviet National Ballet, the company was founded and populated by talent from the upper echelons of Soviet dance academies and troupes. Many of its 50 some dancers have been with the company from the beginning. Radchenko was selected in 1994 to be its first artistic director and has developed a repertory of most of the great full works of Petipa, including this production and one of *Romeo and Juliet* performed at Jorgensen in 2011.

Jorgensen was voted Best College or University Performing Arts Center in the *Hartford Courant’s* CTNow, as well as *Connecticut Magazine’s* Best of Performing Arts Venues (College) for 2016. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical

Quick Reference

Dance Event

The Sleeping Beauty
Russian National Ballet Theatre

Date

Thurs, Mar 30, 7:30 pm

Place

Jorgensen Center
for the Performing Arts
2132 Hillside Road
UConn campus, Storrs, CT

Tickets

\$40, \$37, \$34

Box Office

860.486.4226
Mon–Fri, 10 am–5 pm

The Box Office window is also open for walk-up ticket sales 90 minutes before showtime.

For Immediate Release

MEDIA CONTACT:

Leann Sanders
Marketing Coordinator
Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts
860-486-5795
leann.sanders@uconn.edu

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SLEEPING BEAUTY, continued

music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state's educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Floor Seats - \$40; Mezzanine - \$37; Balcony - \$34; Students & Youth Under 18 - All seats \$15.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient \$5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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