

LOUISVILLE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

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**Louisville Memorial Auditorium
Welcomes
Russian Ballet Theatre's Breathtaking New Production of Swan Lake**

For Immediate Release

Louisville, KY (May 31st, 2019) – The Russian Ballet Theatre is pleased to present one breathtaking new production of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* on Wednesday, October 30 at 7:30 pm at the Louisville Memorial Auditorium. It is all of the splendor which has mesmerized ballet audiences for over a century, plus a bit more. It delights with new as well as time honored **Russian traditions**. Gorgeous detailed **hand painted sets** and **added choreography** accent the production. **Radiant hand sewn costumes** following designs originally envisioned by the great theater masters enlighten further. This marks **the first time** the Russian Ballet Theatre has ever performed in Louisville.

Choreographer Nadezhda Kalinina (Mariinsky Theatre, Omsk State Music Theatre, Teatro Lirico) lovingly retouches the oldest St. Petersburg version of the ballet. With a new prologue, she offers explanation for the wrath of evil sorcerer Rothbart, undoubtedly leaving the audience flushed with emotion.

Equally fascinating is the work of young, accomplished designer Sergei Novikov (Mariinsky Theatre, Omsk State Music Theatre, St. Petersburg State Music Hall Theatre) who has perfected not only exquisite new sets, but also 150 gorgeous costumes that bring fresh representation to this timeless ballet.

Irina Strukova's grand artistry perfects this already magnificent production. Award-winning Strukova, known for her film makeup creations (Netflix, HBO, *Crazy Rich Asians*), has created hair designs and special effects makeup, that together with the dazzling costumes, further enlighten this whimsical fantasy.

Prima Ballerina Olga Kifyak will dance the lead roles of Odette (The White Swan) and Odile (The Black Swan). Many ballerinas proclaim *Swan Lake* as the highlight of their career. She says, "Dancing the lead in *Swan Lake* is like climbing Mt. Everest." At one point, the Black Swan performs 32 fouettés!

What makes this evening of ballet more brilliant is the Russian Ballet Theatre's collaboration with the Plus 1, an initiative that connects artists with causes, so that \$1 from every ticket sold will support local public school teachers and their classroom projects in Louisville and surrounding areas through DonorsChoose.org. Part of the company's 2019 tour, tickets for this performance of *Swan Lake* start at \$28 and are available online at Ticketmaster.com, or in person at the Louisville Memorial Auditorium box office.

"The opportunity to host a world class production of *Swan Lake* is a dream come true for the historic, Louisville Memorial Auditorium. What a wonderful milestone as the venue continues to celebrate 90 years of operation!" said Kelly J. Gream, Louisville Memorial Auditorium Executive Director.

For more information and photos contact:

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About the Louisville Memorial Auditorium

Louisville Memorial Auditorium is a unique venue that offers rich history, architectural beauty, and a remarkable stage experience, complete with lighting and sound systems to produce a memorable event, a Louisville Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places, dedicated on Memorial Day in 1929. The auditorium was built from the outgrowth of two movements: one for a public auditorium, the other for a memorial to commemorate the deeds of the sons and daughters of Louisville, KY and Jefferson County who served in WWI. Over the years many concerts, graduations, dance recitals & competitions, stage productions and other interesting events have been held at the venue. Under new management, the non-profit organization will be inviting and offering affordable rental packages for special events, weddings, meetings, concerts, stage productions and other functions to be held at the historic landmark and venue.

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