

FEATURING

Colette Adae Ludmila Beaulemova Holly Dey-Abroad Varvara Laptopova Anya Marx Grunya Protazova Moussia Shebarkarova Olga Supphozova Gerd Törd Minnie van Driver Doris Vidanya Bertha Vinayshinsky Tatiana Youbetyabootskaya Blagovesta Zlotmachinskaya

Bruno Backpfeifengesicht Boris Dumbkopf Araf Legupski
Marat Legupski Timur Legupski Vyacheslau Legupski
Medulli Lobotomov Mikhail Mudkin Boris Mudko Chip Pididouda
Yuri Smirnov Pavel Törd William Vanilla Jens Witzelsucht

Tory Dobrin Liz Harler Isabel Martinez Rivera Raffaele Morra Shelby Sonnenberg Artistic Director
Executive Director
Associate Director
Ballet Master
Production Manager



LE LAC DES CYGNES (SWAN LAKE, ACT II) MUSIC BY PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY CHOREOGRAPHY AFTER LEV IVANOVICH IVANOV COSTUMES BY MIKE GONZALES DECOR BY CLIO YOUNG LIGHTING BY KIP MARSH

Swept up into the magical realm of swans (and birds), this elegiac phantasmagoria of variations and ensembles in line and music is the signature work of *Les Ballets Trockadero*. The story of Odette, the beautiful princess turned into a swan by the evil sorcerer, and how she is nearly saved by the love of Prince Siegfried, was not so unusual a theme when Tchaikovsky first wrote his ballet in 1877 -- the metamorphosis of mortals to birds and visa versa occurs frequently in Russian folklore. The original *Swan Lake* at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow was treated unsuccessfully; a year after Tchaikovsky's death in 1893, the St. Petersburg Mariinsky Ballet produced the version we know today. Perhaps the world's best known ballet, its appeal seems to stem from the mysterious and pathetic qualities of the heroine juxtaposed with the canonized glamour of 19th century Russian ballet.

Benno: Bruno Backpfeifengesicht (friend and confidant to)

Prince Siegfried: Araf Legupski (who falls in love with)

Colette Adae (Queen of the)

Swans: Artists of the Trockadero (all of whom got this way because of)

Von Rothbart: Medulli Lobotomov

(an evil wizard who goes about turning girls into swans)

~Intermission~



YES, VIRGINIA, ANOTHER PIANO BALLET MUSIC BY FREDERIC CHOPIN CHOREOGRAPHY BY PETER ANASTOS COSTUMES BY MIKE GONZALES LIGHTING BY KIP MARSH

The surfeit of "piano ballets" that have appeared since Jerome Robbins' "Dances at a Gathering" (1969) sought to somehow humanize the classical ballet dancer and his milieu. Piano ballets take the aristocracy out of the ballet dancing by presenting the dancers as affectionately friendly, democratic, just plain folks relating to each other; in much the same way, television talk shows demystified the glamour of Hollywood by featuring noted celebrities discussing their laundry problems. The Trockadero, not unaware of these trends, now tenders its own sensitive relationships.

Boy in Brick Pavel Törd

Boy in Blue Vyacheslau Legupski

Girl in Lavender

Grunya Protazova

(with a grey chiffon underlay)

Girl in Orange

Ludmila Beaulemova

(with a slight tilt to the left)

Girl in Green

Holly Dey-Abroad

(with a sparkle in her eye)

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.



THE DYING SWAN MUSIC BY CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS COSTUME BY MIKE GONZALES

This solo, created for Anna Pavlova in 1905 would become, in later years, her signature dance--and perhaps the most famous solo in ballet. The Trockadero offers its own distinctive interpretation of the terminal fowl.

Olga Supphozova

~PAUSE~



VALPURGEYEVA NOCH ("WALPURGISNACHT") MUSIC BY CHARLES GOUNOD STAGED and with additional CHOREOGRAPHY by ELENA KUNIKOVA after LEONID LAVROVSKY COSTUMES BY NICOLE VALENCIA-GANN LIGHTING BY JAX MESSENGER DÉCOR BY KIP MARSH

This ballet is inspired by the Bolshoi Ballet's *Valpurgeyeva Noch*, which Russians have long respected as a specimen of Soviet balletic camp.

BACCHANTE Varvara Laptopova

BACCHUS Mikhail Mudkin

PAN Boris Dumbkopf

FAUNS Artists of the Trockadero

NYMPHS Ludmila Beaulemova and Bertha Vinayshinsky

MAIDENS Artists of the Trockadero

COMPANY BIOGRAPHY

LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO was founded in 1974 by New York City-based ballet enthusiasts in order to present a playful, entertaining view of traditional, classical ballet in parody form and with men performing all of the roles – and in the case of roles usually danced by women: *en travesti* and *en pointe*. Founders Peter Anastos, Anthony Bassae, and Natch Taylor broke away from Larry Ree's Gloxinia Trockadero Ballet to create a dance- and choreography-focused company. They put on their first shows on the makeshift stage of the West Side Discussion Group, an early gay and lesbian political organization, which was led by future Trockadero General Director Eugene McDougle. The performances were infused with a subversive edge as the country was still a long way from bringing drag performance to a mainstream audience.

The Trocks, as they are affectionately known, soon garnered critical acclaim and cultural cachet in publications with major reach, such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and the *Village Voice*. By mid-1975, the company's inspired blend of dance knowledge, comedy, and athleticism, moved beyond New York City when the Trocks qualified for the National Endowment for the Arts Touring Program, hired a full-time teacher and ballet mistress, AND made its first extended tours of the United States and Canada. Packing, unpacking, and repacking tutus and drops, stocking giant-sized toe shoes by the case, and running for planes and chartered buses all became routine parts of life. They have been going non-stop ever since, appearing in 43 countries and more than 660 cities worldwide. The company branched out from the vibrant live performances and expanded its scope with an education program in 2016 and the Choreography Institute in November 2023. With so much activity, the Trocks have garnered a dedicated fan base, repeating performances in countries year after year, and continuing to add first-time engagements as the company enters its 50th Anniversary season.

Interest and accolades have accumulated over the years. The Trocks have proved an alluring documentary subject, featured in an Emmy-winning episode of the acclaimed British arts program *The South Bank Show*; the 2017 feature film *Rebels on Pointe*; and most recently *Ballerina Boys*, which aired on PBS *American Masters* in 2021. Several of the Trocks' performances at the Maison de la Danse in Lyon, France were also aired by Dutch, French and Japanese TV networks. Other television appearances have ranged from a Shirley MacLaine special to the *Dick Cavett Show*, "What's My Line?" "Real People," and "On-Stage America." The dancers also have the distinction of appearing with Kermit and Miss Piggy on "Muppet Babies."

The company's awards include a prestigious UK Critics Circle National Dance Award for Best Classical Repertoire (2007) and nomination for Outstanding Company (2016), the Theatrical Managers Award (2006, UK); and the Positano Award for Excellence in Dance (2007, Italy). The company has appeared in multiple galas and benefits over the years, including at the 80th anniversary Royal Variety Performance to aid the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund in December 2008, which was attended by members of the British Royal family, including the now King Charles III.

The original concept of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo has not changed. It is a company of professional male dancers performing the full range of ballet and modern dance repertoire, including classical and original works in faithful renditions of the manners and conceits of those dance styles. The comedy is achieved by incorporating and exaggerating the foibles, accidents, and underlying incongruities of serious dance. The fact that

muscular, athletic bodies dance all of the parts, delicately balancing on toes as swans, sylphs, water sprites, romantic princesses, and angst-ridden Victorian ladies, enhances the appreciation for the effort, timing, stamina, and precision required, delighting die-hard ballet fans and newcomers alike.

Looking to the future, the Trocks are making plans for new commissions, new debuts, and new audiences, while continuing the company's original mission: to bring the pleasure of dance to the widest possible audience.

The company will, as they have for 50 years, "keep on Trockin'."

MEET THE ARTISTS

COLETTE ADAE was orphaned at the age of three when her mother, a ballerina of some dubious distinction, impaled herself on the first violinist's bow after a series of rather uncontrolled "fouette voyage." Colette was raised and educated with the "rats" of the Opera House but the trauma of her childhood never let her reach her full potential. However, under the kind and watchful eye of the Trockadero, she has begun to flower and we are sure you will enjoy watching her growth.

LUDMILA BEAULEMOVA, famed country and western ballerina and formerly prima ballerina of the grand Ole Opry, recently defected from that company when they moved to their new Nashville home. The rift was caused by their refusal to stage the ballet with which her name has become synonymous, *I Never Promised You a Rose Adagio*.

HOLLY DEY-ABROAD. Miss Dey-Abroad lacks the talent and intelligence that are required to be good at dancing and did not understand that this lack of talent and intelligence are often the same qualities needed to recognize that one is not good at dancing—and if one lacks such talent and intelligence, one remains ignorant that one is not good at dancing. Consequently she auditioned for the Trocks and was accepted.

VARVARA LAPTOPOVA is one of those rare dancers who, with one look at a ballet, not only knows all the steps but can also dance all the roles. As a former member of the Kiev Toe and Heel Club, she was awarded first-prize at the Pan-Siberian Czardash and Kazotski Festival for artistic mis-interpretation.

ANYA MARX comes to the ballet stage after her hair-raising escape from the successful (but not terribly tasteful) overthrow of her country's glamorous government. She made a counter-revolutionary figure of herself when she was arrested for single-handedly storming the State Museum of Revolutionary Evolution, where her fabulous collection of jewels were being insensitively displayed alongside a machine gun. The resilient Madame Marx is currently the proprietress of American's only mail order Course in Classical Ballet.

GRUNYA PROTAZOVA is the missing link between the crustaceans of the old Russian school and the more modern amphibians now dancing. Before joining the Trockadero, Grunya was the featured ballerina at Sea World, where her famous autobiographic solo, *Dance of the Lower Orders*, brought several marine biologists to tears.

MOUSSIA SHEBARKAROVA. A celebrated child prodigy back in the Brezhnev era, Moussia Shebarkarova astounded her parents at the age of two by taking a correspondence course in ballet. Sadly, due to the unreliable Russian postal system, she has only just graduated.

OLGA SUPPHOZOVA made her first public appearance in a police line-up under dubious circumstances. After a seven-year-to-life hiatus, she now returns to her adoring fans. When questioned about her forced sabbatical, Olga's only comment was "I did it for Art's sake." Art, however, said nothing.

GERD TÖRD, "The Prune Danish of Russian Ballet," abandoned an enormously successful career as a film actress to become a Trockadero ballerina. Her faithful fans, however, need not despair as most of her great films have been made into ballets: the searing *Back to Back*, the tear-filled *Thighs and Blisters*, and the immortal seven-part *Screams from a Carriage*. Because of her theatrical flair, Gerd has chosen to explore the more dramatic aspects of ballet, causing one critic to rename her Giselle, "What's my Line?"

DORIS VIDANYA. The legendary Vitebsk Virago first achieved recognition as a child performer, appearing with the famous Steppe Brothers in the world premiere of *Dyspepsiana* (based on an unfinished paragraph by M. Gorki). As a favorite of Nicholas, Alexandra, Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and the czarevich, "La Effhrvia", as she is known to her admirers, was compelled to flee St. Petersburg disguised as a Karsky shashlik. Upon arrival in the new World, she established herself as the Prima Ballerina Assoluta de Kalamazoo, a title she still retains.

BERTHA VINAYSHINSKY has defected to America three times and been promptly returned on each occasion -- for "artistic reasons." Recently discovered "en omelette" at the Easter Egg Hunt in Washington, D.C. Prima Ballerina Vinayshinksky was hired by the Trockadero, where their inexplicable rise to stardom answers the musical question: Who put the bop in the bop-shibop shibop?

MINNIE VAN DRIVER. Always running to rehearsals, costume fittings and performances, Miss Driver has a strong sense of movement. She has performed worldwide and has a natural aptitude for touring. Famous for her beautiful port de bras, she gives credit to her many hours behind the wheel.

TATIANA YOUBETYABOOTSKAYA, created many original roles in St. Petersburg where she was the last of a long line of Italian etoiles to appear at the Maryinsky Theater. It was her dazzling triumph in the role of "Electricity" in the extravagant "Excelsior" in her native Milan which brought her fame. However, no less electrifying was the line up of perfectly trained elephants, performing like the present day Rockettes. Unfortunately, Mlle Youbetyabootskaya's jealous scenes over the publicity given to these elephants and their ensuing popularity with the public, caused numerous problems. She subsequently refused to appear again in this role.

BLAGOVESTA ZLOTMACHINSKAYA. Ever since her auspicious debut as the Left Nostril in the ballet extracted from *The Nose* by Gogol, Blagovesta has shown a unique appreciation of her homeland's literary heritage. Back home, she is best known as the star of the hit TV show *Challenge Anna Karenina*, in which the eponymous heroine of Tolstoy's classic novel seeks to expose the *fin de siecle* malaise at the heart of pre-Revolutionary Russia with the aid of a helicopter and walkie-talkie.

BRUNO BACKPFEIFENGESICHT soared into prominence as the first East German defector whose leave-taking was accomplished at the virtual insistence of the defectees (although in subsequent days Herr Backpfeifengesicht was accused of abandoning his joyous comrades for "a mountain of beer and an ocean of dollars"). His meteoric rise to stardom caused him to be named Official Bicentennial Porteur by a committee of New York balletomanes who singled out his winning feet and losing smile.

BORIS DUMBKOPF has been with the greatest ballerinas of our time; he has even danced with some of them. One of the first defective Eastern Bloc male stars, he left the motherland for purely capitalistic reasons. Amazingly, between his appearances on television and Broadway and in movies, commercials, magazines, special events, and women's nylons, he occasionally still has time to dance.

THE LEGUPSKI BROTHERS. Araf, Marat, Timur and Vyacheslau are not really brothers, nor are their names really Araf, Marat, Timur or Vyacheslau nor are they real Russians, nor can they tell the difference between a pirouette and a jete...but...well...they do move about rather nicely ...and...they fit into the costumes.

MEDULLI LOBOTOMOV. Dancer by night, Bulgarian Mafia assassin by day and purveyor of guillotine-triggering car flaps at weekends, Medulli has held a grudge against the animal kingdom ever since a fur allergy forced him to quit his job as a hat-check girl at the Opera.

MIKHAIL MUDKIN, the famed Russian *danseur* for whom the word "Bolshoi" was coined, comes to American from his triumphs as understudy to a famous impresario in the role of The Bear in *Petrushka*.

BORIS MUDKO is the Trocks' newest danseur, having joined only last year. Boris is a drunken but talented Russian from Dzerzhinsk, in the former Soviet Union. He insisted on an audition while the company was on tour. It took some time to sober him up to make him coherent – he was given gallons of tea and several enemas – but finally he was accepted into the company. He has since given up all drink and is doing quite well.

CHIP PIDIDOUDA. Chip is a renowned Greek cricket player who stumbled into the world of English ballet after a wrong turn on the M-90 to Folkestone. Chip was heralded for his simple and inspiring interpretation of "Doppe" in Dizzney's world premiere of *La Fille de Neige Blanche*. Unaffected by technique, Chip brings his special brand of athleticism and "je ne sais quoi pas" to the Trocks.

YURI SMIRNOV. At the age of sixteen, Yuri ran away from home and joined the Kirov Opera because he thought Borodin was a prescription barbiturate. Luckily for the Trockadero, he soon discovered that he didn't know his arias from his elbow, and decided to become a ballet star instead.

PAVEL TÖRD. "The Prune Danish of Russian Ballet", abandoned an enormously successful career as a film actor to become a Trockadero premier danseur. His faithful fans, however, need not despair as most of his great films have been made into ballets: the searing *Back to Back*, the tear-filled *Thighs and Blisters*, and the immortal seven-part *Screams from a Carriage*. Because of his theatrical flair, Pavel has chosen to explore the more dramatic aspects of ballet, causing one critic to rename his Siegfried, "What's my Line?"

WILLIAM VANILLA. Despite the fact that he is American, he is very popular within the company. He is extremely personable, the ballerinas very much enjoy dancing with him, the management finds him agreeable, his costumes are never soiled, his fans admire his directness, he photographs well, he keeps regular hours, brushes his teeth after every meal, and he has never said a bad word about anybody. He will never really understand Russian ballet.

JENS WITZELSUCHT. Mr. Witzelsucht has a pure and rare neurological disorder characterized by a tendency to make puns or tell inappropriate jokes or pointless stories in socially inappropriate situations, along with a pathological giddiness with lunatic mood swings. As he does not understand that this behavior is abnormal, he has found a place in the company as one of the more comedic artists.

LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO

Box 1325, Gracie Station, New York City, New York 10028

DANCERS

Moussia Shebarkarova and Vyacheslau Legupski Blagovesta Zlotmachinskaya and Mikhail Mudkin

Olga Supphozova and Yuri Smirnov

Gerd Törd and Pavel Törd

Tatiana Youbetyabootskaya and Araf Legupski

Minnie van Driver and William Vanilla

Anya Marx and Chip Pididouda

Holly Dey-Abroad and Bruno Backpfeifengesicht

Ludmila Beaulemova and Jens Witzelsucht

Bertha Vinayshinsky and Boris Mudko Grunya Protazova and Marat Legupski

Colette Adae and Timur Legupski

Doris Vidanya and Medulli Lobotomov

Varvara Laptopova and Boris Dumbkopf

Vincent Brewer Raydel Caceres Robert Carter

Matias Dominguez Escrig

Andrea Fabbri Liam Vincent Hutt Shohei Iwahama

Felix Molinero del Paso Trent Montgomery

Sergio Najera

Salvador Sasot Sellart

Jake Speakman Raphael Spyker Takaomi Yoshino

COMPANY STAFF

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Production Manager

Lighting Supervisor

Wardrobe Supervisor

Education Manager

Digital Engagement Manager

Company Advancement Associate

Fundraising Consultant

Costume Designers

Stylistic Guru

Orthopedic Consultant

Photographer

Tory Dobrin Liz Harler

Isabel Martinez Rivera

Raffaele Morra

Shelby Sonnenberg

Matthew Weisgable

Sarah Marshall

Roy Fialkow

Anne Posluszny

MaryBeth Rodgers

LG Capital for Culture

Ken Busbin, Jeffrey Sturdivant

Marius Petipa

Dr. David S. Weiss

Zoran Jelenic

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

VINCENT BREWER.

Birthplace: Great Barrington, MA. Training: Indiana University, Cantarella School of Ballet, Berkshire Pulse. Joined Trockadero: September, 2024. Previous companies: Festival Ballet Providence, Newport Contemporary Ballet, Albany Beckshire Ballet.

RAYDEL CACERES.

Birthplace: Pinar del Río, Cuba. Training: Centro pro danza-Laura Alonso. Joined Trockadero: July 2023. Previous companies: California Ballet, Twins City Ballet of MN, Ballet Theater of Maryland, Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami. Silver medal at Festival de Danca, Joinville, Brazil.

ROBERT CARTER.

Birthplace: Charleston, SC. Training: Robert Ivey Ballet School, Joffrey Ballet School. Joined Trockadero: November 1995. Previous companies: Florence Civic Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem Ensemble, Bay Ballet Theater.

MATIAS DOMINGUEZ ESCRIG.

Birthplace: Santiago, Chile. Training: José Espadero Professional Dance Conservatory, Sofia Sancho Dance School, Madrid Dance Center. Joined Trockadero: October 2023. Previous company: International Ballet Festival.

ANDREA FABBRI.

Birthplace: Lugo, Italy. Training: Il Balleto, The HARID Convservatory. Joined Trockadero: October 2023. Previous companies: Los Angeles Ballet, Estonian National Ballet.

LIAM VINCENT HUTT.

Birthplace: Fort Myers, FL Training: UNC School of the Arts. Joined Trockadero: February, 2025. Previous company: Oklahoma City Ballet Studio Company.

SHOHEI IWAHAMA.

Birthplace: Komae-shi, Tokyo, Japan. Training: Sam Houston State University, The Ailey School, Miyako Kato Dance Academy. Joined Trockadero: March 2022. Previous Companies: NobleMotion Dance, James Sewell Ballet, Hope Stone Dance.

FELIX MOLINERO DEL PASO.

Birthplace: Granada, Spain. Training: Hochschule fur Darstellende kunst Frankfurt am Main. Joined Trockadero: August 2019.

TRENT MONTGOMERY.

Birthplace: McGehee, AR. Training: Arkansas Academy of Dance, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Accademiá dell'Arte, Florida State University. Joined Trockadero: August 2021. Previous companies; Arkansas Festival Ballet, Tallahassee Ballet.

SERGIO NAJERA.

Birthplace: México City. Training: Dance School of Mexico City, Joffrey Ballet School, Alonzo King's LINES Ballet. Joined Trockadero: February 2023. Previous companies: Ballet Folklorico De México de Amalia Hernández, Convexus, Contemporary Ballet, FABC, Mexico de Colores.

SALVADOR SASOT SELLART.

Birthplace: Lleida, Spain. Training: Real Conservatorio Profesional de Danza de Madrid Mariemma. Escuela de Ballet Camina Ocaña and Pablo Savoye. Joined Trockadero: August 2019. Previous company: Severočeske Divadlo Opera a Balet.

JAKE SPEAKMAN.

Birthplace: Philadelphia PA. Training: Marymount Manhattan College Joined Trockadero: November 2021. Previous companies: New York Dance Project, New York Theater Ballet.

RAPHAEL SPYKER.

Birthplace: Bahia, Brazil . Training: ABT JKO School; Escola de Dança Alice Arja; Tadheo de Carvalho. Joined Trockadero: November, 2023. Previous companies: Polish National Ballet (Opera Narodowa); State Ballet of Georgia (Tbilis, Georgia); American Ballet Theatre.

TAKAOMI YOSHINO.

Birthplace: Osaka, Japan. Training: Vaganova Ballet Academy, Ellison Ballet. Joined Trockadero: August 2018. Previous company: Atlantic City Ballet.

Program subject to change without notice.



trockadero.org facebook.com/thetrocks Instagram: @lesballetstrockadero

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Music for ballets on the program is conducted by Pierre Michel Durand with the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, Pavel Prantl, Leader

BOOKING INQUIRIES:

Liz Harler
Executive Director
liz@trockadero.org

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