

Cleveland Ballet Is Opening Its New Season



New Image Photography

Cleveland Ballet will begin its 8th season with an open dress rehearsal of a new production of *Swan Lake*

The ingenious work of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky first came to life on stage in 1877. Since then, the ballet has been presented in at least fifty different versions, but no two versions have identical theatrical scores.

Swan Lake is the love story of Prince Siegfried, who, while hunting, encounters a flock of swans on the lake. He falls in love with Odette, the Swan Queen, and swears devotion and undying love to her. Because of the curse by the evil sorcerer Baron Von Rothbart, Odette can only assume human form from midnight to dawn.

A fairy tale known since childhood. In Cleveland, it will feature brand new choreography created by a recipient of an Ohio Governor's Award, Artistic Director of Cleveland Ballet, Gladisa Guadalupe.

Fans of her work are looking forward to enjoying her new creation, but for now, experts and journalists will be able to evaluate it at the preview presentation on September 15, 2022.

This performance will feature the participation of the world-renowned ballerina, artist and choreographer Valentina Kozlova, as an expert.

At the same time, Valentina Kozlova will start her limited assignment as a

choreographer and coach of Cleveland Ballet. Participation of a specialist of such a high level in the preparation of the new *Swan Lake* is a great honor for a ballet company of any country. Being the successor to the work of the great George Balanchine, she will undoubtedly instill an even higher level of professionalism and bring new colors to the work of Cleveland Ballet.

Moreover, seeing the addition of nine new dancers to perform on the Cleveland stage as part of Cleveland Ballet in the new season, we can only admire the work of the company's management, primarily that of the President of Cleveland Ballet, Dr. Michael Krasnyansky, demonstrating powerful growth of the creative base year after year.

The project is sponsored by Key Private Bank Wealth Management and partly by Roe Green and the Roe Green Foundation.

However, as the saying goes, all this is just the preamble. We can only guess and wait to see how the fairy tale will unfold and what turn of events will be presented in the version imagined by Gladisa Guadalupe, who has earned fame as a choreographer with unpredictable imagination. Wait for the premiere. Wait for the start of a new, incredible season.



Valentina Kozlova

The world-renowned dancer, artist and choreographer will give her expert assessment of the new production of *Swan Lake*, and will accompany the performance as a choreographer and coach.

Her biography is akin to that of such great dancers and choreographers as Baryshnikov and Nureyev. Valentina Kozlova was born in Moscow. At the age of seven, she began studying at the children's ballet school, and at the age of nine she was accepted into the ballet school of the Bolshoi Theatre. In 1973, she was invited to join the company of the Bolshoi Theatre. The talented and unusually beautiful dancer was quickly promoted to principal and danced all of the major classical roles.

In 1979, while on tour with the Bolshoi Theatre in Los Angeles, Kozlova and her husband, soloist Leonid Kozlov, decided to stay in the U.S.A. They guest-starred internationally for the next few years, and Kozlova briefly became principal dancer with The Australian Ballet. In 1982, she made her Broadway debut in the revival of *On Your Toes*, featuring George Balanchine's ballet *Slaughter On Tenth Avenue*. At that time, Balanchine asked Kozlova and Kozlov to join his brainchild, the New York City Ballet, where she remained a principal dancer until 1995. In 2003, Kozlova founded the Valentina Kozlova Dance Conservatory in New York, where dancers trained in the traditional Vaganova method.

In 2011, as an experienced juror at international ballet competitions, Kozlova founded her own competition - the Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition.

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