

FAMOUS ACTORS



GALINA ULANOVA

She was born in Saint Petersburg on 8 January 1910. She was a Soviet Russian ballet dancer. She is frequently cited as being one of the greatest 20th Century ballerinas.

She joined the Mariinsky Theatre in 1928. They say that Konstantin Stanislavsky, fascinated with her acting style, implored her to take part in his stage productions. In 1944, when her fame reached Joseph Stalin, he had her transferred to the Bolshoi Theatre, where she would be the *prima ballerina assoluta* for 16 years. The following year, she danced the title role in the world premiere of Sergei Prokofiev's *Cinderella*.

Having retired from the stage at the age of 50, she coached many generations of the Russian dancers.

She died in 1998, aged 88, and is buried in the cemetery of the Novodevichy Convent in Moscow. Monuments to her were erected in Saint Petersburg and Stockholm.





GALINA

VISHNEVSKAYA



She was born on 25 October 1926 in Leningrad and was a Russian soprano opera singer and recitalist. She made her professional stage debut in 1944 singing operetta. After a year studying with Vera Nikolayevna Garina, she won a competition held by the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow in 1952. The next year, she became a member of the Bolshoi Theatre.

The National Theatre in Sarajevo, Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, La Scala applauded her in the 70s. Benjamin Britten wrote the soprano role in his War Requiem (completed 1962) especially for her. She died at the age of 86 on 11 December 2012 in Moscow.





He was born on 30 September 1917 in Yaroslavl. He is a Soviet and Russian stage actor and director associated with the internationally-renowned Taganka Theatre which he founded. He is one of the leading names in the Russian theatre world.

After service in the Soviet Army during the World War II, he joined the Vakhtangov Theatre (founded by Yevgeny Vakhtangov). He started teaching in 1963 and formed the Taganka Theatre the following year. Under him, the theatre rose to become the most popular in Moscow, with Vladimir Vysotsky and Alla Demidova as the leading actors.

In June 2011 he retired from the theatre.

YURI

LYUBIMOV



He was born on 25 January 1938. He was a Soviet singer, songwriter, poet, and actor whose career had an immense and enduring effect on Russian culture. He became widely known for his unique singing style and for his lyrics, which featured social and political commentary in often humorous street jargon.

He was also a prominent stage and screen actor. Though his work was largely ignored by the official Soviet cultural establishment, he achieved remarkable fame during his lifetime, and to this day exerts significant influence on many of Russia's popular musicians and actors who wish to emulate his iconic status.

VLADIMIR VISOTSKY







He was born on May 15 ,1891 in Kiev. He was a Soviet Russian writer and playwright active in the first half of the 20th century. He is best known for his novel *The Master and Margarita*, which has been called one of the masterpieces of the 20th century.

His first book was an almanac of feuilletons called *Future Perspectives*, written and published in 1919.

In December 1919 he moved to Vladikavkaz. He wrote and saw his first two plays, *Self Defence* and *The Turbin Brothers*, being produced for the city theater stage with great success. Some other famous works by him are *The Fatal Eggs* (1924), and *Heart of a Dog* (1925). In the late 1930s he joined the Bolshoi Theatre as a librettist and consultant.

He died on March 10, 1940.

MIKHAIL BULGAKOV





He was born on 13 February 1883 in Vladikavkaz. He was a Russian actor and theatre director who founded the ----- Theatre. He was a friend and mentor of Michael Chekhov. He was educated at Moscow State University for a short time and then joined the Moscow Art Theatre in 1911 and rose in the ranks, so that by 1920 he was in charge of his own theatre studio.

Four years after his death, the studio was named ----- Theatre in his honor. The later part of his career took place at a high point of Russian theatre.

He was greatly influenced both by the theatrical experiments of Vsevolod Meyerhold and the more psychological techniques of his teachers, Konstantin Stanislavski and Leopold Sulerzhitsky, and the co-founder of the MAT Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko.



***EVGENI
VAKHTANGOV***



SERGEI DYAGILEV



He was born on 31 March 1872. He was a Russian art critic, patron, ballet impresario and founder of the Ballets Russes, from which many famous dancers and choreographers would arise. After graduating from Perm gymnasium in 1890, he went to the capital to study law at St. Petersburg University, but ended up also taking classes at the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music, where he studied singing and music. After graduating in 1892 he abandoned his dreams of composition (his professor, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, told him he had no talent for music). He had already entered an influential circle of artists who called themselves the *Mir iskusstva*. In 1905 he mounted a huge exhibition of Russian portrait painting in St Petersburg, having travelled widely through Russia for a year discovering many previously unknown masterpieces of Russian portrait art. In the following year he took a major exhibition of Russian art to the Petit Palais in Paris. It was the beginning of a long involvement with France. In 1907 he presented five concerts of Russian music in Paris, and in 1908 mounted a production of *Boris Godunov*, starring Feodor Chaliapin, at the Paris Opera. This led to an invitation to return the following year with ballet as well as opera, and thus to the launching of his famous Ballets Russes. Diaghilev staged Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* in London in 1921.



He was born on 11 March 1818. He was a French-Russian ballet dancer, teacher and choreographer. He is considered to be the most influential ballet master and choreographer of ballet who has ever lived. His ballets embraced structure and form, bringing harmony and order to the stage. He is noted for his long career as *premier maître de ballet* of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatres, a position he held from 1871 until 1903. He created over fifty ballets.

He died on 14 July 1910 at the age of ninety-two, and was interred three days later in the Alexander Nevsky Monastery in St. Petersburg.

MARIUS PETIPAS





He was born on 30 January 1875. He was one of Konstantin Stanislavsky's best known actors. He led the so-called Kachalov Group within the Moscow Art Theatre. It was he who played Hamlet in the Symbolist production of 1911.

In 1896, he left the law department of Saint Petersburg University in order to pursue an acting career.

After four years of touring the Russian provinces and a brief stint at the Suvorin Theatre, Kachalov made his debut at the Moscow Art Theatre as Tsar Berendey in *The Snow Maiden* (spring 1900). All in all, he took more than 50 roles in Stanislavsky's company. He died on 30 September 1948.

VASIL KACHALOV





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