MOSCOW FESTIVAL BALLET
Artistic Director: Sergei Radchenko

The Moscow Festival Ballet was founded in 1989 when legendary principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet Sergei Radchenko sought to realize his vision of a company which would bring together the highest classical elements of the great Bolshoi and Kirov Ballet companies in an independent new company within the framework of Russian classic ballet.

Leading dancers from across the Russias have forged under Radchenko’s direction an exciting new company staging new productions of timeless classics such as Giselle, Don Quixote, Paquita and Carmen.

Since its inception, the Moscow Festival Ballet has completed two tours of Europe, with extraordinary receptions in Italy, France, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands. Two tours of the United Kingdom, including capacity audiences at London’s famed Coliseum, have resulted in re-engagements during the 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 seasons.

The company has also performed with great success in Turkey at the Istanbul Festival and in Greece at the Athens Festival, and recently completed a two-month tour of Japan, Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong. Under the direction of Sergei Radchenko, the Moscow Festival Ballet continues to expand its repertoire. In addition to commissioning new works from within Russia and abroad, the company specializes in Twentieth Century full-length ballets such as Cinderella, Romeo and Juliet, Legend of Love, Stone Flower and The Golden Age. Mr. Radchenko has researched the original choreography and stage productions of several of Marius Petipa’s classic ballets, including new productions in the year 2000 of Don Quixote and Paquita, and a recreation of Jules Perrot’s and Jean Coralli’s Giselle.

The Moscow Festival Ballet has toured extensively throughout the United States, beginning with a Coast-to-Coast tour in the Winter/Spring of 1997 and returning in 2001 and 2004. During the 2006-2007 season, the company returns to America for a 17-week tour.

SERGEI RADCHENKO
Artistic Director

Born in 1944, Sergei Radchenko graduated from the Moscow School of Dance in 1964 and then joined the Bolshoi Ballet, where he worked for 25 years. He danced the entire repertoire at the Bolshoi, but enjoyed a special reputation for Spanish dance, particularly the role of the bullfighter in the Bizet-Shchedrin Carmen Suite. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the Moscow Festival Ballet and has achieved a remarkable feat in the establishment and development of this young but great Russian ballet company. Mr. Radchenko presents a large number of master-classes, inviting leading teachers from the Bolshoi and Maryinsky theatres to ensure the continuation of the rich traditions of the Russian classical school.
**SWAN LAKE**

**ACT I**

*Scene 1*

On the terrace of a castle there is a grand party – Prince Siegfried is celebrating his coming of age. Friends congratulate him as a court jester amuses the guests. When Siegfried’s mother, the Queen, arrives the party cannot help but take notice. She presents her son with an arbalest as a gift and reminds him that the time has come to choose a bride and be married and that he must make the fateful decision at tomorrow’s ball.

As the sun begins to set, the guests begin to filter out, leaving the Prince in solitary thought. He is eager to contemplate this life change in silence. As he begins to search the contents of his heart he notices a flight of white swans heading toward the nearby lake. He is inspired and follows them there, disappearing into the night.

*Scene 2*

The voyage to the lake takes the Prince into the depths of the forest. He approaches the Swans quietly and as he nears he sees something quite out of the ordinary. The swans have stepped ashore and assumed human form! Siegfried lowers the crossbow, astonished with their striking beauty. He gathers his courage and reveals himself. Odette, the swan’s Queen tells him of their terrible curse. They are all at the mercy of the wicked magician Rotbart and only by finding true love can the evil spell be lifted. Siegfried, overcome with love at first sight, swears to her an everlasting love. This exchange has taken all night and as the sun begins to dawn, Odette warns him that if he breaks his oath, nothing will be able to help them. The women transform back into swans as the sunlight touches them and they begin swimming along the lakes. In a bittersweet embrace, Odette bids farewell to Siegfried, her love and savior.

**ACT II**

*Scene 3*

The castle is again full of guests as the Ball begins. Astonishing beauties from all over the world are introduced to the prince, yet none seem to attract his attention. He truly loves only Odette and no other can stray his eye. For his mother’s sake he keeps up his princely façade and is courteous and charming with each young lady invited to the Ball. With an overwhelming blare of trumpets, a couple of new guests are announced. The evil sorcerer, Rotbart, enters in the guise of a noble knight and following close behind is his daughter, Odylle, who looks remarkably like Odette. The similarity is so close, in fact, that Siegfried believes, if only for a split second, that it is Odette standing there before him. Odylle seizes the brief moment of illusion as an opportunity and will not allow him to find his senses. She becomes a bewitching temptress, luring him, hypnotizing him, and tricking him into confessing his undying love to her! In this hypnotic stupor, he proclaims that Odylle is to be his bride. Rotbard has triumphed! Siegfried has broken his oath to Odette, betraying her by professing love to another, thereby dooming Odette and the others to an eternity under Rotbart’s evil power. Suddenly a vision of the swan lake appears before Siegfried’s eyes, snapping him back into reality! He realizes the terrible mistake he has made and that he was the victim of deceit and trickery! He immediately hurries into the forest, to the lake, to Odette.

**ACT III**

*Scene 4*

In the darkness on the lakeshore, Odette sadly retells the tale of Rotbart’s craftiness. Siegfried had betrayed them all by no fault of his own. When the Prince appears, he is desperate and manic. He begs all of their forgiveness and promises to redeem himself in any way he can. From what seems like out of nowhere, Rotbart appears, furious! Siegfried immediately challenges him to a single duel. Rotbart agrees and they fight! After many a close call, Siegfried defeats the dark wizard freeing the women from their swan prisons! The curse is undone and the beams of the rising sun bring life, love and happiness.