University of Florida Performing Arts

presents

A Columbia Artists production

St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre

Yuri Petukhov, Artistic Director
National Artist of Russia

in

Carmen

Performance in four acts
After Proper Mérimée’s Novella

Music by Georges Bizet
Choreography and libretto by Yuri Petukhov

Thursday, February 28, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by

THE Alan and Carol Siegel ENDOWMENT

COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT, INC.
Producer: Andrew S. Grossman
Associate: W. Seton Ijams
1790 Broadway, 16th Floor, New York, NY, 10019

Company Manager: Michel Schaller
Production Stage Manager: David Cauley
PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS
Don José.................................................................Vladimir Dorokin, Ivan Zaytsev
Carmen ........................................................................... Alisa Sveshnikova, Anastasia Lyubomodrova
Michaela ............................................................. Maria Yakshanova, Elena Grineva, Yulia Prosyannikova
Garcia ............................................................................................... Marksim Tkachenko, Nurgan Kulabaev
Escamillo .............................................................................. Sergey Davydov, Pavel Iakovlev
Officer ................................................................................. Alexei Petrov, Philipp Parkhachev
Young Man .............................................................................. Alexander Abaturov, Mikhail Anisimov
Picadors .................................................................................. Egor Ivanov, Mikhail Anisimov
Contrabandists,
Four Monks ...... Aliaksandr Ivanov, Arseniy Islamov, Philipp Parkhachev, Pavel Iakovlev

SOLOISTS
Natalia Astashina
Ulia Belavina
Irina Cheprasova
Natalia Iniushkina
Olesya Kukharuk
Liudmila Mizinova
Elena Podymova
Anna Sergeeva
Igor Tint
Alexandra Badina
Anna Borodulina
Yliya Ilyina
Anastasia Isaeva
Shakir Magusev
Egor Motuzov
Irina Popova
Svetlana Smirnova
Anna Terentyeva

Vasily Baldin
Alexander Burov
Nadezda Gorchakova
Ekaterina Khomenko
Yry Mirov
Sergey Nikiforov
Anna Samostrelova
Anastasia Shmakova
PROGRAM

Act I
Soldiers and townspeople mill around in a square in Seville. A young peasant girl, Michaella, asks the soldiers if they have seen her sweetheart, Don José. Telling her he’ll be back soon, they try to persuade her to stay with them, but she declines. The relief soldiers, including Don José, arrive. Factory bells ring and a group of cigarette girls emerges from the factory where they work, including the popular gypsy beauty, Carmen. She focuses her attention on Don José, who pretends not to notice. Before leaving she seductively tosses a flower at him. Alone, Don José recovers the flower and reflects on Carmen’s charms. Michaella finds him and delivers both a letter and a chaste kiss from his mother, who asks her son to marry Michaella. Don José promises his love and fidelity to Michaella, despite the temptations of Carmen. A ruckus erupts from the cigarette factory. Carmen has injured another woman, and the officer Zuniga commands Don José to jail Carmen. But Don José succumbs to her charms. He agrees to rendezvous and lets Carmen escape.

Act II
At Lillas Pastia’s inn, Carmen and her friends Frasquita and Mercedes consort with Zuniga and other soldiers. A group of revelers arrives, celebrating Escamilio, the illustrious bullfighter. The crowd cheers as Escamilio boasts of his victories. He notices Carmen, but she remains indifferent. Zuniga, also smitten, tells Carmen that he plans to return to the inn later to visit her. When the crowd disperses, the smugglers Remendado and Dancairo try to enlist the aid of Carmen, Frasquita and Mercedes. Mercedes and Frasquita agree to help them smuggle contraband, but Carmen, expecting Don José, wants to stay at the inn. Don José arrives, and Carmen dances for him. But distant bugles signal him to return to his quarters and he prepares to leave. Carmen mocks his obedience and encourages him to run away with her and lead the free gypsy life. Don José remains unconvinced until Zuniga returns to the inn seeking Carmen. In a jealous rage, Don José defies his officer’s orders to leave. As the smugglers pounce on Zuniga and escort him out of the inn, Don José has no choice but to remain with the gypsies.

Act III
At the mountain hideout of the smugglers, Don José longs for his mother, who still believes him an honest man. Carmen taunts him and urges him to leave, but he refuses. Frasquita and Mercedes tell their fortunes with a deck of cards. When Carmen takes her turn, the cards foretell death for her and Don José. The gypsies set off to smuggle contraband, leaving Don José behind to guard the camp. Michaella arrives at the mountain hideout searching for Don José and hides among the rocks. Escamilio approaches the camp looking for Carmen. He and Don José exchange words and begin to fight. But the smugglers return in time to stop Don José from wounding Escamilio, who invites them all to the bullfight in Seville. Her hiding place discovered, Michaella begs Don José to return home to his mother, who is dying. Despite his violent jealousy, Don José leaves with Michaella.

Act IV
At the bullfight, a crowd gathers to watch the procession of toreadors. Escamilio and Carmen arrive together. Mercedes and Frasquita warn Carmen that Don José is lurking about. Carmen, unafraid, waits alone for Don José. He approaches and begs her to leave with him. She insists that their affair is over, that she does not love him anymore, and that she now loves Escamilio. As Don José’s demands become more desperate, Carmen throws at him the ring he once gave her. Don José murders Carmen, while the crowd inside the bullring cheers Escamilio.
BIOGRAPHIES

St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre

The St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre occupies a very special place among the ballet theaters of the world. The younger brother of the Kirov (Mariinsky) and the Bolshoi Ballet theaters, the St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre was born more than 40 years ago. One of the most distinguished Classical companies in Russia (where the city of St. Petersburg is considered to be the birthplace of Russian Classical Ballet) it is also one of the few ballet companies in Russia that has been given the honor and the same highest official status by the Russian government as “State and Academic Ballet” along with the Kirov and the Bolshoi State and Academic Ballet theaters.

The St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre company regularly gives performances to packed audiences not only in its hometown and on the stages of the prestigious Mariinsky and the Hermitage theaters, but in Moscow and in many other cities throughout the country. They have also toured to more than 50 countries with great success to sold-out audiences. When the company performed in the famous Pompidou Center in Paris, Le Parisian Libere observed that, “Its fame does not seem to be exaggerated. The revelation of this choreographic treasury is one of the most important recent events in the Art of Dance.”

Nearly all of the company’s teachers, coaches and dancers have studied and graduated from the revered Vaganova Ballet Academy which has produced the greatest ballet artists of all time. This ballet academy, highly esteemed both nationally and internationally, ensured that the carefully selected students were given every opportunity to develop their own potential and bring acclaim to the country. Every dancer in the company has received the finest balletic training in the world. The art, therefore, this company is bringing to its audiences is rooted in the great events that evolved on the stage of the Mariinsky Imperial Theatre — the Kirov Ballet — and is closely connected with the founding and opening of the world-famous Russian School of Classical Dance. In this theater, all ballet artists demonstrate the rare combination of technical excellence and nobility of style. Their performing art is distinguished with utmost expressiveness and provides a unique opportunity to experience the richness and variety of Russian ballet at its best.

The St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre, founded in 1966, was the first “Theatre of Ballet” of its kind in Russia under the management of the famous artist of the old Kirov, Professor Peter Gusev. In 1969, the post of Artistic Director and Manager was occupied by the prominent choreographer, outstanding ballet master, and Honored Artist of Russia Leonid Jacobson. Since then the company has become one of Russia’s most internationally toured ballet ensembles, dancing a wide range of Classical and Modern ballet repertoire.

Like Mikhail Fokin, the famous Russian choreographer and reformer of the ballet, Jacobson demonstrated a mastery of different epochs and theater styles, producing numerous imaginative original ballets called “miniatures” to a wide variety of themes, from ancient monuments to Romantic ballets and finally to spontaneous expressiveness. For the performances of his miniatures, Jacobson wished to have a company in which any of the 55 actors could become a soloist. The choreographer himself said about these artists, “All of them are real, profound and very subtle professionals. They are masters of different styles. Just dancing, even good dancing, does not automatically lead to communication. Thousands of people finish ballet schools and dance brilliantly, but very few speak to the audience through the language of dance. Our artists can.”

In 1976, according to Leonid Jacobson’s will, his close friend and favorite dancer, Askold Makarov, star of the Kirov Ballet, Honored Professor of the Arts and Ballet, and People’s Artist of Russia, became his successor as Artistic Director and Chairman of this prestigious ballet theater.

Mr. Makarov preserved Jacobson’s principle of competition for choreographers and the selection of true artists. During his 22 years, more than 17 ballet masters known throughout
the world worked with the company’s ballet artists. The list of choreographers active after Jacobson is unusually long for any of Russia’s ballet theaters, and it includes not only the great talents of choreography, but beginners and experienced masters, traditionalists and innovators, dance creators and drama supporters as well.

Yuri Grigorovich, the great Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet, said about this company, “Today Makarov’s theatre occupies the first and best place among those who represent the contemporary ballet in Russia. All the dancers are not just highly technically trained, but also have the great academic knowledge characteristic of true artists — most important, all of them can speak the language of choreography.”

Current Artistic Director Yuri Petukhov continues this tradition with successful performances at home and abroad.

**Yuri Petukhov, Artistic Director**

Artistic Director of the St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre, People’s Artist of Russia, State Prize Laureate of Russia, and Laureate to International Ballet competitions, Yuri Petukhov was born on November 6, 1953.


Possessing the gift of transformation, which allows him to create the contrast and the emotional images, and masterly technique of Classical dance have ensured to him all the leading roles of both the Classical and Modern choreographic repertoires. He performed the following leading roles: Albert (*Giselle*), Siegfried (*Swan Lake*), Kolen; Peter (*Halt of Cavalry*), Boris (*King Boris*), Podkolesin (*Marriage*), Grigoryi (*Silent Don*), Foreman (*Foreman and Margarita*), Snake-charmer (*Kleopatra*), Vision of a Rose (*Vision of a Rose*), Basil,
Desiree, and Prince (Nutcracker); Romeo, Mercutio and Benvolio (Romeo and Juliet), and Orpheus (Orpheus and Euridice).

Being one of the most interesting performers of Modern choreography he continues to create new works as well. After graduating in 1989 from the Leningrad Conservatory as a ballet master, he has staged ballets on the stages of many theaters: Fly Cranes (1985, Maly Theatre); Don Quixote (1987, Estonia); White Knight (Maly Theatre); Carmen (Valencia); Cinderella and The Nutcracker (Tokyo); and the small ballets Picture, Drama Three and many others.

Yuri Petukhov has received first prize for best choreography and three first prizes as a ballet master from international competitions throughout Russia and abroad.