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**EIFMAN BALLET OF ST. PETERSBURG RETURNS TO THE AUDITORIUM WITH
AMERICAN PREMIERE OF “UP & DOWN” MAY 8 – 10, 2015**

Choreographer Boris Eifman Brings His “Psychological Ballet” to Life with Music by
George Gershwin, Alban Berg and Franz Schubert

CHICAGO — Returning to the [Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University](#) after their critically acclaimed production of “Rodin” in 2013, the [Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg](#) brings the American premiere of “**Up & Down**” to the landmark stage May 8 – 10, 2015.

Choreographer **Boris Eifman** uses the intoxicating jazz music of **George Gershwin, Alban Berg** and **Franz Schubert** to bring his newest “psychological ballet” to life. Tickets (\$30 – \$95) are on sale now and available online at [AuditoriumTheatre.org](#), by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy).

“Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg is a company that embodies the Auditorium’s mission to present innovative, diverse and passionate work, and we are thrilled to have them return to Chicago for another incredible performance,” said Auditorium Theatre Executive Director **Brett Batterson**. “Boris Eifman creates such beautiful yet realistic pictures on the stage and it’s an honor to have this critically-acclaimed company bring the American premiere of ‘Up & Down’ to our landmark theatre.”

Famous for his unique story ballets, Eifman’s newest work is set to the jazz music of Gershwin, Berg and Schubert, and follows the story of a young psychiatrist slowly driven to madness after being swept up in the money-fueled glamour of a socialite romance in the 1920s. Defying the boundaries of classic ballet, Eifman brings an entirely new approach to storytelling through dance. His “psychological ballet” allows him to combine dramatic stagecraft, exquisite technique and powerful dramatic interpretation that can be seen in this innovative ballet. Hailed by the Los Angeles Times, “Of the ballet choreographers making narrative works for major stages, Russian romantic Boris Eifman is virtually the only one totally in touch with the 21st century.”

“After many successful engagements at the Auditorium Theatre since we started performing there in 2000, I am eager to bring Chicago audiences into the newly created world of ‘Up & Down,’ filled with luxury, lust, passion and greed,” said **Eifman**. “This ballet is both a tragic and bright chronicle of a person’s spiritual death—the story about how a dream of happiness turns into a disaster, and an externally beautiful and carefree life flowing to the rhythms of jazz, into a nightmare. I want audiences to feel all of the emotions of these characters and become just as immersed in the characters’ lives as the dancers are.”

Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg's American Premiere of "Up & Down" at the Auditorium Theatre
May 8 – 10, 2015
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Eifman's newest ballet comes to life as Set Designer **Zinovy Margolin** transforms the Auditorium Stage into a kingdom of luxury, set in the American Jazz-Age. **Olga Shaishmelashvili** offers a striking visual spectacle through her costumes while **Gleb Filshinsky's** and Eifman's lighting design creates stark contrast between romance and passion infused with greed and madness.

*The International Dance Series is sponsored by the **NIB Foundation**.*

*The Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg's "Up & Down" is made possible through the support of **Friends of Boris Eifman**.*

Program Schedule and Ticket Information

Friday, May 8 | 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 9 | 7:30 pm

Sunday, May 10 | 3:00 pm

Tickets (\$30 – \$95) are available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or in-person at Auditorium Theatre's Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy). Discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more are available at (312) 341-2357 or sales@auditoriumtheatre.org.

Auditorium Theatre's 2014 – 15 Season

The Auditorium Theatre 2014 – 15 Season also includes [Lila Downs](#) (May 6); [Chicago Rhythm Fest](#) (May 13); ["His Way - A Sinatra Centennial Celebration"](#) (May 30); [A.R. Rahman](#) (May 31); [The Royal Ballet's "Don Quixote"](#) (June 18 – 21); and [Jake Shimabukuro with The City Lights Orchestra](#) (June 24). For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click [here](#).

125th Anniversary Season Sponsors

The Auditorium Theatre would like to thank their 125th Anniversary Season Sponsors: Lead Corporate Sponsor **Nicor Gas**, Lead Foundation Sponsor **Robert R. McCormick Foundation** and **David D. Hiller**, International Dance Series Sponsor **NIB Foundation**, and "Made in Chicago" Dance Series sponsor **The Boeing Company**. Media sponsors include **Chicago Magazine** and **WXRT**, and the **Pasquinelli Family Foundation** is the Gala Dinner Celebration Sponsor. Student Matinee Series Sponsors for the 2014 – 15 Season include **The Private Bank** and **The Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation**.

About the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, located at 50 E. Congress Pkwy, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community and educational programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre. In September of 2014, the Auditorium Theatre was awarded the inaugural **Fifth Star Award** by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. On December 9, 2014, the Auditorium Theatre celebrated its 125th Birthday with a proclamation from the City of Chicago

declaring it "**Auditorium Theatre Day.**" For the first time in over 50 years, the **NFL Draft** returns to Chicago and will take place at the Auditorium Theatre April 30 – May 2.

The Auditorium Theatre is generously supported by the **MacArthur Foundation**, the **Illinois Arts Council**, the **Sage Foundation**, and the **Palmer House Hilton**. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call (312) 341-2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org.

About Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg Eifman Ballet, originally named the Leningrad New Ballet, was established by Boris Eifman in 1977. The concept of the New Ballet was innovative for its time, conceived and developed as an experimental laboratory, a ballet theatre for one choreographer.

The company's first performances including "Two-Voice" and "Boomerang" brought success and stirred intense interest of the audience, while also causing ballet critics to begin arguing about new tendencies in the Russian ballet. Advocates of the traditional ballet school were rather reluctant to acknowledge the young choreographer's authority. Eifman's novelty in how he chose literary basis and music for his ballets; furthermore, the audacity of the body movement vocabulary secured for him the reputation of "a choreographic dissident".

In late 70s, early 80s, Eifman introduced more and more new ballets based on the world classical literature to the company's repertoire including "The Duel," "The Idiot," "The Mad March Day or the Marriage of Figaro," "The Legend," "The Twelfth Night," "Master and Margarita," "Murderers" and more.

Today St. Petersburg Eifman Ballet is renowned among ballet lovers in Asia, Europe, the Americas and in Australia for such ballets as "Tchaikovsky," "Red Giselle," "Russian Hamlet," "Anna Karenina," "The Seagull," "Onegin," "Rodin," "Beyond Sin" and "Requiem."

Eifman's endeavor to engage his spectators in the infinite world of human passions, to form a spiritual liaison with the audience, to amaze viewers by the brilliance and dynamism of his plastique—has ensured decades of success for Eifman Ballet's performances at leading venues around the globe. Eifman is a philosopher choreographer. He is earnestly concerned with the problems of today, with the secrets of creativity. The choreographer speaks openly with his audience about the complicated and dramatic aspects of human life; he defines his genre as "psychological ballet". The New York Times calls Boris Eifman the leader among living choreographers: "The ballet world in search of a major choreographer need search no more. He is Boris Eifman."

Forming an original ballet repertoire of modern Russia based upon the rich traditions of Russian psychological theatre, along with searching for and developing new forms of choreography of the XXI century are among the key priorities within the artistic mission of Boris Eifman and his brilliant company.

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