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The Cherry Orchard

BAM Harvey Theater

Feb 17—20, 23—27 at 7:30pm; Feb 21 at 3pm

Running time: approx. three hours including intermission

By Anton Chekhov
Maly Drama Theatre of
St. Petersburg, Russia
Directed and adapted by Lev Dodin

Design by **Aleksander Borovsky**
Lighting design by **Damir Ismagilov**

Season Sponsor:

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The Cherry Orchard.*

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DANNA ABYZOVA



ELIZAVETA BOIARSKAIA



IGOR CHERNEVICH



ANDREI KONDRATIEV



DANILO KOZLOVSKIY



SERGEI KURYSHEV



STANISLAV NIKOLSKII



KSENIA RAPPOPORT



OLEG RYAZANTSEV



TATIANA SHESTAKOVA



SERGEI VLASOV



ARINA VON RIBBEN

CAST

Lyubov Ranevskaya, a landowner	Ksenia Rappoport
Anya, her daughter	Danna Abyzova
Varya, her adopted daughter	Elizaveta Boiarskaia
Leonid Gayev, her brother	Igor Chernevich, Sergei Vlasov (alternating)
Yermolai Lopakhin, a merchant	Danila Kozlovskiy
Petr Trofimov, a student	Oleg Ryazantsev
Charlotta, a governess	Tatiana Shestakova
Semen Yepikhodov, a clerk	Andrei Kondratiev
Dunyasha, a housemaid	Arina Von Ribben
Firs, a manservant	Sergei Kuryshv
Yasha, young manservant	Stanislav Nikolskii

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Camera man **Alisher Hamidhodgaev**
Music by **Gilles Thibaut, Paul Misraki, Johann Strauss**
Technical manager **Alexander Pulinets**
Stage manager **Natalia Sollogub**
Musical coordination **Mikhail Alexandrov**
Pianists **Ksenia Vasilieva, Elena Lapina**
Artistic collaboration **Valery Galendeev**
Artistic coordinator **Dina Dodina**

Thanks to **Francine Yorke**, London, for the titles.

The theater thanks for their help and hospitality:

Kerstin Hintz, first chairman of “Recognizing Altes Land as a Part of UNESCO World Heritage” society, Mittelnkirchen, Germany
Friends of the theater **Brigitte van Kann** and **Helmut Butzmann**, Hamburg
Moritz Widmann and **CINECENTRUM Company**, Hamburg
House Museum of Anton Chekhov, Ialta

Production: **Maly Drama Theatre—Theatre of Europe, St. Petersburg**, Russia, 2014
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Principal Sponsor of **Maly Drama Theatre—Théâtre de l'Europe: KINEF**
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If we are to believe history, no other play gave Chekhov so much trouble as his last, *The Cherry Orchard*. You can see this clearly when you read his letters—they were veritable laments. He had an idea that it was not he himself who was guiding his hand across the blank pages, that he wasn't succeeding in putting down what he wanted to write, but that for reasons unknown to him something was writing the play totally of its own accord, without him being able to do anything about it.

Chekhov had promised everyone that he was going to write a very funny comedy, but his play grew more and more somber by the day. He had promised his wife, the actress Olga Knipper, a comical role, but he sketched a frail, sophisticated woman who always felt guilty about everything and at the same time always wanted to have her own way.

Chekhov wanted to describe a man who shapes history with his own callused hands, uncompromisingly, even with cruelty, but also justly in a certain sense. And at the same time, it is clear that he himself was also a victim of that history—a cruel, passionate victim, full of anger and love.

No matter what he wrote, Chekhov always wrote first about himself, looking around with an ironic eye. Although he may not have always wanted us to laugh at his characters, he did want us to smile at them. Yet under his pen, all of the characters are impregnated with the immense compassion of the author, his tenderness, his love, and his understanding.

After the premiere in the Moscow Arts Theatre (January 17, 1904) in the staging of Stanislavski (Aleksiev) and Nemirovitch-Dantchenko, Chekhov grumbled: "He spoiled my play, Aleksiev did." But one could almost hear the author say at the same time, "He spoiled my play, Chekhov did."

The Cherry Orchard is the most performed play Chekhov ever wrote, but over time people have realized that it is one of the greatest comedies in theater. Even though it is not a comedy that makes us laugh, that amuses and entertains us, it is a great comedy such as life inflicts upon us every day—the Comedy of History in which we are the characters. And in which life becomes part of the history. From the historic point of view Chekhov's last play is the most realistic of them all. It is both a historical chronicle and a prophetic vision. It is hard to comprehend how Chekhov could have anticipated with such strong intuition and precisely 14 years in advance what was going to happen to Russia and to the world—only 14 years left to go, but 14 years nonetheless. And perhaps not only what was going to happen, but what is still happening in Russia and in the world to this day.

So as historical criticism, this play always remains topical. It has become a kind of myth about the unpredictability of history and simultaneously about its predictability, about people's lack of power over their lives and fate, but also about their amazing strength and responsibility in terms of that life and fate, about their capacity to protect themselves and remain true to themselves—despite everything.

Yes, it was undoubtedly not Anton Chekhov but the Chekhovian Genius incarnate that guided his hand as word after word of *The Cherry Orchard's* magical text appeared on the pages of the manuscript.

—Lev Dodin



MALY DRAMA THEATRE

The Maly Drama Theatre was founded in St. Petersburg in 1944, a time when many theaters were evacuated from the city. Founded by the Regional Executive Committee, the small company performed in the region's towns and villages, although it was little known in St. Petersburg. Efim Padve became chief director in 1973. He asked renowned playwrights as well as younger directors to work with the company, including Lev Dodin. Dodin first staged *The Robber* (by Karel Chapek) in 1975 at the Maly Drama Theatre. In 1983, Dodin became artistic director. Currently, the MDT is regarded as one of the top Russian theaters and has garnered worldwide acclaim for its inventive productions. Dodin's laureled staging of Fedor Abramov's *Brothers and Sisters* was presented in the 2000 Lincoln Center Festival, and his production of *Life and Fate* premiered in 2007 in Paris. A group including the company's actors and Dodin's final year students were able to conduct rehearsals at Auschwitz and in the former Soviet Union's gulag country, located in northern Russia. The Maly Drama Theatre has 58 actors and participates in leading cultural festivals internationally, in addition to giving regular performances in St. Petersburg.

LEV DODIN (director) was born in 1944 in Siberia, where his mother was evacuated during the war. As a youth, he studied theater at the Leningrad Young Artists' Theatre. After high school graduation, he attended Leningrad Theatre Institute, studying with Boris Zon, a student of Stanislavsky. Dodin's directorial debut was in 1966 with a telecast of *First Love* based on the story by Ivan Turgenev, followed by dozens of shows at theaters in St. Petersburg, Moscow, and internationally. They included *It's a Family Affair—We'll Settle It Ourselves*, *Rosa Berndt*, *The Mirror*, *The Golovlev Family*, *A Gentle Creature*, and *Bankrupt*. Opera productions he directed include *Elektra* for the Salzburg Festival, *Mazepa* at Milan's La Scala, *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* for Florence's May Festival, *The Demon* at Paris' Châtelet, *The Queen of Spades* (Amsterdam, Florence, Paris, Moscow), and *Chovanshina* at the Vienna State Opera. The first work he

directed for the Maly Drama Theatre was Karel Capek's *The Robber* in 1974, then Abramov's *The House* in 1980. Since becoming Maly's artistic director in 1983, his works include *Brothers and Sisters*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Gaudeamus*, *The Possessed*, *Stars in the Morning Sky*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *The Cherry Orchard* (1994), *Chevengur*, *Claustrophobia*, *King Lear*, *A Play with No Name*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Life and Fate*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Three Sisters*, *Portrait with the Rain*, *Love and Intrigue*, *An Enemy of the People*, and *The Cherry Orchard* (2014). In 1967, Dodin began to teach acting and directing. He is a professor at the St. Petersburg Academy of Theatrical Arts and chair of the directing department. He has taught several generations of actors and directors; many are currently associated with the Maly Drama Theatre. Dodin's productions have garnered international laurels, including the state prizes of Russia and the USSR, the Triumph Independent Prize, Golden Mask National Awards, and a Laurence Olivier Award. He received the European Theatre Award (2000) and the Russian Presidential Award (2001). He is the Honorary President of the Union of European Theatres.

ALEKSANDER BOROVSKY (set designer) was born in Kiev in 1960, and in 1983 graduated from the production department of the Moscow Art Theatre School. Throughout his career he has designed more than 100 productions in the most famous Russian theaters—Sovremennik Theatre, Oleg Tabakov's Theatre, Mayakovsky Theatre, Satira Theatre, Moscow Art Theatre, Malaya Bronnaya Theatre, Satirikon Theatre, Stanislavsky Theatre, Maly Theatre, Maly Drama Theatre, Alexandrinsky Theatre, and the Bolshoi Theatre, among others. As a set designer Borovsky has worked in many theaters in Finland, Bulgaria, the US, Denmark, Austria, and other countries. Borovsky is a repeat winner of the Golden Mask National Theatre Award for Best Designer in Drama. He has won the Stanislavsky Award and many other theater awards, is an Honored Artist of the Russian Federation, and won the State Prize of the Russian Federation. Borovsky works as a

designer-in-chief for the Theatre Art Studio, Oleg Tabakov's Theatre, Theatre Meyerhold Centre, and Moscow Art Theatre. He began working with Lev Dodin in 2007 on the performance of *Love's Labour's Lost*. This collaboration has since thrived, including *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (2008), *Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur* (2009), *Portrait in the Rain* (2011), *Love and Intrigue* (2012), *An Enemy of the People* (2013), and *The Cherry Orchard* (2014) at Maly Drama Theatre. He designed *Chovanshina* at the Vienna State Opera directed by Lev Dodin.

DAMIR ISMAGILOV (lighting designer), born in Moscow in 1959, in 1987 graduated from the production department of the Moscow Art Theatre School. He has worked with Moscow Art Theatre since 1977 (since 1987 as chief lighting designer) and has designed about 90 productions there. Since 1996 Ismagilov has worked for the Bolshoi Theatre (since 2002 as the chief lighting designer). He has contributed to productions in leading Russian theaters such as Mariinsky Theatre, Oleg Tabakov's Theatre, Maly Theatre, and others. He has designed more than 350 productions. Since 2000 Ismagilov has taught at Moscow Art Theatre School as the chair of creating external forms in a theater production. He published a book entitled *Theatre Lighting* (2005) with E. Drevalova, and was named an Honored Art Worker of the Russian Federation. Ismagilov is chief lighting designer at Theatre Art Studio, Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow Art Theatre, Novosibirsk Theatre of Opera and Ballet, and Gelikon Opera. He is also vice chairman of the Russian Association of Lighting Designers. With Lev Dodin and Alexander Borovsky, Ismagilov has designed such productions as *Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur* (2009), *Love and Intrigue* (2012), *An Enemy of the People* (2013), and *The Cherry Orchard* (2014) at Maly Drama Theatre. He designed the lighting for *Chovanshina* at Vienna State Opera directed by Lev Dodin.

DANNA ABYZOVA (Anya) was born in Riga (Latvia). In 2012 she graduated from the St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy (Prof. Krassovsky's class) and since 2012 has acted with Maly Drama Theatre, playing Girl in *The*

Purification, Rachelka in *Our Class*, a sister-mermaid in *The Little Mermaid*, Vera in *Russian and Literature*, Tatiana in *Gaudeamus*, Perdita in *Winter's Tale*, Maria Netesova in *Brothers and Sisters*, and Anya in *The Cherry Orchard*.

ELIZAVETA BOIARSKAIA (Varya) was born in Leningrad and graduated from St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy (Lev Dodin's class) in 2007. She joined Maly Drama Theatre in 2006 and plays Goneril in *King Lear*, Zhenya in *Life and Fate*, Rosaline in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Irina and Masha in *Three Sisters*, Louise in *Love and Intrigue*, and Varya in *The Cherry Orchard*. Boiarskaia is a winner of the Golden Sofit Award (2006) for the role of Goneril in the production of *King Lear*, the Triumph Independent Prize, and the Stanislavsky Award. She has starred in films in Russia and internationally.

IGOR CHERNEVICH (Gaev) was born in Orsha, Belarus in 1966. In 1989 he graduated from the Leningrad State Institute of Theatre Music and Cinematography (Lev Dodin's class). The same year he joined the company of the Maly Drama Theatre. He plays Shigalev in *The Devils*, Osip in *A Play Without a Title*, Piyusya in *Chevengur*, Jean in *Miss Julie*, Charles in *The Long Christmas Dinner*, Zilov in *Duck Hunting*, Barkhatov and Kovchenko in *Life and Fate*, Donal Davoren in *The Shadow of a Gunman*, Duke of Cornwall in *King Lear*, Soleniy and Vershinin in *Three Sisters*, Wurm in *Love and Intrigue*, and Gaev in *The Cherry Orchard*.

ANDREI KONDRATIEV (Yepikhodov) was born in Cheremnovka, Omsk Region in 1990. In 2012 he graduated from the St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy (Prof. Krassovsky's class). Since 2014 he has acted with the Maly Drama Theatre, playing Sam in *Lord of the Flies*, the officer in *Life and Fate*, Beloshitsiy in *Gaudeamus*, Netesov in *Brothers and Sisters*, and Epihodov in *The Cherry Orchard*.

DANILO KOZLOVSKIY (Lopakhin) was born in Moscow in 1985. In 2002 he graduated from the Kronstadt Naval Cadet Corps, and in 2007 he graduated from the St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy (Lev Dodin's class). Since





2005 he has been a member of Maly Drama Theatre, playing Edgar in *King Lear*, Novikov in *Life and Fate*, Viktor in *Warsaw Melody*, Ferdinand in *Love and Intrigue*, and Lopahin in *The Cherry Orchard*. He is a winner of the 2006 Golden Sofit Award, the Stanislavsky Award, and the Golden Eagle film award. Kozlovskiy has starred in films in Russia and internationally.

SERGEI KURYSHEV (Firs) was born in the town of Katta-Kurgan in 1963. He graduated from the Leningrad State Institute of Theatre Music and Cinematography (Lev Dodin's class) in 1989. Starting in 1989 he collaborated with the company and joined Maly Drama Theatre in 1992. A People's Artist of Russia (2015). He plays Kirillov in *The Devils*, Kopenkin in *Chevangur*, Frank Sweeney in *Molly Sweeney*, Voinitsky in *Uncle Vanya*, Earl of Gloucester in *King Lear*, Viktor Shtrum in *Life and Fate*, Edmund Tyrone in *Long Day's Journey into Night*, Tuzenback and Chebutikin in *Three Sisters*, Miller in *Love and Intrigue*, Thomas Stockman in *An Enemy of the People*, and Epihodov and Firs in *The Cherry Orchard*. He is a winner of the 1998 Golden Sofit Award, a 2004 Golden Mask Award for the role of Voinitsky in *Uncle Vanya*, and a winner of the Stanislavsky Award.

STANISLAV NIKOLSKII (Yasha) was born in Leningrad in 1981, and in 2004 graduated from the St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy (B. Pazi's class). From 2002 to 2007 he worked at the St. Petersburg Lensovet Theatre. He joined the Maly Drama Theatre in 2007, and has played Vershkov in *Life and Fate*, Edgar in *King Lear*, Simon in *Lord of the Flies*, Ganichev in *Brothers and Sisters*, Blunchly in *Chocolate Soldier*, Roderick in *The Long Christmas Dinner*, Chief of Security in *Love and Intrigue*, Shamshiev in *Gaudeamus*, Rode and Soleniy in *Three Sisters*, and Yasha in *The Cherry Orchard*.

KSENIA RAPPOPORT (Ranevskaya) was born in Leningrad and graduated in 2000 from the St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy (V. Filshinsky's class). She was immediately invited to join the company of Maly Drama Theatre. She was named a People's Artist of Russia (2015).

Roles include Elena in *Uncle Vanya*, Lady Milford in *Love and Intrigue*, and Ranyevskaya in *The Cherry Orchard*. She is a winner of the Triumph Independent Prize, Golden Sofit theater prize, Stanislavsky Award, the Italian film award David di Donallo, and the Volpi Cup award at the Venice Film Festival. She has starred extensively in movies in Russia and internationally, and is a member of the guardianship board of the Russian charity foundation Children of Bella.

OLEG RYAZANTSEV (Trofimov) was born in Tallinn in 1980. He graduated from the St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy (A. Andreyev's class). Since 2006 he has acted with Maly Drama Theatre as Gopner in *Chevangur*, Ikonnikov and Sevastyanov in *Life and Fate*, Tolkachenko in *The Devils*, Mr. Mulligan in *The Shadow of a Gunman*, Head in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Lucashin in *Brothers and Sisters*, Nicola in *Chocolate Soldier*, Waffles in *Uncle Vanya*, Tuzenbach in *Three Sisters*, and Petr Trofimov in *The Cherry Orchard*. He is a winner of the Golden Sofit theater prize.

TATIANA SHESTAKOVA (Charlotta) was born in Leningrad and graduated from the Leningrad State Institute of Theatre Music and Cinematography in 1972 (Korogodsky and Dodin's class). In 1984 she joined the Maly Theater. Shestakova is a People's Artist of Russia (1997); winner of the USSR State Prize (1986 for the roles of Lizaveta in *The House* and Anfisa in *Brothers and Sisters*); winner of the Triumph Independent Prize (1992); winner of the Highest Theatre Award Golden Sofit; winner of the St. Petersburg Government Prize in Literature, Art and Architecture (for the role of Anna Shtrum in *Life and Fate*); winner of the Stanislavsky Award nominated "For the valuable contribution into the Russian theatre" (2008). The actress plays Anfisa in *Brothers and Sisters*, Anna in *Stars in the Morning Sky*, Lebyadkina in *The Devils*, Molly in *Molly Sweeney*, Anna Shtrum in *Life and Fate*, Mary Tyrone in *Long Day's Journey into Night*, Miller's wife in *Love and Intrigue*, and Charlotta in *The Cherry Orchard*.

SERGEI VLASOV (GaeV) was born in 1958 in Abakan and graduated from the Leningrad State

Institute of Theatre Music and Cinematography in 1979 (Arkady Katsman and Lev Dodin's class). Vlasov has been an actor at the Maly Drama Theatre since 1981 and is a Merited Artist of Russia (1993). He is a winner of the Russian Federation's State Prize for Arts and Literature. He plays Yegorsha in *Brothers and Sisters*, Shatov in *The Devils*, God in *Chevengur*, Autolykus in *The Winter's Tale*, Sasha in *The Moscow Choi*, Duke of Cornwall and Earl of Kent in *King Lear*, Kuligin in *Three Sisters*, Peter Stockman in *The Enemy of the People*, and Gaev in *The Cherry Orchard*.

ARINA VON RIBBEN (Dunyasha) was born in the town of Igevs, Republic of Udmurtia. In 2013 she graduated from the St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy (Prof. Cherkasski's class). Since joined Maly Drama Theatre in 2013. She plays Young Girl in *Gaudeamus*, Tatiana Lobanova in *Brothers and Sisters*, the maid in *Three Sisters*, and Dunyasha in *The Cherry Orchard*.

DAVID EDEN PRODUCTIONS, LTD (DEP) (producer) has been a leading American organization devoted to producing international work in the US for more than 25 years. Most recently, DEP has produced US tours of Théâtre de la Ville's *Ionesco Suite* and Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (2014), Bouffes du Nord's *The Suit* (2013/14), Batsheva Dance Company (2014, 2012, 2009, 2004, 1998), Théâtre de la Ville's production of Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* (2012); the Republic of Georgia's Ensemble Basiani (2012); Gate

Theatre Dublin's *Endgame/Watt* (2011) and *Krapp's Last Tape* (2012, 2011); at BAM, Maly Drama Theatre's *Gaudeamus* (1994), *Three Sisters* (2012), and *Uncle Vanya* (2010); as well as North American tours of Galway's Druid Theatre's *Cripple of Inishmaan* (five-month tour, 2011). Other notable tours include Declan Donnellan's *Twelfth Night* (2006) and a 2010 Kennedy Center retrospective of Donnellan's Russian work, Gate Theatre Dublin's *Waiting for Godot* (2006), Propeller's *The Winter's Tale* (2005), and Piccolo Teatro di Milano's *Arlecchino* (2005). In 2004, Eden curated Lincoln Center Festival's Ashton Celebration, a two-week centennial retrospective at the Metropolitan Opera House celebrating master choreographer Sir Frederick Ashton. In 2000, in association with the Kennedy Center, David Eden toured the full Bolshoi Ballet throughout the US, marking the company's first US tour since the end of the Soviet era. Eden also produced the Bolshoi Ballet's subsequent national tour in 2002, and curated the Kennedy Center's Arts of the United Kingdom (summer 2001), where he developed a commissioning project between the Almeida Theatre Company and Kennedy Center, producing Frank Wedekind's *Lulu*.

David Eden Productions:
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