

Tatiana Tchekacheva was born in Saint Peterburg, Russia and from an early age, received a comprehensive arts and humanities education at the Saint Petersburg Ballet School (also known as the Academy of Russian Ballet named after A.Y. Vaganova). The Vaganova Ballet Academy is known throughout the world as a top ballet school for producing not only dancers, but choreographers as well.

As a student at the Vaganova Ballet School Ms. Tchekacheva studied the history of art and theater, together with the origins of performance and dance. She was also required to take classes in acting, pantomime and music. Studying under the world-renowned teachers and choreographers like F. Balabina, O. Jordan and N. Serebrennikov. The curriculum at the Vaganova Ballet School focused on training students for the stage, but a considerable portion of the curriculum at each institution involved instruction in the teaching of ballet technique and choreography. The philosophy of education in the Russian dance world assumed that once a student's days on the stage were over, he or she would devote time to coaching, teaching, and choreographing.

Following her graduation in 1973, with a major in Ballet Dancing Ms. Tchekachova began dancing for several world-renowned ballet companies in Russia. Most notably, she became the principal dancer with the Leningrad Academy Ballet Theater "**The Choreography Miniatures**" and **Mariinsky Theatre**, which occupy the leading position among Russian Ballet Companies. Performances of the Choreography Miniatures Ballet Theatre are highly estimated by Russian and foreign critics. Ms. Tchekachova toured internationally 46 countries worldwide, 12 Republic of the USSR, as well as Egypt, Greece, China, USA, Italy, England, Holland, Finland, Cuba, Africa, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Cyprus, Switzerland, Japan, France. Working with "The Choreography Miniatures Academy Ballet Theatre" under the direction of genius **Leonid Jakobson**, Ms. Tchekachova has performed leading roles and soloed in such classical and contemporary ballets as Swan Lake, Romeo and Juliet, Roden, Punchinello, etc. She was also promoted to play principal role of Juliet in the movie "Romeo and Juliet".

With the **Mariinsky Theatre**, Ms. Tchekacheva played solo roles in the *Nutcracker*, *Esmeralda and Markitanka*, *Shopeniana* and Harlequinade ballet productions under the direction of famous Oleg Vinogradov. During her performance career, Ms. Tchekacheva has received several awards for her excellence in ballet. In 1981, she received by Ministry of Culture of the USSR, **Honorary Diploma and Title of Laureate** for her achievements in the world of dance. (Title of Laureate is equivalent of the Nobel Prize.), and **Honorary Award** from the Leningrad (now St Petersburg) Government for activity participation in the Youth Festival "Youth and Mastery". An "**Honorary Award**" represents a high level of achievements, and given only to those individuals who have been recognized by their peers and by their government as having made a significant contribution to the artistic life of the former Soviet Union.

Ms. Tchekacheva has performed professionally 25 years, before she was invited by American's Foundation "The School of Hope" and International School of Art in Tijuana, Mexico as a choreographer and teacher. The Americas Foundation based in San Diego is non-profit organization that promotes the cultural development at the U.S/Mexico border. Her work as a ballet teacher and choreographer has been noted by the most prestigious publications as: *Los Angeles Times*, *San Diego Union Tribune* and *Dance Magazine*