



OLGA TCHEKACHOVA

Co-Artistic Director | Choreographer | Teacher

A native of Saint Petersburg, Russia, Ms. Olga Tchekachova began her early education in the arts and humanities at the esteemed Perm Ballet Academy, one of the top ballet schools in the world. She earned a Master's Degree in Dance and Arts before being invited to join the Mariinsky Ballet (formerly Kirov Ballet) under the world-renowned Oleg Vinogradov. She progressed from corps de ballet to soloist and was later promoted to principal roles.

- RECIPIENT OF THE BEST TEACHER AWARD FROM THE WORLD BALLET COMPETITION IN CANADA (2023, 2024)
- THE LOS ANGELES TIMES "APPEALING DYNAMICS AND PERSONALITY," NOTING THAT SHE "OFTEN CAUGHT THE EYE, ESPECIALLY OLGA TCHEKACHOVA." MEANWHILE, SANTA BARBARA NEWS LAUDED HER PERFORMANCE IN GISELLE, DECLARING: "OLGA IS THE STAR OF GISELLE."

Her journey with the Mariinsky Ballet and the Saint Petersburg Ballet Theatre brought her to audiences across the USA, Italy, Turkey, Finland, the Netherlands, England, Germany, and Ireland. She later joined the Pavlov Ballet in Bristol, England, making her debut as a company soloist. Even before launching her professional career, she performed the principal role in *The Little Stork*, a children's ballet choreographed by the renowned Yuri Grigorovich, former Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet.

Her repertoire includes some of the most celebrated classical ballets, such as *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Coppélia*, *Chopiniana*, *La Sylphide*, *Raymonda*, and *Paquita*—timeless masterpieces of the ballet world.

Ms. Olga Tchekachova's talent and artistry have been recognized on some of the world's most prestigious stages and competitions. She was a finalist in the 6th New York International Ballet Competition (2000), the Moscow International Ballet Competition, and the Helsinki Ballet Competition (2001)—an extraordinary achievement that solidified her reputation as an elite ballet artist.

She joined an American ballet company as a Principal Dancer with State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara under the direction of Rodney Gustafson in 1999, performing most notably in *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, and Balanchine's *Who Cares?*, restaged under the direction of Victoria Simon (New York City Ballet). Her specialized choreography of *The Nutcracker Waltz* for young children was donated to a youth ballet company in Japan, expanding her artistic impact across borders.

Under her guidance, her students have reached special awards Top placements at the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) International Ballet Competition. Blending the grace of Russian classical ballet with American contemporary movement, she creates well-rounded, versatile dancers prepared for the international stage.

