



PRESS CONTACT

Sarah Tondou
tondu@americandancefestival.org
Mobile: 919-270-9100

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ADF PRESENTS TATIANA BAGANOVA'S *BLUEBEARD*

Boundaries and opportunities, trust, power, and love—the new international project *Bluebeard* from Tatiana Baganova has it all.

Durham, NC, June 17, 2021—The American Dance Festival (ADF) is pleased to present **Tatiana Baganova's** livestream event *Bluebeard* on **June 27 at 1:00pm Eastern Time, 10:00am Pacific Time, and 10:00pm in Yekaterinburg, Russia.** The program is 30 minutes and costs \$15 per household. This livestream event will only be available to view live once. Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/2SzoV2E>.

Tatiana Baganova, Choreographer and Artistic Director of Provincial Dances Theatre in Yekaterinburg, Russia, teams up with **Charles Slender-White** (ADF alumni), Choreographer and Artistic Director of FACT/SF in San Francisco, CA, for the premiere of Baganova's *Bluebeard*, inspired by Charles Perrault's fairy tale "Bluebeard." **Charles Slender-White will perform in San Francisco and will livestream in to join Provincial Dances Theatre in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on the stage of the Sinara Center.**

Ms. Baganova has a long history with ADF beginning in 1992 when she participated in ADF's first mini-ADF in Moscow and a three-week teaching residency in Yekaterinburg in 1993. She was in residence at ADF with Provincial Dances Theatre, then led by Lev Shulman, in 1993 and 1994, and was a choreographer in residence, setting ADF commissioned works on students in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, and 2010. Provincial Dances Theatre, with Ms. Baganova as its director, performed at ADF in 2004, 2006, and 2016. In 2016 ADF presented the company in its New York City debut at The Joyce Theater.

Tatiana Baganova and Charles Slender-White met at ADF in 2004 when Charles was a scholarship student and Tatiana was at ADF with her company. Charles recalled,

"I met Tatiana in 2004 during my first summer as a student at the American Dance Festival. I immediately fell in love with her choreography and told her that I wanted to work for her when I finished college. She was amused, and I persistently stayed in touch. In 2006, we met again at ADF. I auditioned for her every day for four weeks, she offered me a spot in the company,

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Box 90772 | Durham, NC 27708
919.684.6402 | fax 919.684.5459
adf@americandancefestival.org

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and I moved to Russia about two months later. From 2006 to 2008, I toured all over Russia and Europe with Provincial Dances, began teaching company class, and started making choreography at local universities. In 2008, I moved back to California to start my own company, FACT/SF.

“My relationship with ADF and Tatiana started 17 years ago, when I was still a student and very new to dance. ADF provided me with encouragement, community, and invaluable training. The festival put me in touch with Tatiana and other amazing choreographers who in turn helped me start and sustain a career in dance. What an absolute honor to be a part of this project—to engage with ADF in another new capacity and to be collaborating with Tatiana 15 years after she offered me that first job.”

ARTIST BIOS

Tatiana Baganova is a choreographer and a dancer based in Yekaterinburg, Russia. She is the artistic director of Provincial Dances Theatre and a multiple-time nominee and winner of the Golden Mask National Theatre Award. Years of work at the Provincial Dances Theatre and the creation of many award-winning performances at international festivals have allowed her to develop her own method of body orientation and training for a “new holistic dancer.” Her collaborations with famous Russian directors in opera include *The Fiery Angel*, *Manon Lescaut* (the Bolshoi Theater), *Macbeth* (The Stanislavski and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre), *Catherine the Great*, *Yama* (Sverdlovsk Academic Theater of Musical Comedy), *La Traviata*, *Carmen* (Ural Opera Ballet), *Lulu* (Bayerische Staatsoper), and *Antigone* (Perm Academic Theater-Theater). She created an original version of *The Rite of Spring* for the Bolshoi Theater which opened at the Century of the Rite of Spring–Century of Modernism festival in 2013. Tatiana Baganova’s long-term collaboration with the American Dance Festival has resulted in five performances staged as part of ADF’s International Choreographers Commissioning Program. Russian adaptations of *Maple Garden* and *Post-Engagement. Diptych. Part II* received Golden Mask awards. Tatiana Baganova is considered one of the leaders of contemporary Russian dance, and many of her works have already become legendary.

Charles Slender-White is a contemporary dance artist and organizer. Originally from San Diego, Slender-White moved to Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2006 to become the first American to join Tatiana Baganova’s Provincial Dances Theatre. Under Baganova’s direction, he toured throughout Russia and Europe, dancing in her renowned works including *Les Noces*, *Wings at Tea*, and *Post-Engagement*. In 2008, Slender-White relocated to San Francisco to establish his own contemporary dance company, FACT/SF. With FACT/SF, he has performed, made choreography, and taught across North America, Europe, Russia, Hong Kong, and Australia. Slender-White has choreographed more than 40 works, with significant support from the National Endowment for the Arts, US Department of State, Trust for Mutual Understanding, San Francisco Arts Commission, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, and numerous others. He began teaching Countertechnique in 2012, and is currently one of 36 Countertechnique Teachers worldwide. Slender-White graduated with honors from UC Berkeley with undergraduate degrees in Dance & Performance Studies and English Literature. He also has a long history with the American Dance Festival. He studied there as a scholarship student in 2004, 2005, and 2006, returned to teach master classes in 2007 and 2009, and joined the faculty in 2019. Slender-White initially met Baganova during his first summer at ADF, and he is grateful for ADF’s continued support and engagement over the past 17 years. He is thrilled to be part of this 2021 collaboration with Baganova and Provincial Dances Theatre.

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Rio Wolta (Composer) was born in 1988, survived his teens in the Swiss Alps, and studied history in Zurich and Berlin. He lives in Zurich and works in between contemporary music, film, theater, and fine arts. He is a frequent collaborator with Piet Baumgartner. His current work includes *Belle Epoque* (record, 2021), *Bittersweet Tea Symphony* (live, 2021), *Trottinett Ballett* (live, 2021), and *Bluebeard* (live, 2021). Past work includes *Concert In The Dark* (live, 2018), *No More Intimate Music* (record, 2018), *Showroom* (live, 2018), *Pigs* (video, 2018), *Wir haben keine Zeit* (live, 2017), *Maschinen* (live, 2016), *Shotgun* (video, 2016), *Through My Street* (video, 2016), and *Swing For The Nation* (record, 2015). His residencies include Provincial Dance Theatre, Yekaterinburg, Russia (2021), Taipei Arts Festival, Taipei, Taiwan (2018), Hôtel Sainte-Valière, France (2018), and Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China (2017). He has received awards at the Bogota Short Film Festival, Columbia, Sehsüchte Babelsberg, Germany, My Sound of Music Salzburg, Austria, m4music Zurich, Switzerland, La Guarimba Film Festival Amantea, Italy, and International Music Video Festival Paris, France.

Provincial Dances Theatre was established in 1990 and is one of the first contemporary dance theaters in Russia. Since its inception, Provincial Dances Theatre has toured 53 cities in 19 countries, as well as 33 cities within Russia. Twelve productions were nominated for the most prestigious Russian National Theatre Award, the Golden Mask: *A Man Waiting*, *Les Nocces*, *Maple Garden*, *A Quiet Life with Herrings*, *Wings at Tea*, *Lazy Susan*, *Post-Engagement*, *Diptych. Part II*, *This is Not a Love Song*, *SEPIA*, *Measure of Bodies*, and *Imago-Trap*. Five of her works have won the Golden Mask: *Les Nocces*, *Maple Garden*, *Post-Engagement*, *Diptych. Part II*, *This is Not a Love Song*, and *Imago-Trap*. Provincial Dances Theatre participated in the production of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* at the Bolshoi Theater. This was a landmark event where contemporary and classical dance troupes worked together for the first time in the history of the Bolshoi.

Bluebeard by Tatiana Baganova featuring Provincial Dances Theatre and Charles Slender-White is commissioned by ADF with support from the Doris Duke/SHS Foundations Award for New Works, Trust for Mutual Understanding, and the Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation.

Additional support is provided by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.

About ADF:

Throughout its 88-year history, ADF has been a nationally recognized leader in our indigenous art form of modern dance. Generations of dancers and choreographers have come to ADF as students, taught as faculty, and created and performed work as professional artists. Each summer, ADF has been the beating heart of the dance world. The best companies in the world premiere work on ADF's stage, much of it commissioned by the festival. Other festivals and season programs are measured against ADF. Over 25,000 people see performances by more than 20 companies each season. The festival has commissioned 442 works and premiered over 700 pieces including dances by Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor. Each summer at ADF, more than 300 students from some 28 countries and 38 states study with ADF's 70 faculty members. They come as kids in leotards with as many doubts as dreams. They leave as dancers and artists—and sometimes even new members of companies. Lives change in those 5½ sweaty weeks. Beyond the summer, ADF maintains year-round dance studios offering movement classes to over 650 participants, provides over 180 free classes to almost 4,000 local dancers, and offers choreographic residencies providing artists with the necessary space and time to create. americandancefestival.org.

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