

LES  
SAISONS

R U I S S E S



# Introduction

*Art has no borders and belongs to humanity*

“ Russian Seasons” ballet is a part of the world culture and it became a basis for the development of nowadays ballet. However, during the 20th century were not admiring watching ballet as nowadays. However, since the year 1908, when Sergey Diaghilev started to present premiers in London or Paris or even Roma. Ballet culture was introduced to the whole world and the its popularity started to increase rapidly.



# Production script

Stylistics is stated by the subject. We are going to dip into an atmosphere of Paris during 20th century, that is why the basis of artistic solution is to make reconstructions of what happened. These reconstructions will include actors and ballet dancers. Episodes of the relationship between Diaghilev and his friends, lovers, colleagues and a few episodes dedicated to the creation of the ballet we would like to make as artistic scenes.

We are going to involve ballet experts and celebrities biographs. Andris Liepa, who is a producer and ballet-master will be given an important role in this project due to his true interest towards “Russian Seasons”.

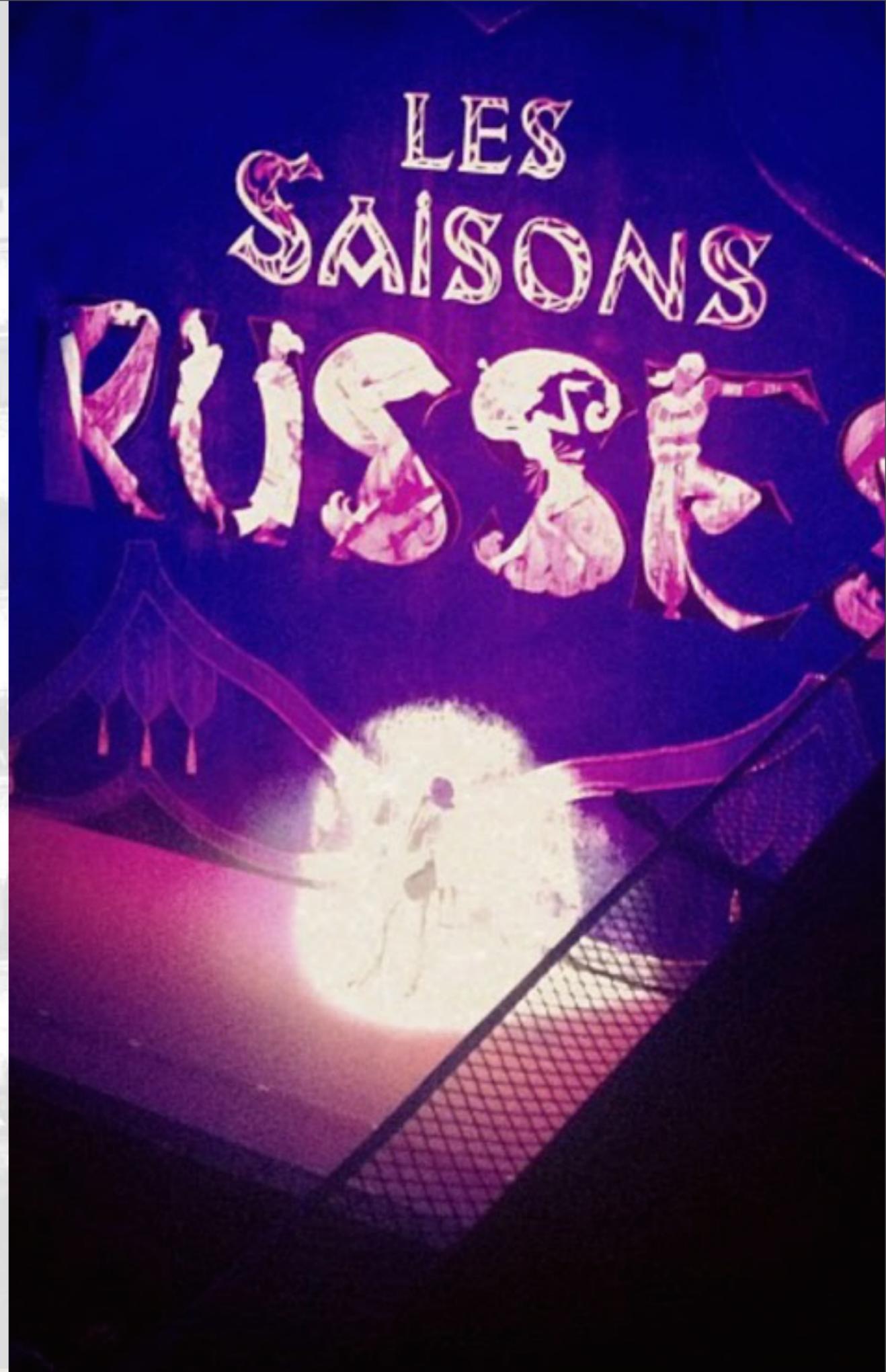
Nevertheless, we will judge “Russian Seasons” from the point of nowadays ballet. Stage managers and artists from different countries worldwide will tell us, which particular parts of modern ballet will take us to the fact that all it started with “Russian Seasons”.

Also, we are going to talk to people, who can be named as avant-gardist, who doing their best in order to bring something totally new to the modern ballet. We would try to have a look at how ballet will be different in future, and we will find out how it was for Sergei Diaghilev to march ahead of the time.

The adornment of the project will be the filmings of an orchestra. Ballet is not only about dancing, it is a beautiful music as well. We will get into the orchestra pit to have a look at how musicians are playing their parts. also, we are going to collect opinion of the musicians as well.

Experts in music will be able to analyse musical aspects of the “Russian Seasons”.

As for documentary investigation we will use the materials from archives including movies filmed using 16 mm tape.



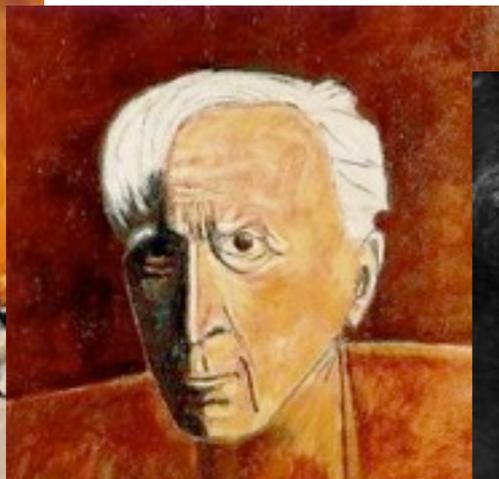
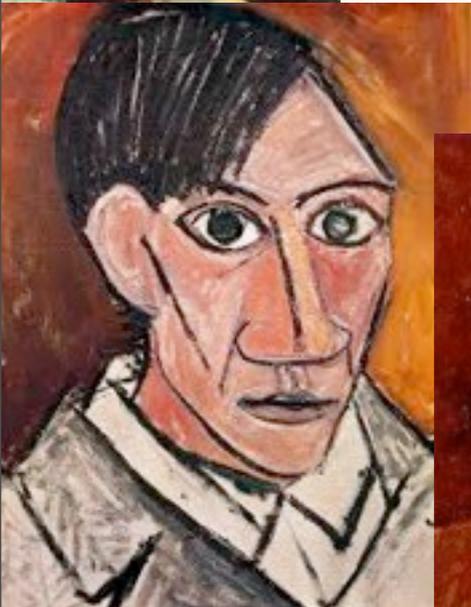
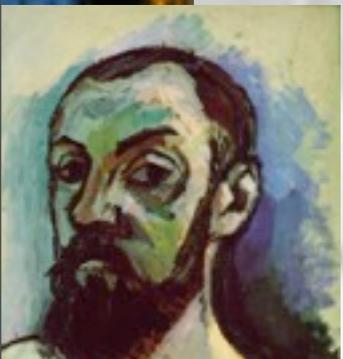
# Diaghilev's celebrities

Because of the Russian Seasons particularly at that time Alexander Benois's, Leon Bakst's, Mikhail Vrubel's, Valentin Serov's, Fedor Chaliapin's, Nikolas Rimski-Korsakov's, Mikhail Glinka's, Mikhail Fokin's, Igor Stravinsky's, etc. names became known all over the Europe.

Soon they became as popular as Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Giacomo Balla and Jean Cocteau.

That was a time, when ballet gained worldwide popularity.

Each of the "Russian Seasons" participants were special for Sergei Diaghilev and his project in particular. All the relationship between Sergei Diaghilev's circle of contacts resulted in the creating of new ballet masterpieces. This is the way how people's lives implicated the creation of pieces of art.



# Episodes 1-3

## Episode 1

Coco Chanel mentioned Sergey Diaghilev as a teacher in the world of art. Despite that she was fairy godfather of “Russian Seasons”. Coco Chanel was interested in Russian ballet, so in 1924 she was involved in creation of costumes for “The Rite of Spring”. She was very risky to do that because Nikolas Roerich was doing it before her. Anyway, Coco did that and her name was included into poster. Also, after “The Blue Train” Coco Chanel’s costumes appeared on a market shell without appearing on podium. For this reason it is possible to argue whether Coco Chanel was helpful for “Russian Seasons” or “Russian Seasons” were helpful for Coco Chanel.

## Episode 2

Sergei Diaghilev’s famous portrait was drawn by Leon Bakst during the year 1906. Few years later his theatrical costumes “exploded” Paris with credits to Paris’s newspapers. Couture were doing their best to copy Bakst and this was the only kind of wear french women enjoyed. Assosiation of creative professions gave the stage even more than the whole history of ballet.

## Episode 3

Sergei Diaghilev and Vatslav Nezhsinsky are the most famous couple of the ballet. It is possible to state that Diaghilev took his dancer to a ballet on his own hands. Nevertheless he was finding inspiration in Vatslav. Such performances as “Afternoon of a Faun”, “The Rite of Spring”, “Petroushka” were born because of this relationship. However, it was a drama for Diaghilev. Once upon a time Vatslav Nezhsinsky married...



# Episodes 4-6

## Episode 4

Igor Stravinsky's name became famous worldwide after Diaghilev's Russian Seasons. Three years, three ballets and three triumphs - this is how it is possible to characterize the start of cooperation between impresario and composer. Later on the cooperation will develop in a friendship. "Nightingale" opera after Anderson's fairytale was the basis for "Nightingale's Song" ballet, which was supported with Henri Matisse unique decorations. The relationship between Igor Stravinsky and Coco Chanel resulted in new musical compositions and Chanel №5 parfume. There will be a lot more triumph during the Igor Stravinsky's life period, but "Russian Seasons" will always be the noon of his life.

## Episode 5

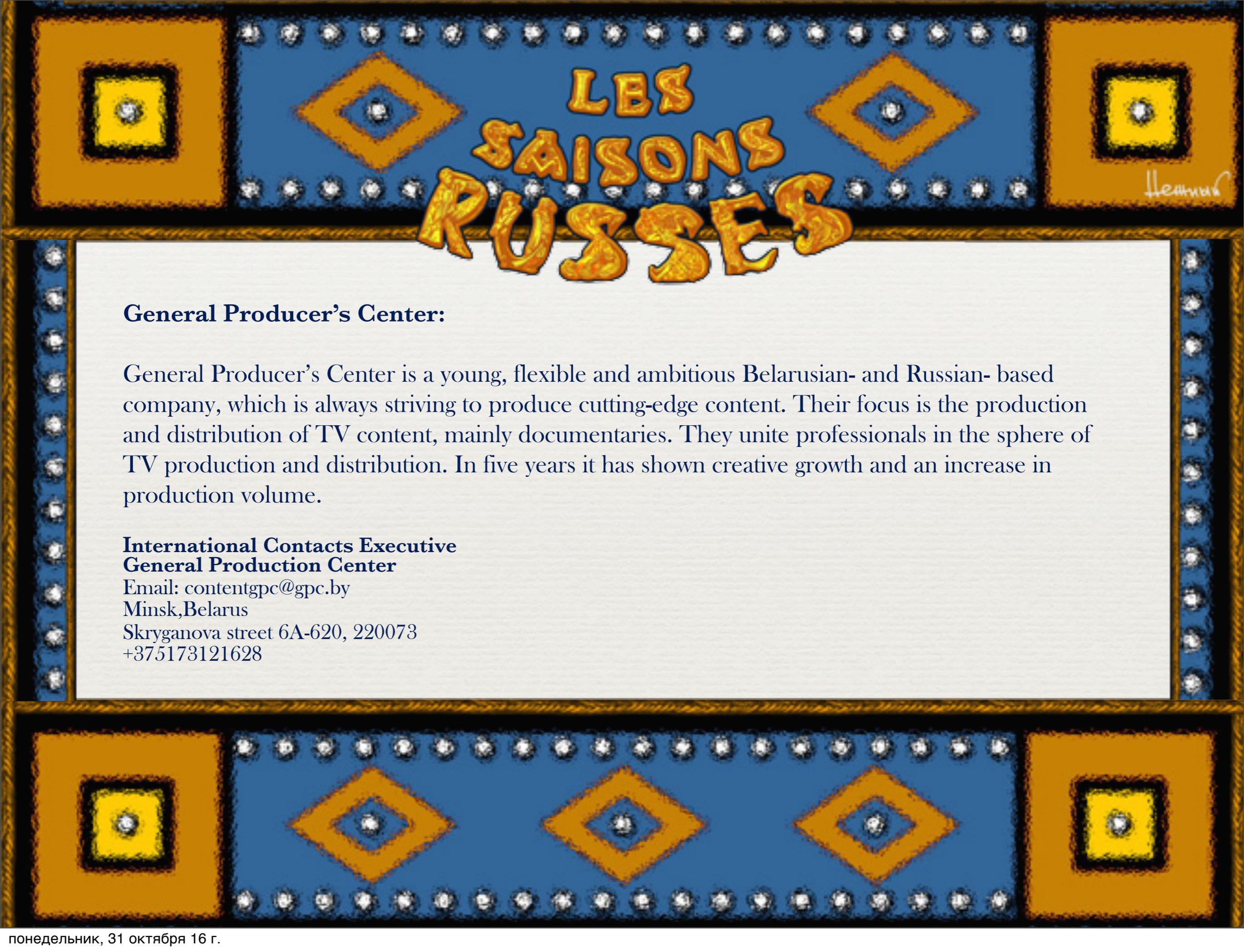
In 1917 in Theatre du Chatelet in Paris was the premiere of one-act ballet "Parade" after Jean Cocteau poetry including Erik Satie's music, choreography and execution of Leonide Massine and Pablo Picasso's decorations and costumes. This is when term "surrealism" was used for the first time. Despite that, premiere was scandalous, which led to a movement to vanguard in music and ballet. This is the way in which Diaghilev introduced aged Eric Satie to the World, who got the status of vanguard before vanguard appearance.

## Episode 6

Ida Rubenstein had great fortune, however she became famous because of her role in "Russian Seasons". It was a great fame. She was unusually beautiful and it was fitted in modern ballet of Sergei Diaghilev. During the "Cleopatra" ballet her body was covered by thin veil and Ida was naked. All the theatre-goers silent and there were storm of applauses afterwards. That is how Ida Rubenstein and Sergei Diaghilev gained their success.







# LES SAISONS RUSSES

Heaven

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