

Press-conference to mark the opening of the «Russian Seasons» took place in Rome

The press-conference held on January 15, 2018 that marked the grand opening of the «Russian Seasons» festival featured **Olga Golodets**, deputy head of the Government of the Russian Federation, **Alexander Zhuravsky**, State Secretary, Deputy Minister of Culture, **Sergey Razov**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Italy and Concurrent Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of San Marino, **Dorina Bianchi**, Undersecretary of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Affairs and Tourism of the Italian Republic, **Valery Gergiev**, general and artistic director of the Mariinsky Theatre and **Michele Dall'Ongaro**, president and general director of the National Academy of St. Cecilia. **Antonio Alizzi**, first vice-president of ACMG group moderated the conference.

“Russian Seasons” in Italy is a festival of the Russian art to be held until December 2018 in over than 40 Italian cities. The programme of the festival includes 255 events: opera, ballet and theatre performances, concerts, exhibitions and Russian movies.

During the opening press-conference, **Olga Golodets** pointed out that the “Russian Seasons” are meant to reinstate the tradition of showcasing the best Russian cultural projects. “The revival of this project, we believe, will also lead to a considerable reshaping of cultural and humanitarian ties in the global space, and, we hope, will give a birth to new great works of art – that is the main goal of the “Russian Seasons” festival in various countries”, - said the deputy prime minister.

According to **Alexander Zhuravsky** the main goal is to successfully conduct the “Russian Festival” in Italy. “One of the features of the “Russian Seasons” in Italy is an active participation of theatrical companies in the festival, among which are the Bolshoi, Mariinsky, Alexandrinsky, The Theatre of Nations, the Boris Eifman ballet theatre, the Vakhtangov and many others. For instance, Andrey Konchalovsky will present a third part of his Chekov’s trilogy “Three sisters” to the Italian audience. I am convinced that of special interest to the Italian spectator is the first performance of Ilya Averbukh’s “Romeo and Juliet” ice-show in Verona. «Russian Seasons» is also a venue for the young talents. I hope the Italians will learn the names of new Russian talents and give them due credit. The festival will continue until the end of 2018, during which time there will be over 60 symphony concerts, more than 50 theater performances, and over 40 ballets, - said Alexander Zhuravsky, State Secretary, Deputy Minister of Culture.

As noted by **Dorina Bianchi**, Undersecretary of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Affairs and Tourism of the Italian Republic, the official representative of Italy for the “Russian Seasons” project, “today’s event is an evidence of an intensive cooperation we have with Russia. We are proud that when it came to choose, Russia chose us, Italy. We are, undoubtedly, happy to host and extensively support the festival”.

The grand opening of the “Russian Seasons” took place on the 14th of January 2018 in the National Academy of St. Cecilia during the tour of the Mariinsky Theatre headed by maestro Valery Gergiev.

Detailed information about the festival: <http://www.russianseasons.org>

Info:

“Russian Seasons” in Italy – is a festival of Russian art to be conducted until December 2018 and cover more than 40 Italian cities. There are 255 events planned in the programme: opera, ballet and theatre performances, concerts, exhibitions and Russian movies. The participants in-



clude: The Bolshoi theatre of Russia, The Mariinsky theatre, Russian State Academic A.S. Pushkin Drama Theatre (the Alexandrinsky), the Vakhtangov Academic theatre, the State Hermitage, the Schusev State Museum of Architecture, and others.

On-line links:

<http://www.russianseasons.org> - official web-site

<https://www.facebook.com/russianseasonsitaly2018/> - Facebook community

@russian.seasons - official Instagram page

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