Russia's Premier Ballet Company To Perform at Cal Poly

The 90-member Grigorovich Ballet, Russia's premier private dance company, will perform the Bolshoi Ballet masterpiece "Spartacus" on Thursday, February 7, 2002 at 8 p.m. at the Christopher Cohan Center.

Cal Poly Arts presents the athletic and stirring full-length, three-act ballet, which tells the story of an uprising of gladiators and slaves under the leadership of young Spartacus, a slave who challenged the power of imperial Rome in the first century BC.

"We are very fortunate to have one of classical ballet's reigning masters, Yuri Grigorovich, bring his company to San Luis Obispo," says Cal Poly Arts director Ralph Hoskins. "The Grigorovich Ballet represents a significant step up in the quality of ballet we've been able to present."

The Grigorovich Ballet company was founded in 1990 and is now comprised of 90 dancers who are graduates of Leningrad, Kiev, Perm, and Novosibirsk ballet schools. Grigorovich has staged his works throughout the Far East, Northern America, and Europe, which included productions in Copenhagen, Helsinki, Milan, Prague, Paris, Rome, and Vienna.

Yuri Grigorovich is considered to be the greatest living choreographer in the world of ballet. His ballets dominate the repertory of contemporary works. He reigned at the Bolshoi, Moscow's legendary state ballet company, for 30 years.

"Spartacus" has become Grigorovich's signature work, contrasting the action of massed forces with intimate tableaux scenes and staging isolated love duets against the drama of Roman orgies and the marching battalions. The full-scale production features a heart-breaking love story and some of the most challenging males roles ever danced on the ballet stage.

Cal Poly Theatre/Dance Dept. professor Moon Ja Minn Suhr will present a pre-show lecture at 7 p.m. in the Philips Recital Hall.

Tickets for the performance range from $32 - $44, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax: (805) 756-6088.

This performance is sponsored by Clifford Chapman and Gene Shidler and Lynn Mahoney Ekegren.
For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit www.calpolyarts.org.