



“More relevant than ever, Marius Petipa, who has been gaining renewed interest in France over the last three years from French researchers, remains a bedrock and a driving force.” —LE MONDE



“Gazes at Petipa’s life and work through the social and political contexts in which he created, and opens the door to questions about how and why those works resonate with contemporary audiences.”

—ARTS INTERCEPT



“Very good...full of visual interest.”

—RODNEY EDGEcombe, PHD., UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



Marius Petipa was an unlikely artistic revolutionary. A middling dancer, he bounced around European cultural centers until he finally washed up in St. Petersburg in 1847 at age 29 – hired, sight unseen, by the Imperial Ballet as a principal dancer. A skilled socialite, he curried favor with the right people and within a decade staged his first ballet: the massive epic *The Pharaoh’s Daughter*.

MARIUS PETIPA: THE FRENCH MASTER OF RUSSIAN BALLET traces Petipa’s career from his early, crowd-pleasing choreography to the works that would become his masterpieces: *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*. Their stunning choreography and Tchaikovsky’s music elevated ballet for the first time to one of the world’s great art forms.

The film features stunning performance and rehearsal footage, along with intriguing period artwork and colorized photography. Once celebrated, Petipa’s name has been largely forgotten outside of ballet. MARIUS PETIPA makes a significant contribution in re-introducing us to the life and work of this central figure.

MARIUS PETIPA: THE FRENCH MASTER OF RUSSIAN BALLET
A film by Denis Sneguirev • An Icarus Films Release
2019 • 52 min • Color • French, Russian, English and Italian w/ English subtitles • Not Rated
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