

Romeo and Juliet, 1990

Ballet in 3 Acts

Composer:	Sergei Prokofiev
Libretto:	Leonid Lavrovsky, Sergei Prokofiev, Sergei Radlov by Yuri Grigorovich
Production	Yuri Grigorovich
Director:	Yuri Grigorovich
Designer	Simon Virsaladze
Conductor:	Algis Zhuraytis
Performers:	Natalia Bessmertnova Juliet Irek Mukhamedov Romeo
Running time:	02:30:51

In collaboration with director Sergei Radlov and playwright Adrian Piotrovsky, Prokofiev created a dramatic foundation of ballet and music composed by him in 1935, they wrote the script in four acts with a happy ending, which is dramatically different from the final of the famous Shakespearean tragedy. This edition of the ballet, however, never reached production. In early 1936, the newspaper "Pravda" condemned the two works of Dmitri Shostakovich in his articles "Muddle Instead of Music" and "Ballet falsehood." Prokofiev and his co-authors have changed the script and introduced the traditional tragic end.

Romeo and Juliet is a ballet by Sergei Prokofiev based on William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet. It is one of the most enduringly popular ballets. Music from the ballet was extracted by Prokofiev as three suites for orchestra and as a piano work.

Suites of the ballet music were heard in Moscow and the United States, but the full ballet premiered in the Mahen Theatre, Brno (now in the Czech Republic), on 30 December 1938. It is better known today from the significantly revised version that was first presented at the Kirov Ballet in Leningrad on 11 January 1940, with choreography by Leonid Lavrovsky. Choreographer Leonid Lavrovsky staged the Soviet premier in January 1940, after the grand success of the productions in the Czech Republic. Despite the objections of Prokofiev, Lavrovsky significantly changed the score of the ballet. The play was awarded the Stalin Prize.

The new production, edited by Yuri Grigorovich was held June 26, 1979 at the Bolshoi Theatre.

Over the years, Juliet danced great Russian ballerina Natalia Bessmertnova (at the premiere), then Nadezhda Pavlova, Ludmilla Semenyaka, Nina, etc. The role of Romeo at the premiere performed Vyacheslav Gordeev, then Alexander Bogatyrev, Andris Liepa, Andrei Uvarov, etc.

The performance was 67 times, last performance - March 29, 1995.