



VICTORIA MIRONOVA, M. Ed.
Founder and Artistic Director of
Victoria Ballet Company and
Victoria International Ballet Academy

In April, 2018 we Celebrated OUR 15TH year

Victoria Mironova (Evdokimova), M. Ed. – Russian ballerina, instructor of ballet, and choreographer. Ms.

Victoria Mironova is the founder of the Victoria International Ballet Academy, the Victoria Ballet Company, and Arts and Science Academy of Canada.

In 1977, she graduated from the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg with an Artiste de Ballet diploma. She then upgraded her skills at the one year Master Class of the great Natalia Dudinskaya, People's Artist of the USSR, to become a Principal Dancer. Victoria has 21 years of professional dance experience at the Mikhailovsky Theatre, St. Petersburg. In 1995, after 4 years of university studies, she graduated from the Pedagogical (Teachers') Department of the Vaganova Academy majoring in teaching choreographic disciplines. Since 1991, she has taught classical ballet, character and historic dances in Russia and Canada. Presently, she is the Artistic Director, Teacher and Choreographer of Victoria Ballet Company, and Victoria International Ballet Academy.



Victoria Mironova on the grand opening of the Academy, April 5, 2003:

Today, as I open the doors of my school, I want to introduce myself to my future students and their parents, and I would like to talk a little bit about ballet, theatre and about myself.

I was born in Germany to the family of a military doctor. Neither my mother, nor my father had anything to do with ballet, but when my family moved to St. Petersburg, Russia, my mother, influenced by the capital's craze for ballet, took me to choreography classes.

My first teacher was a former dancer of the Imperial Theatre. Although she was about 80 years old at that time, she was still a very strong, cheerful, and strict lady. I have to admit that she never had to be strict with me for I was a disciplined and hard-working student.



A year had passed when my teacher invited my mother into her office and said "Your daughter is very gifted. You should take her to the Academy of Ballet." It didn't take long for my mother to take me by the hand and lead me there. By the age of 11, I had passed the competitive examination and, along with 16 other talented students out of the 600 that were competing for the coveted positions, was enrolled into the Vaganova Ballet Academy.

Then came eight years of hard but delightful work, sometimes taking parts in performances in the Mariinski (formerly the Kirov) Theatre, where we had rare opportunities to observe the performances of professional ballet stars. It took our breath away to watch such stars as Irina Kolpakova and Mikhail Baryshnikov in "The Sleeping Beauty", to be close to the artists, to touch the dress of a ballerina. It was hard to believe that they were people just like us, because it seemed to us that they had just come down from heaven. We could see their perspiration and felt their heavy breathing after every dance, but we understood "To be a ballet dancer is so hard, but so wonderful!" We would give up anything in order to become so beautiful, light and out-of-reach, just like deities. Eight years went by like one day. (Every day we had classes of classical ballet, choreography, music, ballet history and the world of dance.)

We were not excused from academic courses such as physics, math, history, and languages, even though at the time they seemed useless and boring. Later, we understood how lucky we were as students of the Academy of Russian Ballet, and what a good education we had received behind the walls of this excellent and acclaimed school.

So, by the age of 18-19 we took a step into a mature life called the Theatre of Opera and Ballet. The 21 years spent with the professional theatre in St. Petersburg was a remarkable period of my life, filled with hard work, appealing roles, and unforgettable tours all around the world. However, the professional life of a ballet artist is really short (about 20 years). I had to return to the classroom, this time as a student of the Pedagogical Faculty.

Five more years of learning and then, I started teaching. I began to teach little, fragile and talented girls the art of ballet. With them I waited in anticipation for their examinations, for it is known that every year the school excludes a lot of children and only the best of them stay.



Those girls and boys studied in the pre-graduating classes of the Academy of Russian Ballet and very soon they became, I am sure, true artists of ballet and maybe even stars. And now they call me here, in Canada, and tell me all about their successes and new roles, delights, and problems; and I feel very pleased that they have not forgotten their first ballet teacher. The relationship of teacher and student is crucial to me for I always remember and adore my teachers, I was very fortunate to work with such talented people. I was a student of the great Russian artists of ballet, renowned all over the world, such as Natalia Dudinskaya and Konstantin Sergeev. They have no doubt had a significant impact on 20th century culture. In 1995, in the USA, Natalia Dudinskaya was awarded the honour of being named “Outstanding Woman of the 20th century”. She was one of Agrippina Vaganova’s favourite students, and of course, a zealous guardian of the tradition of her famous teacher. Those traditions were passed from her to us, her students, and now we share our knowledge with our own students. Of course, this is an honour and it is a



big responsibility to be a student of such a recognized ballerina.

Still, I feel the same when I think about my “non-celebrity” but absolutely amazing teachers: Irina Trofimova, Eleonora Kokorina, Bella Ozhegova, Nikolai Konishev and many others. They have not only given me a profession, but also taught me to be disciplined, hard working, serious and responsible in the career I decided to follow.

They trained me to be patient and righteous—all the qualities that I am trying to teach my students. Here in Canada, I have worked in ballet schools and taught in rhythmic gymnastics and figure skating clubs. I feel delighted that the profession that I love so much is also respected and sought after in this wonderful country.

I have had many students. So many, that I came up with the idea of opening my own school. I want to allow my “own” children to grow with me, to allow them the fullest development in ballet, to be living proof that ballet is a noble art. I really want to see my students dancing on the best stages of the world. I wish that my students will acquire my rich experience, pick up my knowledge and pass it on to the next generation of artists of ballet. That’s why today I say: “Welcome to Victoria Ballet Academy”.

**Victoria Mironova (Evdokimova), April 5, 2003
(at the grand opening of Victoria Ballet Academy)**