

NATALIA OSIPOVA

Natalia Petrovna Osipova is a Russian ballerina, currently performing as a principal dancer with the Royal Ballet in London and the Mikhailovsky Theatre Ballet in St Petersburg.

Born in Moscow on 18 May 1986, Osipova began her formal ballet training at the age of eight at the Mikhail Lavrovsky Ballet School and completed her studies from 1996 to 2004 at the Moscow State Academy of Choreography, under the tutelage of Marina Kotova and Marina Leonova.

At the age of 18 she joined the Bolshoi Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet. In 2005 she danced the role of Kitri in Alexei Fadeyev's production of *Don Quixote* to much critical acclaim and was promoted to soloist in 2006. She was named one of the "25 to Watch" by *Dance Magazine* in 2007, was awarded the Prix Benois de la Danse in 2009 and promoted to leading soloist. In 2010, she became a principal dancer at the Bolshoi Ballet, but resigned from the company in 2011, citing "artistic freedom" as her reason for leaving.

After leaving the Bolshoi, she joined American Ballet Theatre as a guest dancer for their Metropolitan Opera House season. She danced *Don Quixote* with José Manuel Carreño, and both *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Romeo and Juliet* with David Hallberg. A week before her performance in *Sleeping Beauty*, she was mugged outside the Met, but suffered only minor bruises and was able to perform. She lost only a pair of pointe shoes and a small hammer used to shape them. In December 2011, she joined the Mikhailovsky Ballet.

On 8 April 2013, it was announced that Osipova would join The Royal Ballet as a principal dancer, having previously danced as a guest artist in *Swan Lake*. She cited the broader and more diverse repertoire as her primary motivation for the move. She debuted on 21 November 2013, in *Romeo and Juliet*, partnered by Carlos Acosta. She has also danced in *The Nutcracker* and *Giselle*, with Acosta and Federico Bonelli.

Repertoire

Osipova's debut as Kitri in *Don Quixote* on 7 November 2005 launched her solo career.

- *Don Quixote*:Kitri
- *Swan Lake*:Odette/Odile /The Spanish Bride
- *La Bayadère*:Nikiya / Gamzatti
- *Giselle*:Giselle
- *La Sylphide*:La Sylphide
- *Romeo and Juliet*: Juliet
- *Coppélia*:Swanilda/Coppélia
- *Esmeralda*:Esmeralda
- *Flames of Paris*:Jeanne
- *Carmen*:Carmen
- *The Sleeping Beauty*:Princess Aurora
- *Laurencia*:Laurencia
- *Le Corsaire*:Medora
- *Manon*:Manon
- *Lost Illusions*:Coralie
- *Notre-Dame de Paris*:Esmeralda
- *La Fille Mal Gardée*:Lise
- *Jewels*:Rubis Soloist
- *The Pharaoh's Daughter*:Aspacia, Ramze
- *Nutcracker*:Sugar Plum Fairy, Clara, Spanish Doll
- *Onegin*:Tatiana
- *A Midnight's Summer Dream*:Mustardseed
- *The Dream*:Titania
- *The Taming of the Shrew*:Catarina
- *Bolt*:Manka Fart, Typist/Typists
- *Firebird*:Firebird
- *Petrouchka*:Ballerina
- *The Bright Stream*:Balerina
- *Cinderella*: The Sleeping Beauty, Waltz Soloist/Soloists, Autumn
- *A Month in the Country*:Natalia Petrovna
- *Russian Seasons*:Couple in Red
- *Gaite Parisienne*:Cancan Soloist
- *Serenade*: Soloist
- *Middle Duet*:Soloist
- *Paquita Grand Pas de Deux*:Soloist
- *Jeu de cards*

- *Symphony in C*
- *Class Concert*
- *Remansos*
- *Cinque*
- *In the Upper Room*
- *Connectome*
- *Tetractys - The Art of the Fugue*
- *Solo for Two*
- *Passacaille*
- *Wolf Works*
- *Anastasia: Anastasia/Anna Anderson*
- *Spartacus:Aegina*
- *Icarus*
- *Strapless*

Awards

- Richard Sherrington Award for Best Female Dancer
- UK National Dance Awards
- Golden Mask award as Best Female Dancer for Twyla Tharp's *In The Upper Room*
- Positano Dance Award Leonide Massine Award for Best Duet in *La Sylphide*
- The International Dance Association Prix Benois de la Danse