

# **ZHANNA AYUPOVA**

*Artistic Director of the Vaganova Ballet Academy*

*First Vice-rector*

Zhanna Ayupova was born in Petrozavodsk. In 1984 she graduated from the Leningrad Choreographic School (now the Vaganova Ballet Academy) - coached by Ninel Kurgapkina - and was invited to become a member of the Kirov Ballet Company (now Mariinsky Theatre). From 1987 Zhanna Ayupova appeared as a featured soloist with the company performing both lyric and dramatic parts. From 2000 to 2013 she had been coaching ballet dancers at the Mikhailovsky Theatre.

From 2013 – First Vice-rector and Artistic Director of the Vaganova Ballet Academy.

Over the course of her dance career Zhanna Ayupova has performed a great number of roles in major classical and neo-classical works. Her most prominent roles include Giselle (*Giselle*), Princess Aurora (*The Sleeping Beauty*), Marie (*The Nutcracker*), Raymonda (*Raymonda*), Kitri (*Don Quixote*), Nikiya (*La Bayadère*), Odette/Odile (*Swan Lake*), Manon (*Manon*), Soloist (*Theme and Variations*), Soloist (*Symphony in C*), Terpsichore (*Apollo*), Young Lady (*Le Spectre de la Rose*) and many others.

Zhanna Ayupova is a prize winner of the Moscow International Ballet Competition (1985).

In 2008 she was honored with the title People's Artist of Russia.