

RELEASE IN FULL

From: McHale, Judith A <McHaleJA@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 5:54 AM
To: H; Burns, William J
Subject: FW: press release
Attachments: 110623 AmSeasons Press Release ENG.docx; 110623 AmSeasons Press Release ENG.docx

Sometimes with all the "distractions" which confront us every day we lose sight of some of our significant achievements e.g. Russia. Thought you might like to see the press release below announcing the launch of a "season" American culture across Russia. The team in Moscow has worked hard to put this together by redirecting existing resources and developing a comprehensive campaign to maximize awareness and impact.

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U.S. Embassy Moscow Launches American Seasons in Russia

June 22, 2011; Moscow, Russia—U.S. Embassy Moscow invites you to attend a press conference launching **American Seasons in Russia**, a year-long celebration of American arts and culture in Russia. The press conference will be held at ITAR-TASS (Tverskoy boulevard #2) on Monday, June 27th at 2:00 pm. It is timed to coincide with the opening of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's performances in Moscow, which will mark the first event that falls under the American Seasons program. Participants in the press conference include Ambassador John Beyrle of the U.S. Embassy; Ambassador Mikhail Shvydkoy, Special presidential Representative for International Culture Cooperation; Vladimir Urin, General Manager of the Stanislavsky Musical Theater; Mikhail Gusman, Deputy Director-General of ITAR-TASS; Robert Battle, Artistic Director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; and dancers Matthew Rushing and Alicia Graf Mack of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

As homage to Sergei Diaghilev's Russian Seasons, which aimed to introduce Russian culture to Europe, American Seasons will bring a wide spectrum of cultural offerings including contemporary American dance, art, and music to the Russian public. Upcoming events include performances by the MOMIX Dance Company and the hip hop/salsa fusion band Ozomatli, as well as an exhibit of Annie Leibovitz's photography at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. This fall will also see the continuation of the New American Plays for Russia initiative, which will translate contemporary American plays into Russian and stage readings around the country. The highlight of American Seasons in Russia will be the appearance of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra led by music director Riccardo Muti. The Orchestra hails from Moscow's sister city and will give a total of three concerts in Moscow and St. Petersburg next April.

American Seasons in Russia falls under the auspices of the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission. Formed on June 9, 2009 by Presidents Obama and Medvedev to increase cooperation, the Commission marks a fresh start in relations between our two countries to contribute to our future progress and shared prosperity. Members of the press who are interested in attending should contact Natalya Menshikova at ITAR-TASS by telephone: (495) 629-6403 or by e-mail: press-c@itar-tass.com