

КАРМЕН

MODERN CARMEN

On June 12 the World musical play "Carmen" by Ilya Averbukh opened in Sochi on the ice arena of the Winter Palace of Sports "Iceberg". The grandiose stage play is based on the inventive plot, offering a fresh approach to the famous female character.

Classic stories and images are great with their variety of possible interpretations. Carmen, a story that was first published 170 years ago, has gone through three such transformations. Merimee terrified the bourgeoisie with his description of a wild and cruel character. Bizet and libretto authors turned it into a "bad girl": a defenseless devourer of hearts. Carmen by Maya Plisetskaya became a universal symbol of mysterious, alluring femininity and passion.

Carmen is expected to be reborn – Ilya Averbukh will present his approach to her story.

The new story of Carmen is based on the original screenplay and will be developed in several spaces, and ice is only one of them. Olympic Arena "Iceberg" is perhaps the only place in Russia and in the world, which is technically appropriate for the Ilya Averbukh conception. Now a one-hundred-ton decorative structure which was designed specially for the Russia main summer premiere, is erected in Sochi. Modern "Carmen" is going to be a very ambitious staging play and we can expect both classic image and the whole genre of the ice musical play in general renewed.

The main roles in the play are given to the stars of figure skating. Those who have followed the artistic career of Tatiana Navka, Alexei Yagudin, Roman Kostomarov, Oksana Domnina and Maxim Marinin can expect the truly magnificent sight. Olympic experience of the star athletes provides stunning technique of execution of complex numbers. However, in addition to the outstanding sport success, the participants of the musical play have reached even more impressive artistic achievements and have become true artists with a capital "A"

In addition to the star skaters cast, the project involves several dozen other genres artists: ballet dancers, artists of theater, circus, air and ice acrobats and leading soloists of famous musical plays, guitarists and percussionists. In some scenes the audience will meet up to 60 people at the same time: ice musical plays have not yet reached such a scale. Complexities of such level can implement very few production teams in the world, and Ilya Averbukh was that director who managed to create one of these teams in Russia.

Carmen is forever associated with the brilliant score by Georges Bizet, but the musical part of the new story is based on the original music by Roman Ignatiev, who managed to combine the classic and the modern tactfully and effectively.

The World musical play "Carmen" will be opened on the ice arena of the Winter Palace of Sports "Iceberg" in Sochi, where the previous work by Ilya Averbukh "City Lights" have been

presented with great success before. Arena of Olympic battles and victories is becoming one of the major scenic stages of the world, and the first night "Carmen" confirms this.