



International Press Service.....

Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

Nijinsky The Artist Behind the Legend

Vienna State Opera, 21.10.2026 [ENA]

Few subjects invite ballet to examine its own expressive possibilities as profoundly as Vaslav Nijinsky. In John Neumeier's Nijinsky, the legendary dancer becomes more than an illustrious figure recalled through theatrical biography: he emerges as the centre of an imaginative exploration of memory, identity and artistic vulnerability. This is an exceptionally absorbing encounter into his life.

This performance approaches its protagonist through fragmented recollections, dream sequences and episodes from his life. The beauty of this conception lies in its departure from straightforward chronology. Rather than presenting a succession of achievements, Neumeier opens a window onto Nijinsky's inner world. Historical experience and subjective perception occupy the same theatrical space, allowing the spectator to encounter the artist through the unstable architecture of memory. For ballet, this is an especially fruitful approach: movement can suggest emotional connections that a literal narrative might explain too neatly, preserving uncertainty while making feeling vividly accessible.

Neumeier's responsibility for choreography, scenery, costumes and lighting gives the production a particularly coherent artistic foundation. Its visual environment belongs to the same imagination as its movement language, encouraging an integrated reading of gesture, space and image. Such unity matters in a ballet whose subject is not simply what happened to Nijinsky, but how experience survives within him. The stage becomes a field of consciousness, where the boundaries separating the public performer from the private individual can dissolve.

Alessandro Frola is scheduled to embody Nijinsky, a central assignment whose significance extends beyond virtuosity. Within the published conception, the protagonist must provide the human connection between recollection, artistic identity and psychological distress. The role invites an interpretation grounded in emotional continuity rather than a succession of spectacular effects. Its fascination lies in the possibility of making the celebrated dancer recognisable as a vulnerable person, without diminishing the extraordinary creative presence that made him a legend.

The casting also reveals an eloquent multiplication of Nijinsky's theatrical identities. Victor Caixeta is listed as the Golden Slave in Scheherazade and the Faun in L'Après-midi d'un faune, while Davide Dato appears as Harlequin in Carnaval and the spirit in Le Spectre de la rose. These distinct embodiments suggest a productive separation between the man and the images through which audiences remember him.

Redaktioneller Programmdienst: European News Agency

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

Haftungsausschluss:

Der Herausgeber übernimmt keine Haftung für die Richtigkeit oder Vollständigkeit der veröffentlichten Meldung, sondern stellt lediglich den Speicherplatz für die Bereitstellung und den Zugriff auf Inhalte Dritter zur Verfügung. Für den Inhalt der Meldung ist der allein jeweilige Autor verantwortlich.



..... International Press Service.....

His artistic legacy surrounds him, offering both a dazzling reflection and a potentially unsettling fragmentation of the self.

The relationships around that central figure deepen the ballet's emotional perspective. Ketevan Papava is announced as Romola Nijinska, António Casalinho as Nijinsky's brother Stanislaw, and Alessandro Cavallo as Serge Diaghilev, his impresario and mentor. Their presence establishes a network of family, intimacy and artistic influence rather than leaving Nijinsky isolated within his fame. This relational dimension offers the production an important counterweight to mythology: an artist's life unfolds not only before an audience, but also through attachments that resist public simplification.

The musical selection is equally suggestive. Conducted by Nathan Brock, the production draws on Chopin, Schumann, Rimsky-Korsakov and Shostakovich. Their contrasting musical worlds provide a rich framework for the ballet's shifting perspectives. Rather than functioning merely as accompaniment, such a varied palette invites attention to changes of emotional scale, from inward reflection to theatrical splendour and more unsettling intensity. In this context, music can connect the episodes while allowing their differences to remain dramatically meaningful.

Particularly valuable is the work's attention to Nijinsky's struggle with mental illness alongside his artistic genius. The published description places both within the portrait, encouraging a reading that does not reduce suffering to a picturesque accessory of greatness. The ballet's strongest promise is therefore compassionate rather than sensational: to hold creative achievement and human fragility together, acknowledging the person behind the extraordinary stage image without pretending that artistic brilliance resolves psychological pain.

For Vienna, this premiere offers the prospect of an evening in which ballet becomes both remembrance and inquiry. Its appeal rests not simply on the radiance of a famous name, but on Neumeier's decision to approach that name through movement, music and symbolic imagery. Nijinsky promises a richly layered tribute: one that honours the dancer's exceptional imagination while asking audiences to look beyond the legend towards the complex, vulnerable humanity from which that imagination emerged.

[Bericht online lesen:](#)

https://culture.en-a.eu/kunst_kultur_und_musik/nijinsky_the_artist_behind_the_legend-94533/

Redaktion und Verantwortlichkeit:

V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDSStV: Dr. Nadejda Komendantova

Redaktioneller Programmdienst: European News Agency

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

Haftungsausschluss:

Der Herausgeber übernimmt keine Haftung für die Richtigkeit oder Vollständigkeit der veröffentlichten Meldung, sondern stellt lediglich den Speicherplatz für die Bereitstellung und den Zugriff auf Inhalte Dritter zur Verfügung. Für den Inhalt der Meldung ist der allein jeweilige Autor verantwortlich.