



Experience the mastery of Russian theater in cinemas
with the Stage Russia HD presentation of Eugene Onegin

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

ACT I | RUSSIA, THE 1820s

Eugene Onegin, a Saint Petersburg dandy, philosophizes and reminisces about his younger days, bringing forth a vision of his youthful self. Joining him to tell the tale are Vladimir Lenskiy (a young poet, his friend and neighbor), a retired hussar (perhaps, a drinking companion) and a traveler with a mandolin, who might be his conscience.

The scene is interrupted by a dance class, led by a French-speaking Madame. Dancing was one of the few activities available for young ladies of that time.

Onegin is forced to leave the glittering social scene of the capital and move to the country to tend to his late uncle's estate, where he soon meets and quickly befriends Lenskiy. Wealthy, handsome and sociable, Lenskiy is seen as the perfect catch. His heart, though, is set on only one girl, the vivacious Olga Larina.

Olga's parents - the Larins - are simple, kind-hearted people who enjoy the calm flow of country life. Olga's older sister Tatiana is quiet, pensive and constantly immersed in reading, which makes her stand out amongst her peers. Soon thereafter, the father of the family, Dmitry Larin, sadly passes away, surrounded by family.

Life goes on as a new day brings a new dance lesson. Lenskiy decides to bring Onegin along to the Larin estate. Onegin has kept to himself, never straying far from his country estate, so his appearance at the Larins' party has a stunning effect on the guests. As he and Lenskiy make their way home, Onegin remarks that he is surprised by his friend's choice of Olga. Were it up to him, Onegin chides, he'd fall in love with Tatiana instead.

Tatiana, who has long awaited a hero who would resemble her literary fantasies, is in love with Onegin. Her nanny helps her through a sleepless night, and, inspired, Tatiana decides to write a letter to Onegin.

Days go by slowly as she anxiously waits for a reply. Instead of sending a letter, Onegin arrives in person and condescendingly declines her love.

ACT II | LATE AUTUMN IN THE COUNTRY

All is drenched in boredom. Onegin leads a secluded life.

As winter comes, the young girls take part in traditional fortune-telling rituals. Tatiana has an unsettling dream in which she encounters a bear, who acts as a guide, fantastic beasts, and Onegin as her protector. A moment of tenderness between them is interrupted by Olga and Lenskiy, which leads to an argument with tragic consequences.

Lenskiy tells Onegin that both of them are invited to Tatiana's name-day (the celebrations are the same as a birthday). They arrive late and Onegin shocks everyone by his behavior: He unexpectedly dances provocatively with the betrothed Olga, humiliating his good friend Lenskiy, and destroying the still lovesick Tatiana. As a result Lenskiy challenges Onegin to a duel and is killed.

Shortly after these tragic events, Olga marries and Onegin leaves the country to go traveling. Tatiana visits Onegin's empty mansion. Larina is worried about her eldest daughter's fate and decides to take her to the bridal fair in Moscow. As the girls are about to leave, the nanny passes away.

The journey to Moscow takes 7 days, but upon arrival everyone is struck by the majestic beauty of the city. Tatiana is introduced to a wealthy relative, who promises to take care of her social status. At one of the balls, she meets an aging Prince, with whom she quickly forms a tender, calm bond.

Onegin, meanwhile, has returned to the social scene, and is surprised to hear that his old friend, the Prince, is married to a stunning lady. Realizing that the powerful beauty, who is the belle of the ball at every event, is the very same Tatiana he once rejected, Onegin becomes obsessed with her, sending her love letters and begging for a private conversation.

Tatiana, overcome with emotion, asks him to stop following her, for she still loves him but will never betray her husband.

CAST

Eugene Onegin (Older)	Sergey Makivetskiy
Eugene Onegin (Younger)	Victor Dobronravov
Tatyana Larina	Eugenia Kregzhde
Olga Larina	Natalia Vinokurova
Retired Hussar	Artur Ivanov
Tatyana's Dream	Irina Kupchenko

The idea, literary composition and staging by
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Presented in Russian with
English subtitles