

*Forbidden Christmas  
or The Doctor and The Patient*

Wednesday through Sunday, June 16–20, 2004  
Zellerbach Playhouse

**Written and Directed by**

Rezo Gabriadze

**Cast**

Mikhail Baryshnikov    Jon DeVries    Luis Perez  
Pilar Witherspoon    Yvonne Woods

**Scenic Design/Sound Collage/Costume Design**

Rezo Gabriadze

**Lighting Design**

Jennifer Tipton

**Script Translators**

Ryan McKittrick, Julia Smeliansky

**Choreography**

Luis Perez

**Assistant Director**

Dmitry Troyanovsky

**Sound Design**

David Meschter

**Executive Producers**

Baryshnikov Dance Foundation  
David Eden Productions Ltd.

*Forbidden Christmas or The Doctor and The Patient*  
was directed by Rezo Gabriadze in collaboration with the company.

This production is a co-commission with Cal Performances.

*Cal Performances' presentation of Forbidden Christmas is sponsored, in part, by Peet's Coffee & Tea.*

*These performances have been made possible, in part, by members of the Cal Performances Producers Circle.*

*Cal Performances thanks the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation,  
The Wallace Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation for their generous support.*

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**  
(in order of appearance)

<i>Ermonia and various roles</i>	Luis Perez
<i>Chito</i>	Mikhail Baryshnikov
<i>Tsisana and various roles</i>	Pilar Witherspoon
<i>Mother, Nunu and various roles</i>	Yvonne Woods
<i>The Doctor</i>	Jon DeVries

**Time and Place:**

Christmas Eve, 1952. The Soviet Republic of Georgia.

*The play will be performed without intermission.*

*Forbidden Christmas or The Doctor and The Patient* premiered on May 13, 2004, at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

*The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.*

**ABOUT THIS STORY**

From childhood to this day, I have been enthralled by the company of doctors. I lived in Kutaisi, a town in Western Georgia, in a well-known artists courtyard where, apart from our family and actors, two remarkable families lived: those of Doctor Lordkipanidze and Doctor Gelovani, great experts in their profession and crystalline persons.

The people of the Kutaisi of my childhood remember well one patient who believed that he was a car. In my story, his name is Chito.

For the action of the story, I chose the most beautiful time of the year—Christmas Eve. However, in those years, people could not celebrate religious holidays openly. They had to celebrate them in secret.

I wish you many happy holidays!

—Rezo Gabriadze

**Rezo Gabriadze** (*playwright, director, scenic designer, sound collage, costume designer*) is an internationally acclaimed artist, writer, stage and screen director, producer, and puppeteer. He was born in 1936 in the Republic of Georgia and grew up in Kutaisi, Western Georgia. Theater is so much a part of Georgian life that Gabriadze's 48-seat wood frame theater, which he built in 1981, is attached to his cafe. He traveled for a few years, stopping in Russia, France, and Switzerland, and in 1995, he returned to Tbilisi. In 1996, Gabriadze began to create *The Battle of Stalingrad*; the highly acclaimed premiere of this work took place in Dijon, France, and received critical raves at festivals in Weimar, Berlin, Avignon, and Paris. Since then, the production has toured worldwide, receiving its U.S. premiere at the Kennedy Center in 2000. In addition to his skills as a theatrical and cinematic writer and director, Gabriadze is an established painter, sculptor, and master of book illustrations. His exhibits have been shown in many cities, including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Lausanne, Rome, Paris, and Berlin. Mr. Gabriadze was a participant in Munich's "From Eisenstein to Tarkovsky" exhibition. His paintings, graphics, and sculptures are found in numerous state and private collections in the United States, Russia, Germany, Israel, Japan, and France. Among his many distinguished awards, he is the recipient of the Commander of the French Republic Award, the Golden Sofit, Golden Mask, Laureate of Government Honors of the USSR, and one of Russia's highest honors, The Triumph.

**Jennifer Tipton** (*lighting designer*) is well known for her work in theater, dance, and opera. Her recent work in opera includes Martin David Levy's *Mourning Becomes Electra* at the New York City Opera, Janáček's *Osud* at Bard's Fisher Performing Arts Center, and *Don Giovanni* at La Monnaie in Brussels. Her recent work in dance includes Paul Taylor's *Le Grand Puppetier* and Trisha Brown's *Present Tense* and *Winterreise*. In theater, her recent work includes Craig Lucas' *Small Tragedy* at Playwrights Horizon, Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* at the American Repertory, and *Poor Theater* for the Wooster Group. Tipton teaches lighting at the Yale School of Drama. She received the



Stephanie Berger © July 2002

Rezo Gabriadze

Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize in 2001 and the Jerome Robbins Prize in 2003.

**Dmitry Troyanovsky** (*assistant director*) most recently staged Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening* at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Other recent projects include Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*, which critics called "a powerfully expressionistic theatrical experience" and *On the Water* (his own adaptation of Chekhov's *The Seagull*). New plays under his direction include *The Goldberg Variations* and *72/48* (an exploration of life in an Israeli military prison). Some of Troyanovsky's more noted productions have been Strindberg's *Miss Julie*, Heiner Müller's *Medeamaterial*, and the Russian language premiere of Shepard's *Fool for Love* at the Pushkin Theatre in Moscow. As an assistant, Troyanovsky has worked with such directors as Mark Lamos, Andrei Serban, and Andre Belgrader. In addition to theater, he has collaborated on installation and performance projects such as *Heartpiece* at the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University. Mr. Troyanovsky enjoys teaching and is on the faculty of Bard College's theater program. He is a graduate of the ART Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University.

**David Meschter** (*sound designer*) received a degree in audio technology from American University in Washington, DC. He was the sound consultant and repertory musician with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 1981 to 1988. He has created sound designs for many organizations and artists, including John Cage, LaMonte Young, Pandit Pran Nath, Philip Glass, the American Ballet Theatre, Lincoln Center, and Houston Grand Opera. His recent sound designs include *Peony Pavilion*, the epic 18-hour opera revived and reconstructed by Chen Shi-Zheng and Lincoln Center, *Edda: Viking Tales of Lust, Revenge and Family*, and *Obon: Tales of Rain & Moonlight*, directed by Ping Chong. Also *Atlas, The Politics of Quiet, Magic Frequencies*, and *Mercy* by Meredith Monk, and *Medea* on Broadway with Fiona Shaw (directed by Deborah Warner). Mr. Meschter is the sound supervisor for the Lincoln Center Festival.

**Mary-Susan Gregson** (*stage manager*) has coordinated productions at Lincoln Center for eight seasons of the Lincoln Center Festival, including *Peony Pavilion* and the Harold Pinter, Brian Friel, and Beckett festivals. At the New Victory, she has stage-managed a dozen shows, from the *Opening Celebration to The Gruffalo*. Other New York credits include *Reel to Real, The Prince & The Pauper, The Jazz Nativity, Breaking the Code*, and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Regional credits include McCarter Theatre, Yale Rep, Williamstown Theater Festival, and the Huntington. She has toured with Dance Theatre of Harlem, Elisa Monte, Jennifer Muller, and Pilobolus.

**Cindy Tolan** (*casting director*). Broadway credits include: *Avenue Q, A Year With Frog and Toad, Medea* (additional casting). Off-Broadway: *Big Bill, The Carpetbagger's Children* (Lincoln Center Theater), *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (National Actors Theatre), *Necessary Targets* (Variety Arts), *Vienna: Lusthaus* (New York Theatre Workshop), *In the Blood, Tartuffe, Tongue of A Bird* (Public Theatre). Vineyard Theatre casting director since 1999. Film: *Loggerheads, Duane Hopwood, Kinsey, The Ballad of Jack and Rose, King of the Corner, Casa de los Babys, Personal*

*Velocity, Angela*. Television: *Wonderfalls* (New York casting). Member: CSA.

### ACTORS

**Mikhail Baryshnikov** (*Chito*) was born of Russian parents in Riga, Latvia, where he began studying ballet. He was accepted by the Vaganova School in Leningrad and studied under the renowned teacher Alexander Pushkin. At 18, he entered the Kirov Ballet as a soloist and he remained with the company from 1968 to 1974, when he left Russia. From 1974 to 1979, he danced with ballet and modern companies around the world. He was a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet from 1979 to 1980, and from 1980 until 1989, he was artistic director of American Ballet Theatre. From 1990 to 2002, Baryshnikov was director and dancer with the White Oak Dance Project, which he co-founded with choreographer Mark Morris. His most recent awards are the Kennedy Center Honors, the National Medal of Arts, the Commonwealth Award, and Yale University's highest honor, the Chubb Fellowship. Mr. Baryshnikov has starred in several films and has appeared in television and on Broadway. Presently, he is involved in creating the Baryshnikov Arts Center, scheduled to open this winter in New York City.

**Jon DeVries** (*The Doctor*) was most recently seen in the National Actors Theatre's production of *The Persian* ("Dazzling," *The New York Times*). Prior to that, he performed in Richard Nelson's *The General From America*, at the Alley Theatre (in Houston), and in New York City. Broadway credits include: *Devour the Snow, Major Barbara, Execution of Justice, Agamemnon, Loose Ends, The Cherry Orchard, Inspector General*. Off-Broadway: *Sight Unseen, Good-night Children Everywhere, Kit Marlowe, One Flea Spare, Oedipus, The Scarlet Letter, Fragments of a Trilogy, The Good Woman of Setzuan*. Movies and television include: *Lianna, City of Hope, Fatman and Littleboy, Joy Luck Club, First Deadly Sin, Sarah: Plain and Tall, Skylark, Pathway to Paradise, Law & Order, Lincoln, Now and Again*, and more. Mr. DeVries is also an artistic advisor to the American National Theater.

**Luis Perez** (*Ermonia and various roles, choreographer*) is a native of Florida. He was a principal dancer with the Joffrey Ballet for seven years before switching to Broadway. Since then, he has performed in 11 Broadway shows: *Chicago, Man of La Mancha* (1992, 2002), *Phantom of the Opera, Jerome Robbins' Broadway* (principal), *Passion, West Side Story* (Bernardo), *Ain't Broadway Grand, Grand Hotel* (The Chauffeur), *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (Pablo), *Brigadoon* (Harry Beaton), and *Dangerous Games* (Orfeo). He has also performed extensively in Off-Broadway and regional productions. Mr. Perez's television and film work includes several daytime serials, *Cosby, Murder Mystery*, and the film *Everyone Says I Love You*. As a choreographer, his credits include the Broadway productions of *Man of La Mancha* (starring Brian Stokes Mitchell and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio) and *The Civil War* (directed by Jerry Zaks). He was also fight director on *Wild Party, Marie Christine*, and *Dangerous Games*. Off-Broadway, he choreographed *Open Hearts*, written by and starring Robby Benson; *Thunder Knocking...; The Spitfire Grill; Carson McCullers*; and *Light Years*. Other notable productions are *Pokemon Live!* (director, choreographer) at Radio City Music Hall; *Venecia* for George Street Playhouse (starring Chita Rivera); *The Threepenny Opera* at ACT, San Francisco (starring Bebe Neuwirth); and *Don't Stop the Carnival* (choreographer), written by Jimmy Buffet and Herman Wouk. For film, Mr. Perez choreographed *Random Hearts* (starring Harrison Ford) and *Liberty Heights* (starring Bebe Neuwirth and Joe Montegna). He is married to Tina Paul and has two sons, Luis (19) and Gabe (11).

**Pilar Witherspoon** (*Tisana and various roles*). Off-Broadway: Nia in *Fighting Words* for the Underwood Theatre at Playwrights Horizons; Elaine in the American premiere of *One Good Beating* at the Jose Quintero Theatre; Sandra in *Beautiful Thing* at the Cherry Lane Theatre; Azra/Glenna in *DestiNation* (workshop production) for 2nd Stage; Adele Natter in Schnitzler's *Far & Wide* at the Mint Theatre; Solange in *The Maids*; Lili in *Why We Have a Body*. Regional credits include: Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* for the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis; Helena in *All's Well That Ends Well* at Playmakers

Repertory Theatre. At the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington DC: *Macbeth* starring Stacy Keach, and the Chorus in Michael Kahn's production of *Henry V*. For the St. Louis Repertory Theatre: Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* and Regina in *Ghosts*. Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Margaret More in *A Man For All Seasons*, and Maggie Cutler in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. At the Indiana Repertory Theatre, she played Madame George Sand in the world premiere of *Les Trois Dumas*. Other regional credits include: The Sundance Theatre Lab, The Sundance Playwrighting Lab, and the Idaho Shakespeare Festival. Television credits include: *Third Watch, Law & Order*, and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. Training: The Juilliard School Drama Division.

**Yvonne Woods** (*Mother, Nunu and various roles*). Off-Broadway: *Franny's Way*, Playwrights Horizons; *Left*, New York Stage & Film; *The General From America*, Theater For A New Audience. Other theater credits include: *Goodnight Children Everywhere*, American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco; *The General From America*, The Alley Theater, Houston; *Life's A Dream*, Court Theater, Chicago; *Madame Melville*, The Promenade Theater; *Slag Heap*, The Cherry Lane Alternative; *Bad Juju*, Greenwich Street Theater; and a summer at the Williamstown Theater Festival. Television: *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. Training: The Juilliard School.

**Baryshnikov Dance Foundation** (*co-executive producer*) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering the development of new and experimental work. Under Baryshnikov's active artistic leadership, an international center for interdisciplinary experimentation and collaboration will come to life in winter 2004. Located in the new performing arts complex, West 37th Street Arts, the Baryshnikov Arts Center will provide a unique opportunity for the professional development of emerging and mid-career artists across disciplines, as well as accomplished international artists whose work is lesser known in the United States. The Foundation's \$21 million capital and endowment campaign for the Baryshnikov Arts Center is now underway.



PEET'S COFFEE & TEA has earned an international reputation for quality since its founding in Berkeley in 1966. And since the early 1990s, PEET'S has also been a valued corporate supporter of Cal Performances.

Cal Performances is pleased to recognize PEET'S COFFEE & TEA for its renewed support this year as a sponsor of Rezo Gabriadze's *Forbidden Christmas*, starring Mikhail Baryshnikov.

In addition, PEET'S has generously supported Cal Performances with donations of coffees and teas at special events such as the 2001 Season Celebration, the 2002 Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, and last season's Berkeley Edge Fest.

Cal Performances' artists are also served coffees and teas from PEET'S backstage both before and after performances.



As noted by Jim Reynolds, Vice President of PEET'S COFFEE & TEA and a Cal Performances Trustee, "The high quality and range of artistic events at Cal Performances builds the cultural strength of the community, which in turn makes this a better community in which to do business. We know that many of our customers attend Cal Performances events and—through our sponsorship—associate their enjoyment of PEET'S with the marvelous performances they see here."

To learn more about PEET'S COFFEE & TEA, visit them on the web at [www.peets.com](http://www.peets.com).

With sincere appreciation, Cal Performances recognizes PEET'S COFFEE & TEA for sponsoring *Forbidden Christmas* and for its continued support. Thank you!

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation or to find out more information about the Center, please visit the website at [www.baryshnikovdancefoundation.org](http://www.baryshnikovdancefoundation.org).

**David Eden Productions, Ltd. (DEP)** (co-executive producer) has been one of the leading American producing organizations for over 15 years, and is devoted to staging international work in the United States. In 2000, DEP brought Rezo Gabriadze's *The Battle of Stalingrad* to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Gabriadze's American debut. DEP was also responsible for Gabriadze's subsequent return with *The Battle of Stalingrad* and *Autumn of My Springtime* at the 2002 Lincoln Center Festival. Other highlights include: Batsheva Dance Company national tour (1998 and 2004); Declan Donnellan's *Boris Godunov* national tour (2003); St. Petersburg State Academic Capella national tour (2003); Bolshoi Ballet national tour (2000 and 2002); Gate Theatre Dublin's "Beckett Festival" (2000); John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts—*Arts of the United Kingdom* (Summer 2001), *Island: Arts from Ireland* (2000), and *Art of the State: Israel at 50* (1998); Lev Dodin's Maly Drama Theater of St. Petersburg in *Gaudeamus*, BAM Next Wave Festival national tour (1994) and *Brothers and Sisters*, Lincoln Center Festival (2000); Kirov Ballet/Vaganova Ballet Academy Project, BAM (1998); and "Russian Village Festival" national tour (1990, 1991, 1995, and 1997), among others.

#### **Baryshnikov Dance Foundation**

Christina L. Sterner, *managing director*  
Huong Hoang, *director of administration and finance*  
Kim Mach, *assistant to the managing director*

#### **Staff for *Forbidden Christmas* or *The Doctor and The Patient***

Christopher Buckley, *production supervisor*  
Travis Fritsche, *company manager*  
Mary-Susan Gregson, *stage manager*  
Leo Janks, *lighting supervisor*  
Patrice Thomas, *production touring manager*

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Albert Chini, *head technician*  
Ryan Richards, *sound operator*  
Sara Overgaard, *assistant props/wardrobe*

Regina Kozakova, *assistant to the director/interpreter*  
Vladimer Meltser, *technical director for Mr. Gabriadze*  
Erica Charpentier, *assistant to Mr. Eden*  
Ellen Japaridze, *music editor*  
Scott Bolman, *assistant lighting designer*  
Helen Rodgers, *wardrobe supervisor*  
Cindy Tolan Casting, CSA, *casting*

#### **Acknowledgments**

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The co-commissioning partners of the production *Forbidden Christmas* or *The Doctor and The Patient* are the Guthrie Theater, the Spoleto Festival USA, Cal Performances, Lincoln Center Festival for the Performing Arts, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University Musical Society, The Bushnell Memorial Hall, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Reno is Art Town, and UCLA Live.

This production is supported, in part, by grants from the Trust of Mutual Understanding and the 2004 ArtsLink Independent Projects Award, a program of CEC ArtsLink.

The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The choreographer is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

Bruce Nadell, Padell Nadell Fine  
& Weinberger, *accountant*  
Ilene Furgang Travel Service, *travel arrangements*



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