



5th Russian Debutante Ball

To Mark the Centenary of the Russian Revolution

PATRON

HH Princess Olga Romanoff

GUESTS OF HONOUR

Admiral the Rt Hon Baron West of Spithead and the Lady West

In remembrance of the tragic events of the Russian Revolution of 1917 that changed the course of history, the Russian Debutante Ball in London will evoke this year more poignantly than ever the splendours and glamour of an era gone by.

DEBUTANTES

Forty young debutantes have been selected, after interviews across London, Vienna and Moscow. They will be taking part in the now legendary opening ceremony, partnered by dashing officers of the **Blues and Royals**, the most prestigious cavalry regiment of the British Army. The opening dance is choreographed by **Leonid Pletnev**, one time Russian dance master of Kristina Rihanoff and Honorary President of the International Dance Union.

The selection committee was impressed with the high calibre of the applicants, all either university students or already in permanent jobs, ranging from doctors, lawyers, bankers to a fashion designer.

The girls selected come from such diverse geographical backgrounds as **Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, Hong Kong** as well as **Ecuador**.

Particularly noted amongst them are **Ekaterina Gordyukhina** (22), studying for a BSc in economics and captain of the Moscow Chess Team in the Russian Championships. **Alice Yip** (19), student at King's College and member of Mensa High IQ society, as well as an accomplished violin player, sabre fencer and polo player, is another outstanding deb. Sisters **Daria Savinkina** (21) and **Vasilia Savinkina** (22) will make their entrance together into high society.



This year especially, the ball will be a reminder of the historical links between Russia and Great Britain - in particular the close family ties between the Romanovs and the Royal Family of Great Britain.

The patronage of **HH Princess Olga Romanoff** - great niece of the last tsar of Russia, Nicholas II - will therefore have a more special significance than ever.

The organisers are equally proud to welcome guests of honour Admiral Lord West, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the British Home Office, and his wife the Lady West, who will be attending the ball for the third year running.

STELLAR PERFORMANCES



During the evening guests will be entertained by musical performances of stars from world famous theatres and opera houses such as the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Maryinsky Theatre in St Petersburg or the Vienna State Opera. Amongst these are **Alina Yarovaya**, soprano soloist at the Bolshoi Theatre, and Kazakhstan born soprano **Aigul Shamshidenova**, who won a Grand Prix in vocal category opera in the world championships of performing arts in Hollywood.



CHAMPAGNE & CAVIAR RECEPTION AND GALA DINNER

Before the much awaited opening ceremony, guests will be treated to Russian caviar and French champagne during a glitzy reception. Menu for the gala dinner will be accompanied by fine wines, while generous shots of vodka will delight those with a taste for something stronger.

BOOK SIGNING BY HH PRINCESS OLGA ROMANOFF

During the champagne reception, Princess Olga Romanoff will be signing copies of her memoirs *Princess Olga – A Wild and Barefoot Romanov* published in October 2017, to mark the centenary of the Russian Revolution that tragically put an end to 300 years of Romanov dynasty.

The Russian Debutante Ball, now in its fifth consecutive year in London, is organised by **ESM Event Management**, known for its prestigious balls worldwide, in particular the ones in Vienna and Moscow.

The event will take place **4th November 2017** at the five star Grosvenor House, associated with the most prestigious debutante balls since the 1930s.

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The Russian Debutante Ball in London

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