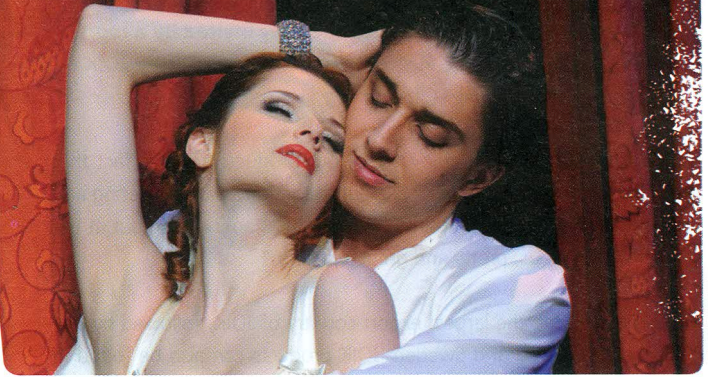


Alena Shkatula and Maksim Chukarjov



**MANON** / Kenneth MacMillan's ballet to the music of Jules Massenet

/ PERFORMANCES ON 13 AND 22 FEBRUARY  
AND 8 MARCH 2014 /

The central character is Manon, the most desirable courtesan in Paris, who becomes a refugee in Louisiana due to a dramatic chain of events. The music expresses Manon's downfall from the world of pleasures to the frustrating hellhole. Sir Kenneth MacMillan created one of the most popular ballets of the 20th century for the Royal Ballet in 1974. Since then, *Manon* has been performed by top ballet companies as the dancing technique of the dancers has to be of high level. *Manon* was the last ballet Agnes Oaks and Thomas Edur performed before returning to Estonia in 2009.

**MEDEA** / Ballet by Gianluca Schiavoni

World premiere at the Estonian National Opera on 13 March 2014  
/ PERFORMANCES ON 15 AND 28 MARCH 2014 /

**Gianluca Schiavoni** has created a ballet for the dancers of the Estonian National Ballet – a contemporary version of the famous myth of Medea with a new dramaturgy by **Marco Gandini**, a stunning and symbolic set design by **Maria Rossi Franchi** and **Andrea Tocchio** and costume design by **Simona Morresi**.

**Gianluca Schiavoni:** "Medea, a sensual and powerful princess of mythical Colchide (a region corresponding to present Georgia), is a seductive sorceress, who abandons her country and her family for her love of a strong and handsome man called Jason. Yet he is not interested only in Medea's love, but also in getting hold of the Golden Fleece, which is a symbol of power. Medea gains Jason's love by giving him this symbol of power. Soon she gives birth to two boys. Once she realizes that Jason is betraying her with the King's daughter, Glauce, she decides to take revenge by killing Glauce, and most terrible of all – by killing her own children."

[www.opera.ee](http://www.opera.ee)



LIFE IN ESTONIA WINTER 2014

Photos by Harri Rospu

Anatoli Arhangel'ski



**Estonian  
National Opera**

## **MODIGLIANI – THE CURSED ARTIST**

/ Thomas Edur's ballet to the music of Tauno Aints

**/ ON 11, 22 AND 24 JANUARY 2014 /**

"Modigliani – the Cursed Artist" is Thomas Edur's debut as a stage director at the Estonian National Opera. The ballet tells an exciting story of the stormy life of Amedeo Modigliani (1884–1920), one of the most famous bohemian artists of the 20th century. Legends are told about Modigliani's life – his eccentric nature, his bragging, emotional twists, passionate affairs with writers Anna Akhmatova and Beatrice Hastings, and artist Jeanne Hébuterne, a dream to mount Parnassus and his rivalry with Picasso, health problems and the onset of tuberculosis that he tried to conceal by consuming alcohol and drugs excessively – it all provides colourful material for the birth of an astonishing stage-work.