

Police Open \$3M Bolshoi Embezzlement Inquiry

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Police have launched a criminal investigation into the embezzlement of 90 million rubles (\$2.8 million) of state funds during the refurbishment of Moscow's legendary Bolshoi Theater.

Interior Ministry officials said Thursday that a contractor, PO Teplotekhnika, received the money for work on the theater's electrical system despite not fulfilling its contract, news agencies reported. The company could not immediately be reached for comment.

A symbol of national pride for centuries, the Bolshoi reopened in 2011 after a \$1 billion renovation. Despite the lavish sums, much of the work was of poor quality, with cracks appearing in the walls and gold leaf crumbling away.

The theater has been shrouded in scandal since an assailant threw acid onto the face of Bolshoi Ballet artistic director Sergei Filin in January.

(AP)

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