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Andante: An Unusual Premiere at the Meyerhold Center

By The Moscow Times

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The Meyerhold Center (TsIM) is to premier Fyodor Pavlov-Andreevich's performance of Andante, a play written by his mother Ludmilla Petrushevskaya. Pavlov-Andreevich, an acclaimed artist, director and head of the Solyanka State Gallery, will be interpreting the play through dramatic dance: a mix of contemporary dance and post-dramatic theatre.

Petrushevskaya wrote Andante in the 1970s about a rare and magical substance which could make anyone feel young and beautiful. The plot is still very much relevant today, and with all the historical references now taken out, many might think that the play is a modern one.

Pavlov-Andreevich collaborated with famous Moscow-based artist Katya Bochavar on the set and costume, which are pretty much one and the same in case of Andante. Paper will be spread on the stage while grotesque costumes the color of the actors' skin will also serve as part of the set. Dina Khusein also worked with Pavlov-Andreevich to create the performance's choreography.

The two performances on May 25 and May 26 will both differ slightly. On May 25, the premiere will be followed by a round table discussion of the performance by Fyodor Pavlov-Andreevich, Katya Bochavar and Elena Kovalskaya, TsiM Art Director and a yet unnamed theater critic. On May 26 - Ludmilla Petrushevskaya's birthday - the writer herself will also be on hand perform her somewhat macabre cabaret songs with a live band.

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