

TIMELINE

This timeline is excerpted from *Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes, 1909–1929: When Art Danced with Music*, published by V&A Publishing, available May 2013
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	WORLD EVENTS	CULTURAL EVENTS	DIAGHILEV AND THE BALLETS RUSSES
1870	Franco-Prussian War. 4 September: capture of Paris and foundation of French 3rd Republic.	25 May: creation of the ballet <i>Coppélia</i> at Paris Opéra.	4 May: Alexandre Benois born in St Petersburg.
1871			
1872			31 March: Serge Pavlovich Diaghilev born near Novgorod. 31 March: the great art patron Misia Sert is born in St Petersburg.
1873	15/16 September: last German troops leave France.	13 January: premiere of Rimsky-Korsakov's opera <i>The Maid at Pskov (Ivan the Terrible)</i> in St Petersburg.	
1874			14 October: Diaghilev's father marries second wife Elena V. Panaeva; family moves to St Petersburg.
1875		Leo Tolstoy publishes the first chapters of <i>Anna Karenina</i> in the <i>Russian Herald</i> .	
1876	1 May: Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India. 10 March: first telephone call made by Alexander Graham Bell.	14 June: premiere of the ballet <i>Sylvia</i> choreographed by Louis Mérante at Paris Opéra.	
1877	April: Russia declares war on Turkey.	4 March: premiere of Pyotr Tchaikovsky's first ballet, <i>Swan Lake</i> , at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow.	
1878	13 June–13 July: Congress of Berlin settles Russia's advance into the Balkans and Caucasus.		
1879	Thomas Edison files patents for the electric light bulb.		Diaghilev moves with his family to their estate in Perm.
1880	1880–1: the first Boer War.		23 April: Mikhail Fokine is born in St Petersburg.
1881	1 March: Alexander II is Assassinated, Alexander III succeeds as Tsar of Russia.	11 January: premiere of the ballet <i>Excelsior</i> at La Scala, Milan.	25 October: Pablo Picasso is born in Malaga, Spain.
1882			17 June: Igor Stravinsky is born in Oranienbaum, near St Petersburg.
1888		13 February: Richard Wagner dies in Venice.	
1884		Summer: Société des Artistes Indépendants founded in France.	
1885	Karl Benz patents the 'Motorwagen', the first petrol-powered automobile.	Savva Mamontov forms the Russian Private Opera in Moscow. First performances: <i>A Life for the Tsar</i> (Mikhail Glinka), <i>The Snow Maiden</i> (Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov).	9 March: Tamara Karsavina born in St Petersburg.
1886	28 October: Statue of Liberty unveiled in New York.	Last Impressionist exhibition in Paris.	
1887		Construction of Eiffel Tower begins for 1889 Paris Exposition Universelles.	
1888	15 June: Wilhelm II Becomes Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia.		20 February: Marie Rambert born in Warsaw, Poland (then under Russian rule).
1889			

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1890		First performances of Alexander Borodin's <i>Prince Igor</i> , Tchaikovsky's <i>Queen of Spades</i> and <i>The Sleeping Beauty</i> in St Petersburg.	12 March: Vaslav Nijinsky born in Kiev, Ukraine. Diaghilev's father bankrupted. Diaghilev meets Alexandre Benois in St Petersburg. Diaghilev first visits Western Europe. September: Diaghilev begins a Law degree at St Petersburg University.
1891	Construction of Trans-Siberian Railway begins.		23 April: Sergei Prokofiev born in Sontsovska, Ukraine (then under Russian rule).
1892	Summer drought triggers a famine in Russia.		Diaghilev and Dima Filosofov meet Leo Tolstoy in Moscow.
1893		29 October: premiere of Tchaikovsky's 6th Symphony (<i>Pathétique</i>). 6 November: Tchaikovsky dies in St Petersburg.	
1894	1 November: Tsar Alexander III dies at the age of 49, succeeded by Nicholas II.	22 December: <i>Prélude à l'après midi d'un faune</i> by Claude Debussy performed in Paris.	Diaghilev graduates.
1895	Wilhelm Röntgen discovers X-rays.	28 December: Auguste and Louis Lumière show first Cinématographe film in Paris.	
1896	First modern Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece.	Fyodor Chaliapin makes his Moscow debut in <i>A Life for the Tsar</i> . 17 October: Anton Chekhov's <i>The Seagull</i> premiered at the Alexandrinsky Theatre in St Petersburg.	
1897		22 June: Konstantin Stanislavsky founds the Moscow Art Theatre. Vienna Secession is founded with Gustav Klimt as first president.	
1898	Russian Museum opens in St Petersburg.	7 January: <i>Sadko</i> by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov premieres in Moscow, presented by the Russian Private Opera; sets designed by Korovine, Maliutin and Vrubel.	Diaghilev and Alexandre Benois found <i>Mir iskusstva</i> (<i>World of Art</i>), magazine.
1899	1899–1902: the second Boer War.	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> by Sigmund Freud is published in Vienna.	September: Diaghilev employed by the Imperial Theatres for special assignments, including editing the Theatres' Year Book.
1900	Eastman Kodak introduces the Brownie camera. Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin invents the first rigid airship.	Exposition Universelles in Paris, which includes Loie Fuller's theatre.	
1901	22 January: Queen Victoria dies, succeeded by Edward VII.	Alexandre Benois appointed Scenic Director of Maryinsky Theatre in St Petersburg.	Diaghilev dismissed from the Imperial Theatres.
1902		Georges Méliès's film <i>La Voyage dans la lune</i> plays in Paris.	Diaghilev and Filosofov travel in Europe, and visit Baron Richard von Krafft-Ebing's sanatorium in Graz, Austria.
1903	Second Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party, and Bolshevik / Menshevik Split.	First Salon d'Automne held at Grand Palais, Paris, organized by Henri Matisse, Georges Roualt and André Marquet.	
1904	8 February: outbreak of Russo-Japanese War. 8 April: Entente Cordiale between the UK and France.	17 January: Stanislavsky directs the premiere of <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> at Moscow Art Theatre. 15 July: death of Anton Chekhov. 15 July: Isadora Duncan dances in Russia.	<i>Mir iskusstva</i> (<i>World of Art</i>), ceases publication. 22 January: George Balanchine born in St Petersburg.

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1905	1905 Revolution. 9 January: 'Bloody Sunday' Massacre outside Winter Palace, St Petersburg. Russia changes from Absolute to Constitutional Monarchy.	Salon d'Automne exhibition opens in Paris, where 'Fauvism' is first defined.	6 March: opened by the tsar, Diaghilev's <i>Exhibition of Russian Historical Portraits</i> goes on display at the Tauride Palace, St Petersburg.
1906			Diaghilev's survey of Russian Art opens at the Salon d'Automne, Grand Palais; the exhibition tours to the Schulte Salon, Berlin.
1907			Diaghilev's Russian art exhibition appears at the eighth Venice Biennale. Diaghilev and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov organize Russian music concerts at the Paris Opéra.
1908	Henry Ford begins production of the Model T automobile. Summer Olympiad held in London.		Diaghilev produces <i>Boris Godunov</i> , directed by Alexander Sanin, starring Fyodor Chaliapin and featuring the chorus of the Bolshoi, Moscow at the Paris Opéra.
1909		FT. Marinetti publishes the 'Founding and Manifesto of Futurism'.	Diaghilev's first season of ballet and opera at the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, makes a significant loss but achieves critical success.
1910	Death of King Edward VII, accession of King George V.	20 November: death of Leo Tolstoy. 8 November: Roger Fry's <i>Manet and the Post-Impressionists</i> exhibition opens at the Grafton Galleries, London.	Diaghilev returns to Paris for a second season, when Stravinsky's first ballet, <i>The Firebird</i> , is presented. Diaghilev also presents ballet in Berlin and Brussels.
1911		Edward Gordon Craig publishes <i>On the Art of Theatre</i> .	Nijinsky dismissed from the Imperial Ballet. The Ballet Russes becomes a permanent company, giving its first performances at Monte Carlo, Rome and the Coronation Season in London. Ida Rubinstein leaves the Ballets Russes.
1912	April: RMS Titanic sinks. 8 October 1912–17 May 1913: Balkan Wars in Europe.		First tours of Central Europe. Nijinsky choreographs <i>L'Après-midi d'un faune</i> . Fokine leaves the Ballets Russes.
1913	300-year anniversary of Romanov rule in Russia.		First performances in South America. Fokine is invited back following Nijinsky's marriage and dismissal.
1914	1 August: outbreak of World War I. St Petersburg renamed Petrograd.		Diaghilev's last season in Paris and London of Russian opera and ballet before the war. July: Company disperses after last night at Drury Lane.
1915		8 February: premiere of D.W. Griffith's film <i>The Birth of a Nation</i> in Los Angeles.	May: company reforms in Switzerland; only two performances, one each in Geneva and Paris. Massine emerges as the company's choreographer.
1916	1 July: beginning of the Battle of the Somme.	Picasso's <i>Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)</i> is displayed at the Salon d'Antin, in a gallery on the premises of Paul Poiret's fashion house, Paris.	Two long tours of the United States; first performances in Spain. Nijinsky rejoins the Ballets Russes in America and Spain.
1917	Russian Revolutions of 1917: Tsar Nicholas II abdicates. July–October, Provisional Government headed by Alexander Kerensky.	27 September: death of Edgar Degas. 17 November: death of Auguste Rodin.	Only Ballets Russes season in Paris during the war includes creation of <i>Parade</i> . Last tour to South America.

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1917 (ctd)	25 October (Julian calendar), 7 November (Gregorian calendar): Bolsheviks take over with Lenin as head. 30 October: Kerensky repulsed outside Petrograd. Russian Civil War begins.		
1918	11 November: end of World War I.		Company invited to perform at the London Coliseum.
1919	5–12 January: Spartacist uprising in Berlin.	The Ballets Suédois performs first season at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris.	The Ballets Russes give 375 performances in Britain, including the premieres of <i>La Boutique fantasque</i> and <i>Le Tricorne</i> , and three in Paris.
1920	10 August: Treaty of Sèvres, Ottoman Empire dismantled.		The Ballets Russes restarts tours of Europe.
1921		Alexander Rodchenko and Varvara Stepanova publish 'Constructivist Art'.	Massine leaves the Ballet Russes. <i>The Sleeping Princess</i> is presented at the Alhambra, Leicester Square, London.
1922	Soviet Russia becomes USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). 3 April: Stalin becomes General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. 22 October: Benito Mussolini becomes Prime Minister of Italy.		February: Diaghilev bankrupted and company suspended. May: company reforms in Monte Carlo. Ballets Russes becomes resident opera-ballet company in Monte Carlo for the winter season.
1923			
1924	Lenin dies. Creation of Triumvirate headed by Stalin. Summer Olympics held in Paris.	Soirée de Paris season at Théâtre de la Cigale, Paris (17 May – 30 June 1924).	Diaghilev presents French Opera season at Monte Carlo; first major post-war tour of Germany. Bakst dies. Balanchine joins the Ballets Russes.
1925	Adolf Hitler publishes vol. I of <i>Mein Kampf</i> .	Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris. Sergei Eisenstein directs <i>The Battleship Potemkin</i> . 1 July: death of Erik Satie. 2 October: Josephine Baker first performs at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris.	
1926	General Strike in Britain.	Frederick Ashton choreographs <i>A Tragedy of Fashion</i> . Fritz Lang directs <i>Metropolis</i> .	
1927		Martha Graham opens school of dance in New York. Premiere of <i>The Jazz Singer</i> , the first feature-length talking picture.	Diaghilev's half-brother Valentin is deported to the Solovki prison camp.
1928	Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.	Ida Rubinstein commissions and performs in Maurice Ravel's <i>Boléro</i> . Rudolf Laban publishes <i>Labanotation</i> , a system of recording human movement.	
1929	February: Stalin Expels Trotsky from the USSR. October: United States stock market crashes.		4 August: last performance by Diaghilev's Ballets Russes at Casino Theatre, Vichy. 19 August: Diaghilev dies in Venice. 21 August: Diaghilev is buried on the island of San Michele. Weeks later, Diaghilev's half-brother Valentin is executed.