



STAGE RUSSIA HD PRESENTS

ANNA KARENINA

CAPTURED LIVE ON STAGE AT
THE VAKHTANGOV STATE ACADEMIC THEATRE OF RUSSIA

Experience the mastery of Russian theater in cinemas
with the Stage Russia HD presentation of **Anna Karenina**



PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

ACT 1

Anna Karenina has arrived in Moscow with the hope of saving her brother Stiva Oblonsky's marriage. His wife, Dolly Oblonskaya, has just found out about her husband's affair with one of their governesses and is supposedly on the verge of leaving him. At the station, where Stiva meets his sister, Anna first encounters Count Aleksey Vronsky, but she doesn't attach much importance to this quick encounter.

At the Oblonsky home, Anna manages to persuade Dolly that Stiva, despite his infidelity, is still in love with her. With Anna's help, Dolly eventually forgives her husband.

Meanwhile, Konstantin Levin has come to Moscow to propose to Kitty Shcherbatskaya, but this 18 year-old girl, who is about to make her debut in high society, rejects him. She is in love with Vronsky and hopes that he will propose to her during the ball. When the ball begins, however, Vronsky only has eyes for Anna Karenina. Kitty is devastated and humiliated. Levin tries to soothe her wounded ego and broken heart, but Kitty rejects him again.

When she returns from the ball Anna is overwhelmed with emotions. Lost and frightened, Anna decides to go back home to Saint-Petersburg immediately. Vronsky follows, though, and at one of the train stops he confesses his feelings for her.

Aleksey Karenin is an honest and upstanding man who loves his wife, but puts his job in the ministry first. Karenin and their son, Seryozha, pick Anna up at the station, but there is a palpable coldness between them. Her passionate feelings for Vronsky are in stark contrast to the dutiful wife position she has assumed with Karenin.

We are next introduced to Princess Betsy Tverskaya. She is Vronsky's cousin and a hostess of a salon in Saint Petersburg. Her hobby is to incite intrigues and shenanigans and the most scandalous rumors come from her fashionable salon. It is there that Anna meets with Vronsky, causing rumors to spread.

Overflowing with passion, Anna is desperate to leave her marriage. Only the love for her son, who will surely be separated from her should she leave, stops her. Karenin, who has gotten wind of Anna's public indiscretions, demands that she put an end to the embarrassing affair. A few days later, at a horse race, and after being warned by her husband to behave, Anna is unable to suppress her feelings when she sees Vronsky fall off his horse. At home later, Karenin warns her one last time, threatening he won't let her see their son should she choose to continue on with Vronsky. With a heavy heart, Anna chooses Vronsky and leaves Karenin.

Presentation includes no
dialogue or subtitles



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ACT 2

Anna and Vronsky are in love and happy in each other's embrace. Levin, in the meantime, proposes to Kitty once more and the girl, touched by his sincere love and care, finally agrees. They marry.

In time, Anna's feelings for Vronsky are replaced by her anguish for her son. Anna has given everything up for a love that was supposed to last forever, but is slowly fading away. She begins to suspect her lover of infidelities. The situation worsens when Vronsky's mother, who has condemned her son's affair with Anna, tries to marry him off to another woman.

Vronsky is annoyed with Anna's accusations. Anna's constant jealousy puts distance between them. Vronsky, who is torn and racked with responsibility, leaves Anna alone more often now. She turns to Stiva and Dolly to help her meet with her son, but Karenin won't have it.

An outcast in high society, Anna gamely attempts to attend an opera, but her former friends shun her and look at her with disgust. Vronsky makes one last futile attempt to convince her of his love, but his heart isn't in it anymore. Anna decides to take her own life and free herself and her lover. Tormented and devastated, she throws herself under a passing train.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Directed and choreographed by Angelica Cholina, this Vakhtangov Theatre production of *Anna Karenina* is a modern dance interpretation of Leo Tolstoy's classic novel, originally published in serial installments from 1875 to 1877 in the periodical *The Russian Messenger*. Telling the life story of the titular Anna, a St. Petersburg aristocrat, against the backdrop of late 19th century Russian society, Tolstoy's novel is widely considered a pinnacle in realist fiction.

Cholina strives to find the equivalent of Tolstoy's words in harmony and movement, as every gesture holds as much meaning as a word. The music of Alfred Schnittke helps to reveal the characters of the drama and their depth, together with elegance and mood corresponding to the amplitude of the novel.

CREW

Director-choreographer Angelica Cholina
Set-designer Marius Jacovskis
Make-up and costumes Yuozas Statkevichus
Lighting designer Tadas Valeyka

CAST

Anna Karenina Olga Lerman
Alexey Karenin Evgeny Knyazev
Alexey Vronsky Dmitry Solomykin
Stepan Oblonsky (Stiva) Valery Ushakov
Darya Oblonskaya (Dolly) Maria Volkova
Ekaterina Sherbatskaya (Kiti) Ekaterina Kramzina
Konstantin Levin Fedor Vorontsov