

NATIONAL FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE

BULGARE

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In times of hardships, changes and ordeals there is no stronger building power for a nation than turning back towards its roots, towards the great moments of its history, towards its authentic traditions, ethnography and folklore. That was the truth perceived in the creation of the first private professional ensemble for folk dances "BULGARE".

It all began with an idea.

The idea to create a grand folklore performance, displaying in seven music and dance acts the typical music, songs, dances and mentality of the Bulgarians from the seven ethnographic regions: the Rhodopi Mountain, Macedonia, Shopluka, North Bulgaria, Dobrudzha, Strandzha and Thracia.

On October 1, 2002 we established the Bulgare Ensemble. Now there are 25 men and 25 women, all of them professional dancers, and soloist is Albena Veskova - who was at that time soloist of the Mystery of the Bulgarian Voices.

This is the largest private folk ensemble in Europe.

In 2003 we created Bulgaria's first grand folklore project - the dance spectacle “THIS IS BULGARIA”. In 7 musical and dancing scenes the narrator-foreigner reveals the richness and beauty of the music, songs and dances of Bulgaria's 7 ethnographic areas: The Rodophi Mountains, Macedonia, Shopluka, Northern Bulgaria, Dobrudzha, Strandzha and the Thrace.

On June 6, 2006, at Hall 1 of the National Palace of Culture (NDK), the Bulgare Ensemble, presented the show "BULGARIA THROUGH THE CENTURIES". The second large-scale project of the folk group reverberated through the entire Bulgarian public with its spectacular effect and dramatic impact. No one had expected the Bulgare Ensemble to be so different. Whereas in "This is Bulgaria" there was predominantly dancing, in this show the performers proved to be excellent actors, acrobats, stuntmen and fighters.

The show presents a journey through the history of Bulgaria, starting with the age of Khan Kubrat (632) and reaching the 20th Century. The guides through this odyssey in time are two professional actors - Emil Markov in the part of Khan Kubrat and Dimitar Selenski in the part of the Christian prophet Virgil. There are scenes with Khan Asparuh, St. Cyril and St. Methodius, Tsar Ivan Assen II, Gen. Gurko, and other personalities that have left a permanent imprint in the history of Bulgaria and the whole world.

The most dramatic moments are associated with the fall under Turkish rule. The spectator shall long remember the image of Kocho, as described in the eponymous work of Vazov. The music resembled film music rather than folklore. It was written this time by Prof. Milcho Vassilev.

On May 15, 2007 “Bulgare” showed the third show – “ALBENA”. If you think that the shows This is Bulgaria and Bulgaria through the Centuries are very different from one another, then, by all means, you must see the third show of the Bulgare Ensemble - ALBENA - which will surely astound you. We never do things we have done before, because there is no way we can do them better. The new show continues this tradition. It reveals the beauty and strength of the Bulgarian folk song.

The song, that has preserved the Bulgarian spirit through the centuries, that made our country famous worldwide, that was even sent in the outer space. The unique show reveals the full range of the talent of the soloist, Albena Veskova, both as singer, and as actress and author of songs. In the course of one hour and forty minutes she sings 15 folk songs and compositions from the Rodopi Mountains, Dobrudzha, Thracia, and Macedonia. The arrangement and music of Ivan Kirishev mark a new age in Bulgarian musical folklore. The Bulgare Ensemble once again reveals the beauty of the Bulgarian folk dances in a new original way - with many effects and innovative directing. The most outstanding dances are: the women's Varna dance and the three-fold horo (ring dance) which shows the universality of the men's dancing skills.
The jewel in the show is the "dancing contest" of the best dancers in Bulgaria. The winner is selected by the applause of the spectators.
The glamour of the show is achieved by, among other things, the craftsmanship of the authentic Bulgarian costumes.

"The Eighth wonder"
It is the fourth original project in the repertoire of the National Folklore Ensemble "Bulgare" presented with a glamorous premiere on June 14, 2016 in Hall 1 of NDK.
Producer, writer, director and choreographer of the new musical and dance folklore show, Hristo Dimitrov again offers spectators something spectacular and unprecedented.
"The Eighth Wonder" is a unique journey into the world of asymmetrical rhythms in Bulgarian folklore music. It's a spectacular combination of movie and dynamic folk dances and songs. Guide in this journey is a true friend of Bulgaria nearly a century ago – the Irish journalist James Bourchier, brilliantly acted by the Hollywood actor Ben Cross. His partner, as the Hungarian composer Bela Bartok, is the successful Bulgarian actor Atanas Srebrev. The enthralling story revealed in seven stage scenes the most unique of our rich folklore treasure. Two hours in the magic of the exciting Bulgarian rhythms, performed by Folklotre Ensemble "BULGARE", are enough that the spectators once again feel the pride of our unique folklore heritage.
"The Eighth wonder" is dedicated to the memory of the generous Maecenas Ian Charles Anderson. His impressive financial support helped the ensemble "Bulgare" to appear on the professional stage and the creation of its first three spectacles.

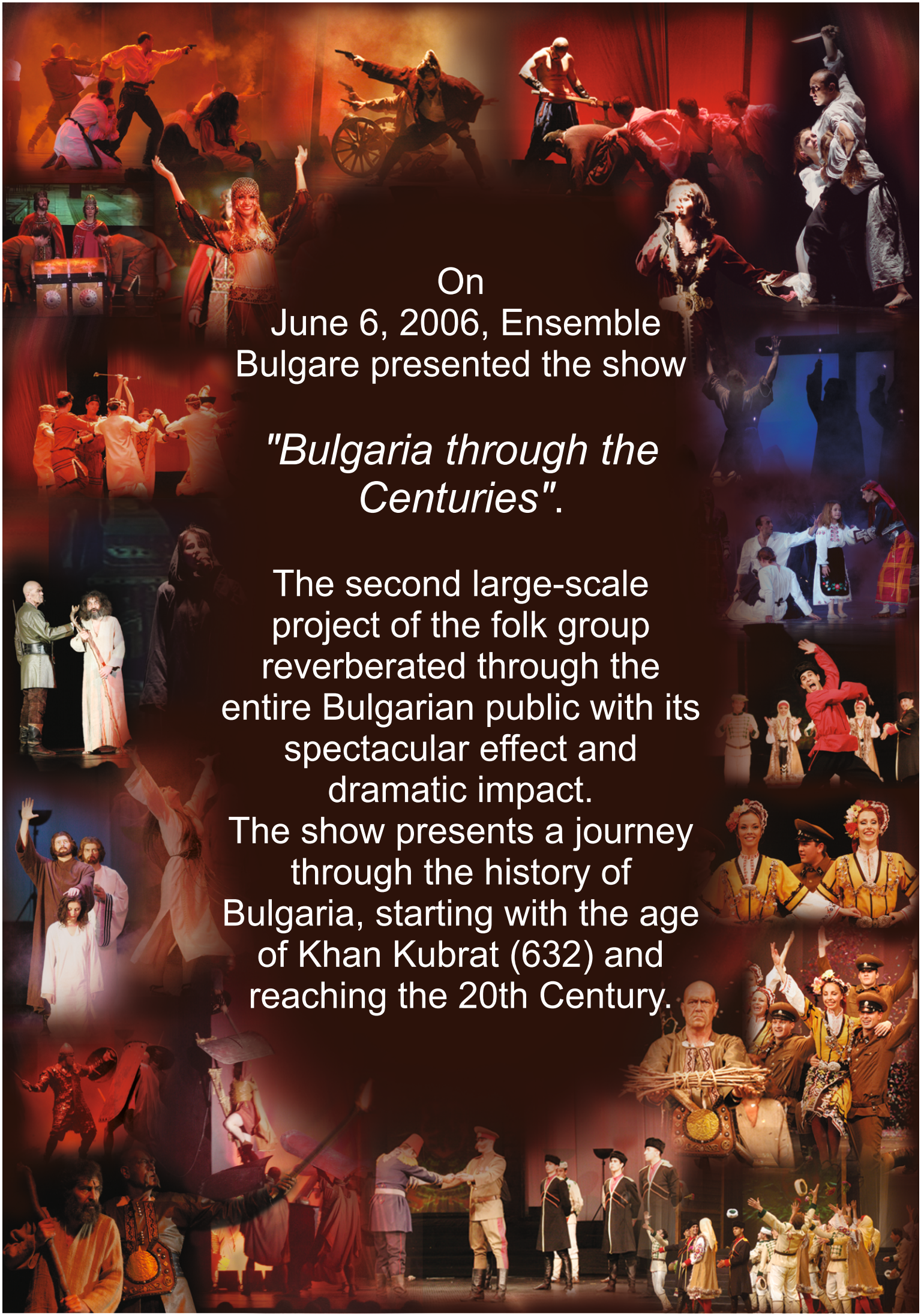
The Bulgare Ensemble has an extraordinary success in the country and aboard - Japan, Israel, Luxemburg, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Greece, Romania, Macedonia, France, USA, Canada, Germany, Netherlands etc. Even on Boroadway (twice).
Today, 22 years later, the Bulgare Ensemble's concerts exceed 100 per annum and eve one of them turns into an unforgettable folk experience for everyone who attends them.



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spectacle

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Rodophi Mountains,
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"Bulgaria through the Centuries".

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The show presents a journey through the history of Bulgaria, starting with the age of Khan Kubrat (632) and reaching the 20th Century.



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“ALBENA”

reveals the beauty and strength of the Bulgarian folk song.

The unique show reveals the full range of the talent of the soloist, Albena Veskova, both as singer, and as actress and author of songs.

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