

# Old meets new

A new national center for traditional performing arts uses the latest developments in stage technology

**T**he new Moscow Music Theatre of Folklore, referred to as 'Russian Song' and managed by celebrated Russian artist Nadezhda Babkina, aims to provide a national center for traditional music, dance and the performing arts in a multinational and multicultural country.

Located at Olimpiyskiy Prospekt, in the downtown area of Moscow, the theater is a part of the modern Diamond Hall Business Centre complex, and occupies an area of more than 96,875ft<sup>2</sup>. The venue is organized as a multistory, independent building block comprised of public areas and backstage facilities.

The modern complex has little in common with the traditional wooden cottage style of old Russian buildings – on the contrary, the high-tech design and finishing make for a total contrast to the warm and gentle folk singing, music playing and dancing performed inside.

Around herself and her Russian Song artistic assemble, Babkina has built a team of traditional artists, based at the theater and working on different educational and performing programs.



Above and below: **The new stage machinery installed at the Music Theatre of Folklore**

Bottom and right: **The theater's hall. Svetlost Teatar delivered a turnkey project installation**



## Building blocks

Intended to host the widest possible range of different shows and events, the venue's design and construction paid special attention to the integration of up-to-date theater technology equipment into the auditorium and fly tower.

From the beginning of the project, the brief was geared toward multipurpose use. As well as music and drama performances, small and large-scale orchestra and chorus concerts, many other activities had to be catered for, including corporate events, fashion shows, banquets and New Year's Eve celebrations.

Custom-designed understage machinery located in the proscenium and main stage area plays the main role in the transformation process, followed by the upper stage machinery inside the high fly tower.

The design, production and installation was realized by Svetlost Teatar as part of a turnkey contract. A total of 100 drives are involved. To fulfill the different seating layout requirements and auditorium/stage configurations, a total of 26 motorized proscenium lifts form the heart of the transformable system. An additional 11 motorized platforms are integrated in the main stage area. Lifting capabilities are provided







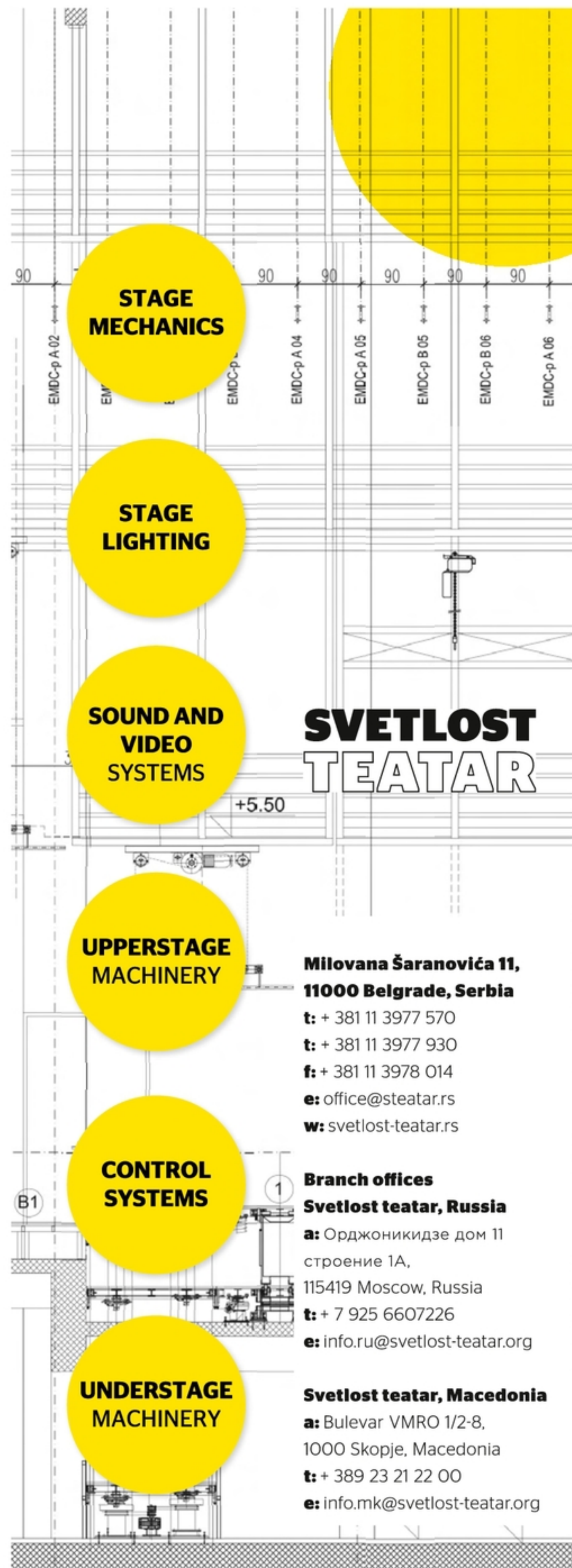
## STAGE TECHNOLOGY

by more than 90 Spiralifts, and self-guiding motorized platforms transfer the full technology loads to the building's concrete construction.

Depending on the flexible seating layouts, the new venue has a maximum capacity of 1,000 spectators. In addition to the main stage motorized platforms and upper-stage machinery, the venue has a fully motorized and controlled fly system. A separate winch room at grid level was also included during the design process.

A few years after successfully completing work on the Barvikha Concert Hall in Moscow for a private owner, The New Moscow Music Theatre of Folklore presented a new challenge for the specialists at Svetlost Teatar. However, the Moscow venue retained many of the same goals, including a multifunctional preference for running a wide variety of programs. Although they are completely different types of auditoria – while both have a capacity of around 1,000, the Barvikha Concert Hall is a black box theater and The New Moscow Music Theatre is a traditional, Italian-style theater – the two venues have much in common, not only from an engineering point of view, but in their prosperous outlook. ■

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