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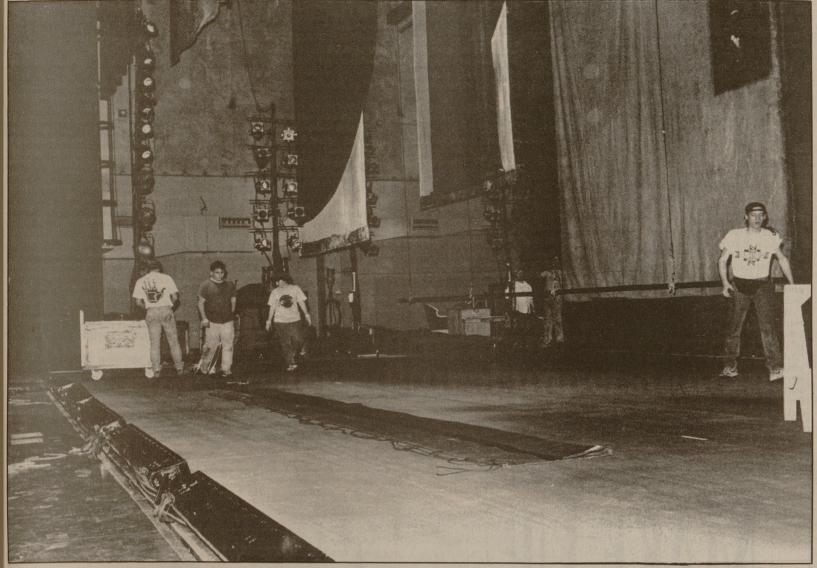
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HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

Members of the production crew survey the stage in preparation for the Bolshoi Ballet-Grigorovich Company's debut. The staff of more

than 60 is made up of both Americans and Soviets. Interpreters help the two understand each other.

Technical crew puts pieces together

"Putting it together, bit by bit... Every moment makes a contribution; every little detail plays a part." Stephen Sondheim's commentary on the art of performance holds true for the Bolshoi Ballet-Grigorovich

Company production crew. The

crew has been putting it together backstage at Rudder Auditorium for the dancers' long-awaited debut.

The giant technical crew of 55 Americans and seven Soviets has been preparing the stage for the

company for the last two weeks. Set, props, costumes, lighting every little detail plays a part - and details for the Bolshoi are anything but little. A series of 40 handpainted and inlaid backdrops, for instance, are used in the set for "The

The backdrops, nineteenth-century style furniture and over 200 colorful costumes are duplicates of the traditional designs of designer SiDesigner's creations still set the stage

"I could not imagine one of my ballets without designs by Virsa-

Yuri Grigorovich, artistic director for the Bolshoi Ballet, said these words about famed designer Simon Virsaladze, whose set and costume creations will support the Grigorovich Compaperformances at Texas

The two men began their artistic collaboration in 1957 and worked as a team on every Grigorovich production for the next 30 years. Their original productions include the ballets "The Stone Flower," "Spartacus," "Ivan the

the choreography, stimulating the atmosphere of fantasy." In charge of organizing it all is production manager David Bradmon Virsaladze, who created the Bolshoi look for over 20 years. The stage pieces are brand new and come ford, of the Entertainment Corporastraight from the workshops at the tion in New York, who has described

'I've seen this production at the Bolshoi twice with the original scenery, and it's a beautiful production,"

Several adaptations have been made to fit the stage to Rudder Auditorium. The huge backdrops, for instance, were too large and had to be modified to scale to fit.

Also, the crew had to enlarge the stage floor, adding a full eight feet to the back and four feet to each side. The wooden floor was then covered with a padding substance known as marley. After this was put down, the crew set a giant groundcloth over the marley.

Overseeing A&M's assistance in the modifications of the stage and the setup has been Mark Chaloupa,

the senior stage manager at Rudder.
"Working with the Russians has been wonderful," he said. "They're very understanding and easy to work with, never demanding.

Bolshoi in Moscow. the set as priceless. Sister cities foster cultural understanding

By CAROL GLENN

In a time of unrest in the Middle East, organizations such as the Bryan/College Station Sister City Organization are bridging the gap be-tween the Soviet Union and the United States for a more culturally

By CAROL GLENN

With all the fury in the Brazos

Valley by the visit of the Bolshoi

Ballet-Grigorovich Company it is

interesting to note that Franz An-

ton Krager's visit to the Soviet Union and the Bolshoi's visit to

College Station are purely coin-

cidentally overlapping.

Krager, music director-conductor of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra (BVSO), travels

to the Soviet Union Tuesday until

Philharmonic, the second-rated orchestra in the Soviet Union, on

On December 7th Krager will conduct a concert that will in-clude: "American in Paris" by

George Gershwin; "Symphonie

Espagnole" by Lalo which will in-

clude a violin conchardo and a vi-

olin soloist; "Beethoven Symphony #7" in A Major; and encores by the late Leonard

On December 9th Krager will

conduct a concert featuring "Hydn Symphony #88" in G Ma-

December 7th and 9th.

aware society tomorrow

BVSO conductor leaves

for Soviet performance

After three years of negotiations, the mayors of College Station, Bryan and Kazan have initiated a program enabling students, musicians and citizens to become more culturally aware and receptive to foreign people. It also increases people's knowledge of other countries by allowing them to participate in this exchange program

Terrible" and "The Golden Age." Born in 1909, Virsaladze first studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Tbilisi. In 1927, he cre-

ated his first theater design there

and was appointed chief opera and ballet designer at the Aca-demy in 1932.

career as chief designer for the

Kirov Theater in Leningrad. He

designed for the Bolshoi begin-ning in 1964 and continued to do

so until his death in January.

One writer noted of his work,

'His masterpieces supplement

In 1937 Virsaladze began his

Especially instrumental in the creation of this orgainzaion is Michal Barszap, who is president of the Bry-an/College Station Sister City Organization. Barszap, who is a specialist in Soviet relations, has made twelve trips to the Soviet Union over the last three years to help organize the program and negotiate contracts with Kazan.

"Kazan is the ideal city for us (Bryan/College Station)," said Barszap. "Until last year Kazan was closed to foreigners. We were the first foreigners to enter the city. So, not only are we able to travel where foreigners have never been able to travel, but we also have the opportunity to exchange musicians and students with Kazan State University, the third largest university in the So-

viet Union. Barszap travels to Kazan with Franz Anton Krager Tuesday until December 12th to assist Krager with language and culture barriers. Krager is conducting concerts by the National Philharmonic of the Tatar

that will be discussed include: • sending a Soviet conductor (not associated with the Bolshoi Ballet) to

the B/CS area to conduct performances of the BVSO.

• exchanging 10 high school students from the B/CS area with 10

high students from Kazan. arranging a tour for the citizens

of B/CS to meet with citizens from In conjunction with the Bryan-College Station Sister City Organization, there is an exhibit of photo-

graphs at the College of Medicine and at the Walden Retirement Community on Memorial Drive in Bryan. This photographic exhibit titled Kazan: Life and Culture" includes 102 prints taken by Mikhail (Misha) Medvedev, a photographer for the Soviet news agency and a participant

These photographs depict life in the Soviet Union and will be on display through Friday from 8.a.m. to 5

in the sister city organization in Ka-

The Bryan/College Station Sister City Organization will continue working with Kazan as well as possibly expanding to other countries in hopes of decreasing the number of people who consider themselves foreigners and making people more understanding of other cultures.

The Battalion SSIFIED

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December 12th at the invitation of the National Philharmonic of sitting during the Bolshoi perfor-Soviet Republic as part of the Sister the Tatar Soviet Republic. The trip is part of the cultural exchange Sister City Organiza-City cultural exchange program. Lavrenyuk will conduct the In addition to assisting Krager, Barszap also will negotiate with Ka-BVSO in the concerts that will accompany the Bolshoi Ballet in zan sister city representatives. Issues Bryan/College Station's sister city, Kazan, invited Krager to conduct two performances of the

Company will be accompanied by taped music recordings

Wade who is the assistant music coordinator of the Choral Department at Texas A&M.

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program Maestro Rashid Skurathe music director of the

jor, "Mozart's Symphonie Con-certante" for the violin and viola and concluding with "Copland Appalachian Spring."
"I feel very privileged to be invited to Kazan to direct the Philharmonics. It's a wonderful twist

of fate," Krager said. Krager is responsible for over-seeing that the BVSO is prepared for visiting Soviet conductor, Alexander Lavrenyuk. Krager decides who will be playing in the orchestra and where they will be

their performances of the "Nutcracker" and their mixed repertoire ballets. Four performances of the Bolshoi Ballet-Grigorovich

While Krager is in the Soviet Union, the performance of "Handel's Messia" on December 5th will be conducted by Jess

In keeping with the sister city tov, the music director of the Philharmonic, is expected to visit A&M next fall to conduct a few concerts with a Russian twist.