

*Ice Show Premiere*  
**FROZEN LOVE**



1 APRIL  
COCA-COLA ARENA

*Coca-Cola* arena



دبي  
جدول الفعاليات



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— لوفن دبي —

About the project ..... 1

ORGANISERS

Alexandra Miteran Greeting ..... 2

About SAMIT Event Group ..... 3

Mark Jan Kar Greeting ..... 4

About Coca-Cola Arena ..... 5

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer ..... 6

Artists ..... 7

Libretto ..... 14

‘InClassica’ ..... 18

‘Snow Queen’ ..... 20

‘A Thousand Tales’ ..... 21

# About the project

Transport yourself to a world of magic as you experience the passionate tale of a young couple's love caught in an icy web unfold on ice with SAMIT Event Group's *Frozen Love*, choreographed by acclaimed producer Ilia Averbukh taking place at the iconic Coca-Cola Arena. Set in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Russia during the Imperial Era, the ice show follows the reign of the legendary Empress Anna Ioannovna, a demanding and powerful monarch known for her lavish celebrations and unusual entertainments.

The story unfolds as she imposes her extravagant impulses on a pair of lovers, compelling two court jesters to marry in a palace built of ice on the Neva River, testing the relationship between the newlyweds. Their devotion and resilience are put to the ultimate challenge as they face unbelievable obstacles in this frozen kingdom. This emotional journey highlights the power of love and endurance against harsh odds, captivating audiences with extraordinary performances, beautiful storytelling and elegant choreography.

The historical drama features a remarkable cast of world-renowned figure skaters, including Olympic champions Tatiana Totmyanina and Maxim Marinin, who are also two-time world champions, five-time European champions, and three-time Russian champions; Alexey Yagudin, a four-time world champion and two-time Grand Prix final winner and; Oksana Domnina and Maxim Shabalin, who are both two-time European champions and Olympic bronze medalists.



Alexandra  
MITERAN

Founder & CEO  
of SAMIT Event Group

DEAR GUESTS,

I am pleased and honoured to welcome you to SAMIT Event Group’s *Frozen Love* ice show, an extraordinary night of love, resilience, and mesmerising ice skating live at Coca-Cola Arena, a contemporary venue renowned for its large-scale events and spectator comfort.

A memorable blend of history, world-class skating, captivating visuals, and powerful storytelling, this year’s grand affair will transport you to a world of frosty grandeur, where a young couple faces extreme difficulties under the rule of a mighty but cruel empress. Performed by a star-studded cast of Olympic figure skating champions and choreographed by celebrated Olympic silver medalist Ilia Averbukh, you can expect spectacular visuals and detailed choreography throughout.

Returning for its second year after a resounding debut, the ice show promises to be even bigger and better as our focus at SAMIT Event Group is on bringing the best artists to impressive venues in the Middle East. I want to thank you in advance for joining us in Dubai, UAE, for what is scheduled to be a fantastic night of magic on ice. Your support means the world to us, and we look forward to creating everlasting memories together.

I sincerely hope you relish tonight’s performance and the spellbinding experience that awaits you.



SAMIT  
Event Group

SAMIT Event Group leads the expansion of global arts and cultural heritage across the Middle East, particularly in the GCC region (UAE, KSA, Bahrain). Specializing in world-class events, the group showcases classical music, opera, theatre, and the performing arts, while promoting cultural exchange and social responsibility.

With a mission to enrich the region’s cultural landscape, SAMIT offers unforgettable experiences that spotlight both classical and contemporary music. The VIP Classical 'Cultural Music Circle' is held monthly at Dubai Opera. These intimate recitals bring together music, culture, and diplomacy, creating a distinctive space for cultural dialogue and artistic exchange. Through these gatherings, SAMIT promotes meaningful connections between artists and audiences, supporting a deeper appreciation for the arts in the Middle East.

In 2025, SAMIT will host the annual large-scale events, including the InClassica International Music Festival, the world’s largest classical music festival, held at Dubai Opera. This month-long event will bring together esteemed musicians, conductors, composers, and artists from around the globe, contributing to a thriving cultural community. Adding to the year’s program, SAMIT will present A Thousand Tales Ballet, which blends classical music with beloved childhood stories, and the Frozen Love and Snow Queen ice shows in partnership with Coca-Cola Arena, offering breathtaking performances that celebrate inclusivity and foster an appreciation for cultural diversity, and the Qemam International Festival for Mountain Performance Arts in Saudi Arabia, highlighting the beauty of global traditional performance arts.



Mark  
JAN KAR

General Manager  
of Coca-Cola Arena

DEAR GUESTS,

On behalf of the entire team here at Coca-Cola Arena, I welcome you to what promises to be a truly enchanting experience – *Frozen Love*, a spectacular storytelling ice show for all ages.

As you step into our venue, we hope you feel the excitement in the air. We are proud to host this incredible production, where every detail has been meticulously crafted to bring the magic of the show to life. From the stunning ice skating performances to the captivating storytelling, we are confident that *Frozen Love* will leave you spellbound.

Our team is committed to providing you with the highest level of service, ensuring your time here is as enjoyable and memorable as possible.

Thank you for choosing Coca-Cola Arena, we look forward to welcoming you back for more exciting shows, concerts and sports events.



Established in June 2019, Coca-Cola Arena has transformed the live entertainment industry in the UAE and the wider Middle East region. Located in the heart of City Walk, Dubai’s premier lifestyle destination, the arena is a 15-minute drive from Dubai International Airport and a 5-10-minute walk from the nearest Dubai Metro Station. With a capacity of 17,000 and fully air-conditioned facilities, the arena can host events year-round, establishing Dubai as a key destination on the global events circuit.

Coca-Cola Arena’s unique automated seating design allows it to be adapted for various international and local events, including touring artists, sporting tournaments, e-gaming, comedy, live theatre and musical performances, conferences, gala dinners, AGMs and weddings.

As the largest multipurpose indoor auditorium in the region, Coca-Cola Arena is an asset of Dubai Holding’s entertainment portfolio and is managed by ASM Global, the world’s leading venue management and services company.



Ilya  
AVERBUKH

Ilya Averbukh, a renowned Russian ice dancer, began skating at the age of five. He started his career in figure skating in 1979 after graduating from the Moscow State Academy of Physical Culture and, alongside his long-time partner Irina Lobacheva, achieved remarkable success throughout his illustrious journey. His competitive achievements include a gold medal at the World Figure Skating Championships in 2002, a silver medal at the Olympic Games in 2002, and gold medals at both the European Figure Skating Championships and the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in 2003. Additionally, he is a two-time winner of the World Junior Figure Skating Championships and a four-time Russian Figure Skating Champion, among many other accolades.

After retiring from competitive skating in 2003, he founded the company "Ice Symphony" (later rebranded as "Ilya Averbukh Production Company") and established himself as a leader in developing ice shows, musical performances, and fairytale productions both in Russia and internationally, with notable productions including "Ice Symphony/Ice Age," "City Lights," "Bolero," and "Small Stories of a Big City." He has received several prestigious awards throughout his career, such as the Cavalier of the National Order of Merit, the National Theater Award Laureate, the Oleg Yankov Prize, and recognition as a member of the International "Best Brand of Friendship" Prize. Averbukh has also been honoured with the Television Award "Star of the Theater" and named "Russia's Man of the Year." In addition, he has won the TEFI Award for Best Musical Performance on Ice in 2008 and 2010 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2015.

As one of the most renowned directors in Russia, Averbukh has directed ceremonies of the highest level such as Show of Two Capitals: Moscow and St. Petersburg in 2007, Anniversary Show of "Triumph of Tamara Moskvina" in 2011, opening and closing ceremonies of the FIFA World Cup in Moscow in 2018 and Immersive Show in honor of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nizhny Novgorod Fair in 2022, among others.

Currently, Ilya Averbukh serves as the founder and head of the Heritage winter sports schools, open in four Russian cities: Yessentuki, Stavropol, Simferopol, and Yevpatoria, where children can learn figure skating and hockey for free.

# Oksana DOMNINA

ANNA IOANOVNA AS EMPRESS

Russian competitive ice skater, two-time European Champion, World Champion, and bronze medalist at the Olympic Games with partner Maxim Shabalin.

2010  
Winter Olympic Games  
BRONZE MEDAL

2010  
European Figure Skating  
Championships  
GOLD MEDAL

2009  
World Figure Skating  
Championships  
GOLD MEDAL

2008  
European Figure Skating  
Championships  
GOLD MEDAL





Maxim  
SHABALIN

BIRON AS EMPRESS'S LOVER

Russian competitive ice skater, two-time European Champion, World Champion, and bronze medalist at the Olympic Games with partner Oksana Domnina.

2010  
Winter Olympic Games  
BRONZE MEDAL

2010  
European Figure Skating  
Championships  
GOLD MEDAL

2009  
World Figure Skating  
Championships  
GOLD MEDAL

2008  
European Figure Skating  
Championships  
GOLD MEDAL

Aleksey  
YAGUDIN

BALAKIREV AS JESTER

Russian competitive figure skater, three-time European Champion, four-time World Champion, and Olympic Champion.

2002  
Olympic Winter Games  
GOLD MEDAL

2002  
World Figure Skating  
Championships  
GOLD MEDAL

2002  
European Figure Skating  
Championships  
GOLD MEDAL

2001-2002  
Grand Prix of  
Figure Skating Final  
GOLD MEDAL





Maxim  
MARININ

GOLITSYN / KVAS MAN AS JESTER IN LOVE

Russian competitive pair skater, five-time European Champion, two-time World Champion, and Olympic Champion alongside partner Tatiana Totmyanina.

2006  
**Winter Olympic Games**  
GOLD MEDAL

2006  
**Grand Prix of  
Figure Skating Final**  
GOLD MEDAL

2004-2005  
**World Figure Skating  
Championships**  
GOLD MEDAL

2002-2006  
**European Figure Skating  
Championships**  
GOLD MEDAL

Tatiana  
TOTMYANINA

DUNKA AS JESTER IN LOVE

Russian competitive pair skater, five-time European Champion, two-time World Champion, and Olympic Champion with partner Maxim Marinin.

2006  
**Winter Olympic Games**  
GOLD MEDAL

2006  
**Grand Prix of  
Figure Skating Final**  
GOLD MEDAL

2004-2005  
**World Figure Skating  
Championships**  
GOLD MEDAL

2002-2006  
**European Figure Skating  
Championships**  
GOLD MEDAL





# Albena DENKOVA

AS PRIVY COUNCILLOR

Bulgarian ice skater, two-time World Champion, two-time European silver medalist, and the 2006 Grand Prix Final Champion alongside partner Maxim Staviskii.

2003-2004  
**European Figure Skating Championships**  
SILVER MEDAL

2006  
**Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final**  
GOLD MEDAL

2006-2007  
**World Figure Skating Championships**  
GOLD MEDAL

2007  
**Grand Prix de France**  
GOLD MEDAL



# Maxim STAVISKII

AS PRIVY COUNCILLOR

Bulgarian ice skater, two-time World Champion, two-time European silver medalist, and the 2006 Grand Prix Final champion alongside partner Albena Denkova.

2003-2004  
**European Figure Skating Championships**  
SILVER MEDAL

2006  
**Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final**  
GOLD MEDAL

2006-2007  
**World Figure Skating Championships**  
GOLD MEDAL

2007  
**Grand Prix de France**  
GOLD MEDAL

# FROZEN LOVE

AN ENCHANTING NEW ICE SHOW BY ACCLAIMED PRODUCER ILIA AVERBUKH

## OVERVIEW

Frozen Love, choreographed by renowned ice-dancing star and producer Ilia Averbukh, narrates the true 18<sup>th</sup>-century tale of the exalted Empress Anna Ioannovna. Known for her powerful reign and extravagant festivities, she imposes her whims on two court jesters, forcing them to wed in a palace of ice built on the Neva River.

Throughout the evening, the ice show will mesmerise viewers with an enchanting story of two newlyweds who navigate the Empress's stern demands. Their love and resilience are tested as they confront unthinkable challenges in the frozen kingdom, showcasing a heartfelt journey of love and endurance against daunting odds.

## SYNOPSIS

Frozen Love is a historical drama that takes place in the Age of Imperialism, transporting audiences to a fairytale world of icy grandeur through award-winning direction, a stellar cast of Olympic champion ice skaters, intricate costumes and spectacular sets.

## PROLOGUE

The Jesters' Wedding

### ACT ONE

#### SCENE 1: BEAUTIFUL LOVE

*Spring. Adagio. Anna and Biron.*

The paradise of Courland. The lovers' dance.

Supreme Privy Councillors enter, led by Golitsyn. They propose that Anna sign the conditions, promising her the imperial crown. However, Anna refuses, emphasising her love and loyalty to Biron. She stands against the councillors' demands, showing she is willing to fight for their relationship, even if it entails risk.

Biron intends to follow Anna, but the Privy Councillors are against it. Golitsyn forcibly pulls Biron away from Anna and leads him to the other side. Anna is taken to St Petersburg by force.

Dressed in brocade and gold, Anna ascends to the throne. The Councillors surround her triumphantly, yet Anna's freedom is restricted. She is only allowed to rule over a handful of jesters, both men and women. The councillors declare that these are your people, and we will rule the country.

Anna remains on the throne with the Councillors.

#### SCENE 2: LIFE IN THE PALACE

Anna is a puppet in the Councillors' hands. She is bored, and the courtiers' dances do not interest her.

#### SCENE 3: THE JESTERS' SCENE

Golitsyn decides to entertain Anna and summons the court jesters. Among them is Balakirev, who performs a scene set in a forest clearing with Anna, Golitsyn, and Biron. Golitsyn is enraged. As tensions rise, Anna decides to side with the Jester. Having recently gained more power and influence within the court, in a bold move, she tears up the conditions and orders Golitsyn to be arrested for his disrespect.

#### SCENE 4: ANNA'S LETTER TO BIRON

Anna is writing a letter to Biron. Balakirev the Jester hands her paper, a quill and an inkwell. At the other end of the ice, we see Biron surrounded by his Courland friends.

#### SCENE 5: LIFE IN COURLAND

Courland city people join Biron and his entourage. Everybody joins in the "life is beautiful" dance.

At the end of the dance, Biron receives Anna's letter and makes haste to travel to the St Petersburg court. The scene culminates in Anna and Biron meeting at the palace.

#### SCENE 6: RAGS TO RICHES

Anna presents Biron at court; she is happy, and Biron is pleased. While Prince Golitsyn is jailed, awaiting his death in prison.

Balakirev comes to visit Golitsyn. The Jester parodies the Prince's suffering by playacting a hanged man. Golitsyn flies into a rage and attempts to strike the Jester. Balakirev stops Golitsyn and suggests that there

is a way for him to escape his predicament. The Prince can survive by becoming a jester. Balakirev leaves his Jester's hat behind and departs. Golitsyn, after an agonising period of indecision, puts the hat on his head.

#### SCENE 7: THE FAIR

*Summer. A square. A big fair. General merrymaking. A market-place theatre.*

The Empress enters. Dunka the Jester follows Anna. Anna has distinguished her from other jesters and allows Dunka to wear ordinary clothes and not Jester's garments.

People hail the Empress. Balakirev and Golitsyn drag a jesters' cart with a barrel of kvas and many cups. The jesters have been authorised to give people the free gift of kvas from the Empress. Balakirev begins a dance with the cups. He is an expert at it. Golitsyn is a failure and drops the cups to everyone's amusement. The festivities end. The Kvas Man jester (Golitsyn) remains alone.

#### SCENE 9: THE KVAS MAN AND DUNKA

Dunka enters. She pities the Jester Prince and consoles him. The Kvas Man and Dunka dance.

#### SCENE 10: THE HUNT

*Autumn. A bear hunt. Foresters. A hunting bivouac.*

Anna and Biron enter. The Empress's jesters follow. A feast starts. Hunting trophies are placed at Anna's feet. The Kvas Man serves drinks. Anna invites Biron to sit beside her and share the pleasure of the meal and the jesters' show.

#### SCENE 11: BIRON AND ANNA

They have lost all happiness; everything they had in Courland is erased by court dealings.

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

SCENE 1: WINTER HAS COME

Lively merrymaking in a town square. Mummers, players, bears, games.

SCENE 2: YULETIDE AND FORTUNE-TELLING

Three ladies-in-waiting, Dunka, The Empress, the Kvas Man and Balakirev (the fortune-telling theme, candles, and other paraphernalia). Balakirev sets up mock yuletide fortune-telling to foretell future husbands and life for women who want to know whom they will marry. Five boxes containing pieces of headgear are placed around Balakirev on tall, elegant stands.

The Jester begins to spin, and as Anna claps her hands, he stops and opens the boxes one by one. Each time, Anna points out which lady’s husband they are predicting. Balakirev pulls out a small commoner’s hat and humorously pretends to be a drunken peasant as he approaches the lady-in-waiting that Anna has chosen. Everybody laughs. Balakirev spins again, and Anna claps her hands to select another lady-in-waiting. This time, the box contains a grandee’s wig, and Balakirev acts like a pompous minister. Next, he reveals a military hat, and it’s Dunka’s turn. When he pulls out the Jester’s hat, Balakirev is pleased and approaches Dunka, inviting her to dance. However, Dunka is reluctant, glancing at the Kvas Man, who is pleased but tries to act indifferent. Dunka pushes Balakirev away and kicks at him. Anna signals to Balakirev to leave Dunka alone.

Anna requests that the last box, intended for her, be opened. Balakirev hesitates. Anna persists. Inside the

box is a bridal veil. Anna’s mood shifts dramatically, and she leaves.

SCENE 3: DREAMING OF A WEDDING

Dunka and the Kvas Man dance happily holding the bridal veil, imagining a peaceful future together.

SCENE 4: THERE SHALL BE A WEDDING!

Anna and Biron enter. Biron in front, Anna following. Dunka and the Kvas Man blend into the background and hide. Biron carries a pile of state documents. Anna sees the bridal veil left on the table. Biron bursts out laughing.

The Kvas Man and Dunka inadvertently betray their presence. Anna puts the bridal veil on Dunka and suddenly issues an edict of a wedding.

SCENE 5: THE PALACE OF ICE

Architects and ice cutters build the elements of the structure. Ice ships, ice cannons, fountains, dolphins. The dance of snowflakes and snow flurries.

SCENE 6: THE WEDDING TRAIN

Pairs of animals and birds dance. A carnival atmosphere. Balakirev tries to stop the wedding and appeals to Anna. The Jester’s dance.

SCENE 7: THE PLEA

Balakirev delivers a heartfelt plea; however, it elicits only universal laughter.

SCENE 8: THE BLESSING

The feast reaches its peak as the bride and groom enter. The couple approaches the Empress, and Anna blesses their marriage. Only the Kvas Man and Dunka remain on the ice inside the palace.

SCENE 9: DUNKA AND GOLITSYN’S DANCE OF LOVE AND DEATH

The Kvas Man and Dunka are taken to the ice bed, where they find themselves imprisoned in the ice palace. They come to the grim realisation that their death is unavoidable. Golitsyn, the jester prince, and Dunka, the Jester, perform their farewell dance. In the end, they lie together on the ice bed, holding each other tightly.

SCENE 10: BALAKIREV’S DEATH

Balakirev is on one side, Anna on the other. The palace of ice, with Golitsyn and Dunka slowly freezing to death inside, is centre stage.

Balakirev rushes to Anna and pleads with her to spare the newlyweds. Anna says they can be saved if Balakirev sacrifices his own life. Balakirev agrees and wraps the newlyweds in a sheepskin coat, shielding them from death. In the process, Balakirev vanishes within the crown.

A HYMN TO LOVE.

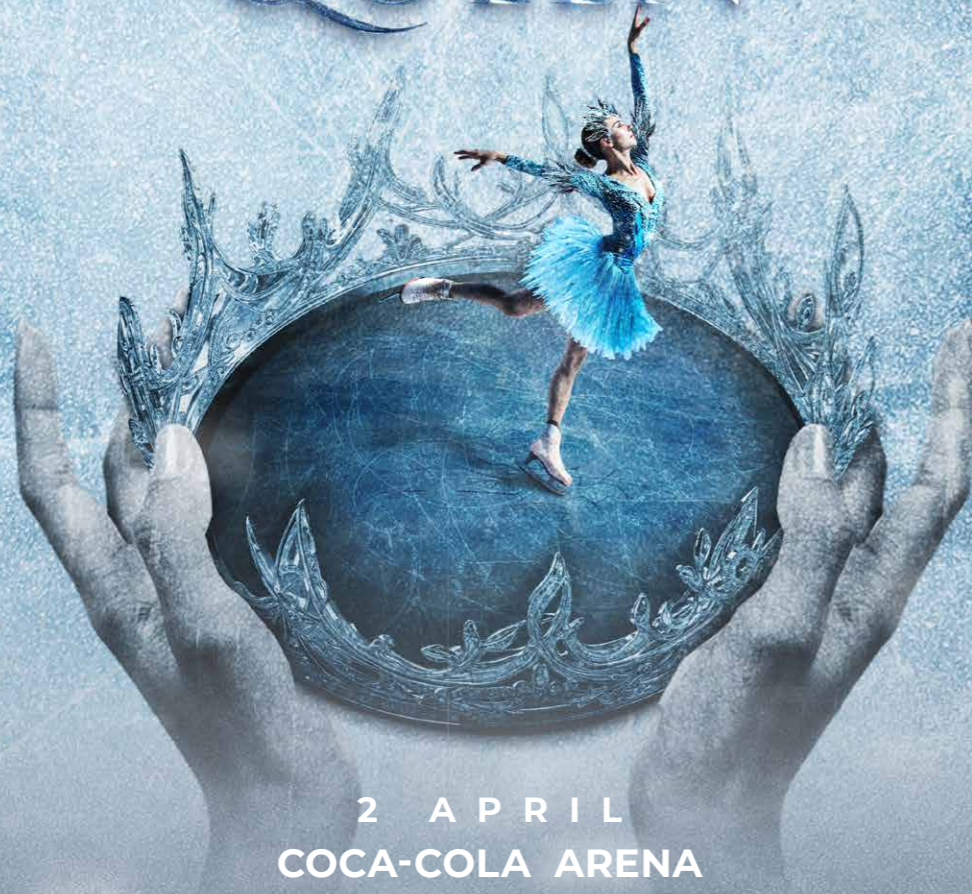
*Spring. All the performers are on the ice. Finale.*

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ICE SHOW PREMIERE

# SNOW QUEEN



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LOZAKOVICH**  
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**FABRIZIO  
MELONI**  
CLARINET  
ITALY



**MIKHAIL  
PLETNEV**  
PIANO  
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**MAXIM  
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VIOLIN  
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