PRESS RELEASE
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LOCAL BRANCH OF THE MALY THEATRE OPENS IN KOGALYM

The first ever local branch of Moscow's State Academic Maly Theatre opened today outside of Moscow, in Kogalym, the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District – Yugra. The project was supported by LUKOIL as part of the Agreement on Cooperation between LUKOIL, the Russian Federation Ministry of Culture, the Maly Theatre, the Government of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District – Yugra and the local administration of the city of Kogalym.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Government Olga Golodets, President of LUKOIL Vagit Alekperov, the Governor of Yugra Natalya Komarova and the Director of the State Academic Maly Theatre Tamara Mikhailova.

The new stage was constructed in two years' time on the basis of the *Amber* culture and leisure center. The old facility, completely renovated, now houses a new auditorium for 300 spectators and a stage designed to meet all the latest technical requirements and host any theatre ensemble.

Due to the sophistication of the new equipment, performances here will be staged at exactly the same technological level as at the Maly Theatre in Moscow. The theatre plans to stage both evening performances and matinees. The Maly Theatre drama group in Kogalym consists of graduates of Moscow's Mikhail Schepkin Theatre College. Local authorities have provided them with seventeen flats in a sixteen-story block of flats, constructed with the financial support LUKOIL granted as part of a cooperation agreement between the company and the Yugra government.

The first theatre season in Kogalym started with the comedy *Enough Stupidity in Every Wiseman* by Aleksandr Ostrovsky featuring such honored Russian actors as Irina Muravyeva, Valeriy Afanasyev, Aleksandr Klyukvin, Liliya Yudina, Sergey Yeremeyev, Olga Pashkova, Aleksandr Vershinin and Olga Chuvayeva.

Information:
The agreement on the construction of a building for the Kogalym branch of the Maly Theatre was signed by the Russian Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky, President of LUKOIL Vagit Alekperov, Governor of Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District – Yugra Natalya Komarova, Artistic Director of the Maly Theatre Yury Solomin and its General Director Tamara Mikhailova during the IV International

Culture Forum in Saint-Petersburg, December 15, 2015.