



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL BALLET

Director	KEVIN O'HARE CBE
Founder	DAME NINETTE DE VALOIS OM CH DBE
Founder Choreographer	SIR FREDERICK ASHTON OM CH CBE
Founder Music Director	CONSTANT LAMBERT
Prima Ballerina Assoluta	DAME MARGOT FONTEYN DBE

Exceptional philanthropic support from

Royal Opera House Principals **Julia and Hans Rausing**

Generous philanthropic support from Yleana Arce Foundation, John and Susan Burns OBE, Sir Lloyd and Lady Dorfman OBE, Kenneth and Susan Green, Alan and Caroline Howard, Huo Family Foundation, Doug and Ceri King, Celia Blakey, Stephen and Dina Lucas, Lindsay and Sarah Tomlinson and The Friends Of Covent Garden

In memory of **George Simon**

The 2023/24 Royal Ballet Season is generously Supported by **Aud Jebsen**

The role of Odette/Odile is generously supported by **Jonathan Caplan**

The role of Von Rothbart is generously sponsored in memory of **Judy Harris and Thomas Harris**

THIS PERFORMANCE OF SWAN LAKE WITH VADIM MUNTAGIROV AND FUMI KANEKO IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF LINDA GAINSBURY, LONG-TIME SUPPORTER AND CHAMPION OF THE ROYAL BALLET AND ITS DANCERS



LAIDLAW
OPERA
TRUST

SWAN LAKE

BALLET IN FOUR ACTS 04.05.2024 7:00 PM

The 1079th performance by The Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House.

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

The performance lasts about 3 hours, including two intervals.

Act I 35 minutes
Act II 30 minutes
Interval 25 minutes
Act III 40 minutes
Interval 20 minutes
Act IV 25 minutes

GUIDANCE

Content suitable for all. We cannot admit children under the age of 5.

Children under the age of five are not permitted into our auditoria. Children over five must have their own ticket and sit next to an accompanying adult.

CREDITS

Choreography	MARIUS PETIPA AND LEV IVANOV
Additional choreography	LIAM SCARLETT AND FREDERICK ASHTON
(Act III Neapolitan Dance)	
Music	PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY
Production	LIAM SCARLETT
Designer	JOHN MACFARLANE
Lighting Designer	DAVID FINN
Staging	GARY AVIS, LAURA MORERA AND SAMANTHA RAINE
Artistic Supervisor	LAURA MORERA
Scarlett Estate	
Répétiteurs	DEIRDRE CHAPMAN, HELEN CRAWFORD, SIAN MURPHY AND SAMIRA SAIDI
Principal coaching	ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, DARCEY BUSSELL, OLGA EVREINOFF, ISABEL MCMEEKAN, EDWARD WATSON AND ZENAIDA YANOWSKY
Benesh Choreologists	DANIEL KRAUS AND GREGORY MISLIN

CAST

Odette/Odile	FUMI KANEKO
Prince Siegfried	VADIM MUNTAGIROV
Von Rothbart	LUKAS B. BRÆNDSRØD
The Queen	LARA TURK
Benno	VALENTINO ZUCCHETTI
Prince Siegfried's Sisters	ISABELLA GASPARINI, MEAGHAN GRACE HINKIS

Act I

Waltz and Polonaise	BOMIN KIM, NADIA MULLOVA-BARLEY, JULIA ROSCOE, CHARLOTTE TONKINSON, LEO DIXON, BENJAMIN ELLA, JOONHYUK JUN, TAISUKE NAKAO, ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET
---------------------------	--

Act II

Cygnets	MADISON BAILEY, MICA BRADBURY, YU HANG, CHARLOTTE TONKINSON
Two Swans	NADIA MULLOVA-BARLEY, JULIA ROSCOE
Swans	ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

Act III

Spanish Princess	LETICIA DIAS
Hungarian Princess	HANNAH GRENNELL
Italian Princess	BOMIN KIM
Polish Princess	CHARLOTTE TONKINSON
Spanish dance	ANNETTE BUVOLI, HARRIS BELL, BRAYDEN GALLUCCI, LUC FOSKETT, JAMES LARGE
Czárdás	LETICIA STOCK, LEO DIXON, SIERRA GLASHEEN, VIOLA PANTUSO, ISABELLA SHAKER, MARIANNA TSEMBENHOI, MARTIN DIAZ, KEVIN EMERTON, JOSHUA JUNKER, CASPAR LENCH
Neapolitan dance	ELLA NEWTON SEVERGNINI, TAISUKE NAKAO

Mazurka ISABEL LUBACH, DAVID DONNELLY, OLIVIA FINDLAY, MADDISON PRITCHARD, TÉO DUBREUIL, AIDEN O'BRIEN

Act IV

Cygnets, Two Swans, Swans AS ACT II

Conductor MARTIN GEORGIEV

Concert Master MAGNUS JOHNSTON

Orchestra ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Court Ladies, Lieutenants, Corporals, Ladies-in-waiting, Servants, Heralds, Guards, Guests

Artists of The Royal Ballet and Students of The Royal Ballet School

Students of The Royal Ballet School appear by kind permission of the Artistic Director **Christopher Powney**

SYNOPSIS

PROLOGUE

Princess Odette is turned into a swan by the sorcerer Von Rothbart.

ACT I

Prince Siegfried is celebrating his birthday with the court, under the manipulative gaze of Von Rothbart, now disguised in human form. Siegfried's mother presents him with a gift, the crossbow of his late father. She decrees that he must choose a royal bride at a palace ball to be held in his honour the following evening. Weighed down by the responsibilities of both kingdom and imminent marriage, Siegfried is comforted by Benno. Von Rothbart orders Siegfried to go inside. Siegfried refuses and wanders away alone.

ACT II

Benno, concerned for the Prince, has followed Siegfried to a clearing by the lake. He urges the Prince to return to the palace. Siegfried resists all talk of marriage.

Alone again, Siegfried sees a flock of swans flying high above. To his amazement, one lands and transforms into a beautiful maiden, the Princess Odette. Captivated, he approaches her tentatively with the reassurance that he means her no harm. Odette shares that she is a victim of Von Rothbart's curse that compels her to live as a swan by day; only at night, by the lake created from her mother's tears, is she able to return to human form. The curse can be broken only by one who has never loved before and who pledges an oath of undying love to her.

Von Rothbart appears and Odette begs him not to harm the Prince. Siegfried attempts to shoot Von Rothbart but Odette explains that the curse cannot be lifted if the sorcerer is killed. Odette and the Prince express their love for each other.

As dawn breaks, the power of Von Rothbart draws Odette away from Siegfried and she changes back into a swan.

INTERVAL

ACT III

Having rushed back from the lake, Siegfried is met by Benno who instructs him to prepare for the ball.

Von Rothbart, now disguised in human form as the Queen's advisor, welcomes the royal guests who have travelled from distant lands. The Queen realizes that Siegfried is missing and commands Benno to distract the court. Siegfried finally arrives and is ordered by his mother to choose a bride from four beautiful princesses. Reluctantly he dances with each in turn but, still entranced by the memory of Odette, refuses to make a choice.

Von Rothbart seizes his moment. A fanfare signals the entrance of an uninvited guest, Odile. By Von Rothbart's magic, she appears identical to Odette. Siegfried cannot believe that his beloved has arrived. Relieved at her son's change of heart, the Queen invites the Spanish, Hungarian, Neapolitan and Polish guests to entertain the court.

Siegfried is dazzled by Odile's beauty. Odette, appearing as a vision, tries in vain to warn Siegfried of the deceit. Sensing nothing wrong, Siegfried chooses Odile for his bride. Von Rothbart triumphantly takes her hand and gives it to Siegfried who, in the presence of everyone, promises a vow of marriage and eternal love. Von Rothbart reveals his true identity and takes control of the palace. Grief stricken, Siegfried returns to the lake.

INTERVAL

ACT IV

By the lake, the swans anxiously await Odette's return. She appears, heartbroken, and tells them of Siegfried's betrayal. Doomed to remain a swan forever, the only escape is death – to be free from the curse, she must perish in the waves of the lake.

Siegfried's desperate search through the storm ends at the lakeside. He begs Odette's forgiveness. Von Rothbart appears and reminds Siegfried of his vow. He declares that Odette now belongs to him, to Von Rothbart, for eternity. With her fate sealed, Odette rushes to the rock and plunges into the lake. Through her sacrifice, the sorcerer's power is destroyed and Siegfried is left to cradle the lifeless body of the Princess.

THE ROYAL BALLET

Director KEVIN O'HARE CBE

Music Director KOEN KESSELS

Resident Choreographer WAYNE MCGREGOR CBE

Artistic Associate CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON OBE

Administrative Director HEATHER BAXTER

Rehearsal Director CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS

Clinical Director Ballet Healthcare SHANE KELLY

DIGITAL CAST SHEETS

We are working hard on our commitment towards becoming more sustainable and are striving for our net zero goal of 2035. By using digital cast sheets and e-tickets, we have reduced our paper consumption by over five tonnes per year. You can view our digital cast sheets on a computer, tablet or smartphone by scanning the QR codes displayed around the building using your smartphone's camera app. They are also displayed on screens outside the auditoria. Cast sheets are generously supported by the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund.

GUIDELINES

Photography and filming are prohibited during performances in any of our auditoriums. You are welcome to take pictures throughout the rest of the building and before performances and share them with us through social media. Commercial photography and filming must be agreed in advance with our [press team](#).

Larger bags and backpacks need to be checked into our complimentary cloakrooms. Unattended bags may be removed.

Please do not place any personal belongings on the ledges in front of you.

Only bottled water and ice cream purchased from the premises can be taken into the auditorium.

If you arrive late to the auditorium or leave during a performance, you will not be allowed back to your seat until the interval or a suitable break.

Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on the premises.

The safety of our visitors, staff and artists is still our priority. To help us provide a comfortable experience for everyone, please be mindful of others and their personal space.

Our staff are committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect and we ask that you show them and your fellow audience members respect too. We adopt a zero-tolerance approach in response to anyone who interacts with our staff or with fellow audience members in an intimidating, aggressive or threatening manner.

SUPPORT OUR ONGOING RECOVERY

We are so glad to welcome our artists back to our theatres to perform for you the opera and ballet you love. During the pandemic we lost £3 in every £5 of our income and we continue to feel the impact as we recover. Sustaining the future of ballet and opera has never been so important. Please consider making a donation to the Royal Opera House community today and help support the future of ballet and opera.

roh.org.uk/donate