



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

SWAN LAKE

BALLET IN FOUR ACTS

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, SAMANTHA RAINE**

Artistic Supervisor for the Scarlett Estate **LAURA MORERA**

Répétiteurs **DEIRDRE CHAPMAN, HELEN CRAWFORD, SIAN MURPHY, SAMIRA SAIDI**

Principal Coaching **ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, DARCEY BUSSELL, OLGA EVREINOFF, ISABEL MCMEEKAN, EDWARD WATSON, ZENAIDA YANOWSKY**

Benesh Choreologists **DANIEL KRAUS, GREGORY MISLIN**

Conductor **KOEN KESSELS**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Concert Master **MAGNUS JOHNSTON**

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**

Young ROH is generously made possible by **SIR LLOYD AND LADY DORFMAN OBE, THE BUNTING FAMILY, SIR SIMON ROBEY, TIM ASHLEY AND JOHN BOOTH,** and **THE LAIDLAW OPERA TRUST**

Additional kind support from **JOSH HARRIS AND LAYLA NAMAZEE HARRIS**
The 2023/24 Royal Ballet Season is generously Supported by **AUD JEBSEN**

The role of Odette/Odile is generously supported by **JONATHAN CAPLAN**



GENERAL REHEARSAL
TUESDAY 5 MARCH 2024 AT 11.30AM

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

The performance will last approximately 3 hours, including two intervals.

ACT I 35 minutes

ACT II 30 minutes

INTERVAL 30 minutes

ACT III 40 minutes

INTERVAL 20 minutes

ACT IV 25 minutes

CAST

Odette/Odile **MARIKO SASAKI**

Prince Siegfried **JOSEPH SISSENS**

The Queen **TARA-BRIGITTE BHAVNANI**

Von Rothbart **THOMAS WHITEHEAD**

Benno **LEO DIXON**

Prince Siegfried's Younger Sisters
ASHLEY DEAN, SAE MAEDA

ACT I

Waltz and Polonaise

LETICIA DIAS, ISABEL LUBACH, JULIA ROSCOE, CHARLOTTE TONKINSON, LUKAS B. BRÆNDSRØD, DAVID DONNELLY, TAISUKE NAKAO, GIACOMO ROVERO
ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

ACT II

Cygnets **MADISON BAILEY, CHARLOTTE TONKINSON, AMELIA TOWNSEND, YU HANG**
Two Swans **HANNAH GRENNELL, OLIVIA COWLEY**
Swans **ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET**

ACT III

Spanish Princess **YU HANG**

Hungarian Princess **MICA BRADBURY**

Italian Princess **ISABELLA GASPARINI**

Polish Princess **CHISATO KATSURA**

Spanish dance **OLIVIA COWLEY, DENILSON ALMEIDA, HARRY CHURCHES, BENJAMIN ELLA, JOONHYUK JUN**
Czárdás **CHARLOTTE TONKINSON, KEVIN EMERTON, VIOLA PANTUSO, ISABELLA SHAKER, AMELIA TOWNSEND, ELLA NEWTON SEVERGNINI, LIAM BOSWELL, MARTIN DIAZ, JAMES LARGE, MARCO MASCIARI**

Neapolitan dance **MADISON BAILEY, VALENTINO ZUCCHETTI**

Mazurka **MADDISON PRITCHARD, AIDEN O'BRIEN**
ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

ACT IV

Cygnets, Two Swans, Swans **AS ACT II**

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**



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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**

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.