

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm

Introduced by Darcey Bussell

Act I 52 minutes

Cinema interval 15 minutes

Act II 49 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 9.45pm

Tweet your thoughts about tonight's performance before it starts, during the interval or afterwards with **#ROHgiselle**

2013/14 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

DON GIOVANNI WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2014

THE WINTER'S TALE MONDAY 28 APRIL 2014

MANON LESCAUT TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2014

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE GUIDE TO GISELLE

Royal Opera House Guides contain specially selected films, articles, pictures, updates and exclusives to bring you closer to the production. By purchasing your digital guide you can find out more about the background to *Giselle*, read an interview with Peter Wright, explore the music and be the first to see the rehearsal images. Visit **www.roh.org.uk/giselle**

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ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL BALLET

DIRECTOR **KEVIN O'HARE**

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

GISELLE

BALLET IN TWO ACTS

MUSIC **ADOLPHE ADAM** REVISED BY **JOSEPH HOROVITZ**

CHOREOGRAPHY **MARIUS PETIPA** AFTER **JEAN CORALLI** AND **JULES PERROT**

SCENARIO **THÉOPHILE GAUTIER** AFTER **HEINRICH HEINE**

PRODUCTION AND ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY **PETER WRIGHT**

DESIGNS **JOHN MACFARLANE**

ORIGINAL LIGHTING **JENNIFER TIPTON**

LIGHTING **DAVID FIN**

STAGING **CHRISTOPHER CARR**

BALLET MASTER **GARY AVIS**

BALLET MISTRESS **URSULA HAGEL**

PRINCIPAL COACHING **ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV**, **LESLEY COLLIER**,

JONATHAN COPE, **MONICA MASON**, **ROLAND PRICE**

DANCE NOTATOR **GRANT COYLE**

CONDUCTOR **BORIS GRUZIN**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONCERT MASTER **PETER MANNING**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY
ROSS MACGIBBON

LIVE FROM THE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2014

AT 7.15PM



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

THE STORY

ACT I

A Rhineland village

Giselle, a peasant girl, has fallen in love with Count Albrecht, who has led her to believe that he is a villager named Loys. Her superstitious mother, Berthe, hoping that Giselle will marry the forester Hilarion, warns her against Loys, to whom she has taken an instinctive dislike. In order to discourage Giselle's love for Loys, Berthe further recounts the legend of the Wilis, ghosts of young girls who have been jilted and die before their wedding day. To avenge themselves, they dance to death any man who crosses their path between midnight and dawn. But Giselle disregards her mother and, with her beloved, joins in the celebrations that mark the end of the grape harvest, when she is crowned Queen of the Vintage.

Wilfred, Albrecht's squire, secretly warns him that a hunting party is approaching, led by the Duke of Courland and the Countess Bathilde (Albrecht's future bride), who are staying at Albrecht's castle for the betrothal ceremony. Albrecht hides, but Hilarion has witnessed this meeting and decides to break into Loys's cottage to discover the secret of his true identity. The hunting party arrives. Giselle dances for the nobles and, when she tells Bathilde that she too is engaged, the Countess gives her a necklace. Bathilde, tired from hunting, asks to rest in Berthe's cottage, but the Duke decides to continue the hunt and orders a hunting horn to be left by the cottage door so that he and the rest of the party can be recalled when Bathilde is ready to rejoin them.

Hilarion now appears from Loys's cottage. He has found Albrecht's sword and when he compares it with the hunting horn, he sees they bear the same crest; this gives him the evidence he has been looking for. Not realizing that the hunt is still nearby, Albrecht returns. Hilarion interrupts the dancing and reveals the truth: that Loys is really Albrecht. He sounds the horn, the hunting party returns and Bathilde, coming out of the cottage, claims Albrecht as her fiancé. The shock is too much for Giselle and she loses her reason. In her madness she relives her love for 'Loys' and, seizing his sword, she kills herself.

Interval

ACT II

Giselle's grave in the forest

Hilarion keeps vigil by Giselle's grave, which lies deep in the forest in unconsecrated ground. It is midnight, the time when the Wilis materialize. Hilarion flees in terror when confronted by these apparitions. Myrtha, their queen, now arrives from the marshes and summons her Wilis. She draws Giselle from her grave to be initiated into their rites. The Wilis disperse as Albrecht approaches, searching for Giselle's grave. He lays flowers at the cross and when Giselle's spirit appears to him, he follows it into the forest.

Hilarion, pursued by the Wilis, returns and is forced into an endless dance. Exhausted, he is driven into the lake, where he drowns.

The Wilis now seek out Albrecht and, when Myrtha commands him to dance, Giselle urges him to the safety of the cross; but he is powerless when Myrtha orders Giselle to entice him away by dancing with him. Giselle tries to sustain him, but as the night wears on he becomes weaker and weaker. Just as he is about to die, dawn breaks. Daylight destroys the Wilis' power and the ghostly dancers fade away. Giselle, whose love has transcended death, returns to her grave, her spirit freed from the power of the Wilis, leaving Albrecht sorrowing and alone.

PETER WRIGHT

CAST

GISELLE **NATALIA OSIPOVA**

ALBRECHT **CARLOS ACOSTA**

HILARION
A FORESTER **THOMAS WHITEHEAD**

ACT I

WILFRED
ALBRECHT'S SQUIRE **JOHANNES STEPANEK**

BERTHE
GISELLE'S MOTHER **DEIRDRE CHAPMAN**

THE DUKE OF COURLAND **CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS**

BATHILDE
HIS DAUGHTER **CHRISTINA ARESTIS**

LEADER OF THE HUNT **ALASTAIR MARRIOTT**

PAS DE SIX **YUHUI CHOE, VALENTINO ZUCCHETTI,
FRANCESCA HAYWARD, LUCA ACRI,
YASMINE NAGHDI, MARCELINO SAMBÉ**

ACT II

MYRTHA
QUEEN OF THE WILIS **HIKARU KOBAYASHI**

MOYNA
MYRTHA'S ATTANDANT **ELIZABETH HARROD**

ZULME
MYRTHA'S ATTENDANT **AKANE TAKADA**

PEASANTS, COURTIER'S AND WILIS **ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET**

CASTING IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING. DETAILS OF LIVE PERFORMANCE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE