

Approximate timings

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm

Act I 55 minutes

Interval

Acts II 50 minutes

The live relay will end at approximately 9.45pm

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2015/16 Live Cinema Season

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016

FRANKENSTEIN WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2016

WERTHER MONDAY 27 JUNE 2016

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ROYAL
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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

CHOREOGRAPHER MARIUS PETIPA AFTER JEAN CORALLI AND JULES PERROT

SCENARIO THÉOPHILE GAUTIER AFTER HEINRICH HEINE

PRODUCTION AND ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY PETER WRIGHT

DESIGNER JOHN MACFARLANE

ORIGINAL LIGHTING JENNIFER TIPTON RE-CREATED BY DAVID FINN

STAGING CHRISTOPHER CARR

BALLET MISTRESS SAMANTHA RAINE

ASSISTANT BALLET MASTER RICARDO CERVERA

PRINCIPAL COACHING ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, LESLEY COLLIER,

JONATHAN COPE, OLGA EVREINOFF, MONICA MASON, PETER WRIGHT

CONDUCTOR BARRY WORDSWORTH

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONCERT MASTER PETER MANNING

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY ROSS MACGIBBON

LIVE FROM THE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2016, 7.15PM

Synopsis

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	MARIANELA NUÑEZ
ALBRECHT	VADIM MUNTAGIROV
HILARION A FORESTER	BENNET GARTSIDE
WILFRED ALBRECHT’S SQUIRE	JOHANNES STEPANEK
BERTHE GISELLE’S MOTHER	ELIZABETH McGORIAN
THE DUKE OF COURLAND	GARY AVIS
BATHILDE HIS DAUGHTER	CHRISTINA ARESTIS
LEADER OF THE HUNT	ERIC UNDERWOOD
PAS DE SIX	YUHUI CHOE, ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, FRANCESCA HAYWARD, LUCA ACRI, YASMINE NAGHDI, MARCELINO SAMBÉ
PEASANTS AND COURTIERS	ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET
MYRTHA QUEEN OF THE WILIS	ITZIAR MENDIZABAL
MOYNA MYRTHA’S ATTENDANT	OLIVIA COWLEY
ZULME MYRTHA’S ATTENDANT	BEATRIZ STIX-BRUNELL
WILIS	ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

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