

## APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm

Introduced by Darcey Bussell

Acts I and II 70 minutes

### Cinema interval

Act III 34 minutes

### Cinema interval

Act IV 21 minutes

The live relay will end at approximately 10.25pm

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

## 2014/15 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

**RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY** WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2015

**LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE** TUESDAY 5 MAY 2015

**LA BOHÈME** WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2015

**GUILLAUME TELL** SUNDAY 5 JULY 2015

## POINTE SHOES

Royal Ballet dancers use more than 12,000 pairs of shoes every Season. You can help support their extraordinary work. A gift of just £39 could buy a pair of shoes for one of the swans. Visit [www.roh.org.uk/pointe](http://www.roh.org.uk/pointe)

## SWAN LAKE DIGITAL PROGRAMME

Royal Opera House Digital Programmes bring together a range of specially selected films, articles, pictures and features to bring you closer to the production. Buy yours to explore the story, the music and the background to The Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake*, and for the most recent pictures and exclusives, visit [www.roh.org.uk/publications](http://www.roh.org.uk/publications)

For more information about the Royal Opera House, to watch the extra features from this performance again and to explore our work further, visit [www.roh.org.uk/cinema](http://www.roh.org.uk/cinema)



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

# SWAN LAKE

BALLET IN FOUR ACTS

THESE PERFORMANCES ARE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF  
DEREK RENCHER, 1932-2014, FORMER PRINCIPAL DANCER  
AND PRINCIPAL CHARACTER ARTIST OF THE ROYAL BALLET

CHOREOGRAPHY MARIUS PETIPA AND LEV IVANOV

ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY FREDERICK ASHTON (ACT III NEAPOLITAN DANCE)  
AND DAVID BINTLEY (ACT I WALTZ)

MUSIC PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY

PRODUCTION ANTHONY DOWELL

DESIGNS YOLANDA SONNABEND

LIGHTING DESIGN MARK HENDERSON

PRODUCTION RESEARCH ROLAND JOHN WILEY

STAGING CHRISTOPHER CARR

BALLET MISTRESS SAMANTHA RAINE

PRINCIPAL COACHING ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, LESLEY COLLIER,

JONATHAN COPE, OLGA EVREINOFF

DANCE NOTATORS ANNA TREVIEN, GREGORY MISLIN

CONDUCTOR BORIS GRUZIN

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CO-CONCERT MASTER SERGEY LEVITIN

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY

ROSS MACGIBBON

LIVE FROM THE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2015

AT 7.15PM



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

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# THE STORY

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## ACT I

Final preparations are being made to celebrate Prince Siegfried's coming of age. His tutor arrives to see that all is in order, followed by Benno (Siegfried's close comrade), cadets and ladies of the court. Siegfried receives flowers from the peasants, and offers ribbons to the girls and drink to the men. Three dancers perform a *pas de trois* as an entertainment for all.

Siegfried's mother learns of the unofficial party and, as she approaches, hurried attempts are made to conceal evidence of drinking. But she knows full well Siegfried's love of the carefree life. She tells him he must choose a bride from among the eligible girls who will attend a ball the following evening. The tutor and Benno try to cheer Siegfried's mood, and convince him at last to resume the festivities.

The tutor, now drunk, insists on dancing with two young daughters of the ladies-in-waiting. After he falls to the ground he is persuaded to return to the palace with Siegfried.

Seeing a flock of swans in the evening sky, Siegfried and the cadets decide to finish the day's festivities with a hunt.

## Short pause

## ACT II

Benno and the cadets stop in a clearing by the lakeside ruins of a chapel. Here an evil spirit lurks in the form of an owl. The cadets move on to look for Siegfried, who arrives at the moment a flock of swans flies in to settle in the ruins. Siegfried hides as one of the swans transforms into a beautiful maiden, the Swan Queen Odette. Frightened, she tells him that she and her companions are victims of the evil spirit, who has cast a spell over them, making them swans by day. Only at night by the enchanted lake, a lake of tears shed by Odette's mother, can they return to human form. The spell can be broken only if one who has never loved before swears to love Odette forever. The evil spirit appears but Odette prevents Siegfried from shooting at him – if the spirit dies the spell can never be broken.

The swan maidens appear from the ruins and surround Benno. He calls on his colleagues to fire, but Siegfried arrives and stops them. Odette begs the cadets not to harm the swan maidens. The cadets retire, leaving Siegfried alone with Odette and the maidens.

Odette and Siegfried express their love for each other, but as dawn approaches the power of the spell draws Odette and the maidens back to the ruins to become swans again.

## Interval

## ACT III

Guests arrive in masks for a costume ball and Siegfried and Benno, also masked, mix with them. The Princess commands Siegfried to dance with six young princesses and to choose one to be his bride; he refuses, telling her he does not love any of them.

A fanfare announces the arrival of Von Rothbart, the evil spirit now in human form, his daughter Odile, who by magic resembles Odette, and an entourage. Siegfried cannot believe that Odette has appeared at the ball and asks Von Rothbart who she is. He tells him that she is his daughter and, before Siegfried can approach her, starts an entertainment of national dances.

Siegfried and Odile then dance, and Odette, appearing as a vision, tries in vain to warn Siegfried that he is being deceived. Captivated by the beauty of the new guest and unaware of the deception, Siegfried chooses Odile for his bride. Von Rothbart triumphantly takes his daughter's hand and gives it to Siegfried, who promises a vow of marriage and eternal love. Von Rothbart reveals the vision of Odette, and Siegfried realizes his error. Grief-stricken, he returns to the lake.

## Interval

## ACT IV

By the lake, the swans are awaiting Odette's return. She appears, distraught, and tells them of Siegfried's betrayal. They try to console her, but she is resigned to death. To be free from the evil power she must perish in the waves of the lake. Siegfried's desperate search through the storm ends at the lakeside. Odette forgives him and they reaffirm their love.

Von Rothbart appears and declares that Siegfried must fulfil his vow to marry Odile. If he does, Odette will become a swan forever with the coming of dawn. Siegfried resolves instead to die with her, which will destroy Von Rothbart. The lovers run to the cliff and throw themselves into the lake below to be united in death.

Anthony Dowell

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# CAST

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ODETTE/ODILE	<b>NATALIA OSIPOVA</b>
PRINCE SIEGFRIED	<b>MATTHEW GOLDING</b>
THE PRINCESS SIEGFRIED'S MOTHER	<b>ELIZABETH MCGORIAN</b>
AN EVIL SPIRIT LATER VON ROTHBART	<b>GARY AVIS</b>
THE TUTOR	<b>ALASTAIR MARRIOTT</b>
BENNO	<b>VALERI HRISTOV</b>
PAS DE TROIS (ACT I)	<b>FRANCESCA HAYWARD, YUHUI CHOE, ALEXANDER CAMPBELL</b>
CYGNETS (ACT II)	<b>FRANCESCA HAYWARD, MEAGHAN GRACE HINKIS, EMMA MAGUIRE, YASMINE NAGHDI</b>
TWO SWANS (ACTS III AND IV)	<b>MELISSA HAMILTON, ITZIAR MENDIZABAL</b>
SWANS, CYGNETS, PEASANTS, LADIES-IN-WAITING, CADETS, SERVANTS, PAGES, DWARVES	<b>ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET STUDENTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL</b>

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