

### APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm

Introduced by Darcey Bussell

Prologue and Act I 49 minutes

**Cinema interval**

Act II 37 minutes

**Cinema interval**

Acts III 24 minutes

**The performance will end at approximately 10.30pm**

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

### 2014/15 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

**MANON LESCAUT** TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2014

**MANON** THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2014

**I DUE FOSCARI** MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 2014

**L'ELISIR D'AMORE** WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2014

**ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND** TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

**ANDREA CHÉNIER** THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2015

**DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER** TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015

**SWAN LAKE** TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2015

**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

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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

# THE WINTER'S TALE

BALLET IN A PROLOGUE AND THREE ACTS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PETER WHEELDON, MY DAD, 1935-2014

CHOREOGRAPHY CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON

MUSIC JOBY TALBOT

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CHESTER MUSIC LTD

DESIGNS BOB CROWLEY

LIGHTING DESIGN NATASHA KATZ

PROJECTION DESIGN DANIEL BRODIE

SILK EFFECTS DESIGN BASIL TWIST

ASSISTANT TO THE CHOREOGRAPHER JACQUELIN BARRETT

BALLET MASTER CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS

ASSISTANT BALLET MASTER JONATHAN HOWELLS

PRINCIPAL COACHING JONATHAN COPE

DANCE NOTATOR ANNA TREVIAN

CONDUCTOR DAVID BRISKIN

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONCERT MASTER PETER MANNING

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY

**ROSS MACGIBBON**

LIVE FROM THE  
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE  
MONDAY 28 APRIL 2014  
AT 7.15PM



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

A CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN THE ROYAL BALLET  
AND THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA

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# THE STORY

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## PROLOGUE

Two kings separated as children are reunited in adulthood. One king, Leontes of Sicilia, marries Hermione, giving her a beautiful emerald. They have a son, Mamillius, and are blissfully happy. The other king, Polixenes of Bohemia, visits the court of Leontes. He is delighted to be reunited with his old friend and stays for nine months. By the time of his departure, Hermione is soon to give birth to her second child.

## ACT I

The court of Sicilia

It is the day of Polixenes' departure. The Bohemian court say goodbye to their Sicilian friends. At Hermione's request, Polixenes agrees to stay on another week. In a flash of jealousy, Leontes becomes convinced that his wife has been unfaithful and is carrying Polixenes' child. Jealousy turns to rage and he attacks Polixenes, who flees back to Bohemia. Leontes publicly accuses Hermione of adultery and treason, then has her arrested. This so distresses Mamillius that he falls seriously ill.

In prison, Hermione has given birth to a daughter. The head of her household, Paulina, brings the newborn to Leontes, hoping to convince him that the baby is his daughter. Instead, Leontes violently rejects the child, then orders Paulina's husband Antigonus to abandon the baby in a remote place. Antigonus sets sail into a brewing storm with the baby and some treasure, including the emerald once given to Hermione by Leontes.

Hermione is brought to trial and pleads her innocence. Leontes, now quite mad, refuses to believe her. Dazed and feverish, Mamillius enters the courtroom and, upon witnessing the unfolding tragedy, he collapses and dies from distress. Seeing the death of her child, Hermione too collapses dead and is taken away. Only now does Leontes realize the disastrous consequences of his terrible mistake.

The shores of Bohemia

Battling the storm, Antigonus struggles ashore to abandon the baby princess. As he leaves, he is pursued and killed by a wild bear. His ship, waiting at sea, is smashed to pieces on the rocks. As day breaks, a shepherd and his son Clown discover the baby girl and the treasure.

## Interval

## ACT II

Hillside in Bohemia. Sixteen years later

Perdita, the abandoned daughter of King Leontes and Queen Hermione, has been raised by the shepherd who found her. She dances beneath the great tree with her love, Prince Florizel, the son of Polixenes, whom the other villagers know only as a shepherd boy.

The villagers arrive for the annual springtime festival. King Polixenes, who has heard that his son has been cavorting with a shepherdess, sends his steward to spy on the young prince. When the steward confirms his suspicions, Polixenes is enraged, and demands to see for himself.

At the festival, Perdita is to be crowned May Queen. In honour of the occasion, Father Shepherd presents her with the emerald necklace he found with her on the beach. Polixenes and his steward arrive in disguise, keen to see what Florizel is up to. On witnessing Florizel's engagement to a mere shepherdess, Polixenes reveals himself. He is furious with Florizel, and condemns Perdita and her family to death. They all flee by boat to Sicilia, pursued by Polixenes.

## Interval

## ACT III

A clifftop in Sicilia

King Leontes mourns by the clifftop graves of his wife and son, watched over by Paulina. Perdita and Florizel's ship approaches Sicilia.

The palace in Sicilia

Perdita and Florizel appeal to Leontes to allow their union, and to intercede with the enraged Polixenes on their behalf. Leontes is taken with the likeness of the Prince to Polixenes. He agrees to help the young couple, who remind him of his lost children. Polixenes arrives and Leontes tries to reason with him, but he violently handles Perdita, revealing the emerald. The long lost Princess of Sicilia is miraculously alive and the two kings are reunited.

The Palace celebrates the wedding of Florizel and Perdita. As the festivities die down, Leontes is led by Paulina to see a new statue of Hermione. Deeply remorseful, he kneels at its base. Suddenly, the statue comes to life – it is Hermione, who is alive and has been kept in hiding by Paulina for 16 years. She embraces Leontes, and the family is reunited.

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## CAST

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LEONTES **EDWARD WATSON**

HERMIONE **LAUREN CUTHBERTSON**

PERDITA **SARAH LAMB**

FLORIZEL **STEVEN McRAE**

PAULINA **ZENAIDA YANOWSKY**

POLIXENES **FEDERICO BONELLI**

## ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

CASTING IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING. DETAILS OF LIVE PERFORMANCE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
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## ROYAL OPERA HOUSE GUIDE TO THE WINTER'S TALE

For rehearsal images, exclusive films and updates, the full cinema cast as soon as it is announced, exclusive articles exploring the story, the music and the background to The Royal Ballet's *The Winter's Tale*, as well as the work of choreographer, Christopher Wheeldon, buy a Digital Guide.

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