



**BIRMINGHAM  
ROYAL BALLET**

*Director David Bintley CBE*

**H BIRMINGHAM  
HIPPODROME**

Wednesday 14 June 2017

# COPPÉLIA

Production supported (1995) by David Lloyd

*Music* Léo Delibes

*Choreography* Marius Petipa, Enrico Cecchetti and Peter Wright

*Production* Peter Wright

*Scenery and costumes* Peter Farmer

*Lighting* Peter Teigen

*Swanilda* Samara Downs  
*Franz* Mathias Dingman  
*Dr Coppélius* Jonathan Payn

## ACT I

*Swanilda's Friends* Ruth Brill, Karla Doorbar,  
Yvette Knight, Miki Mizutani,  
Yaoqian Shang, Yijing Zhang  
*Burgomaster* Valentin Olovyannikov  
*Innkeeper* Kit Holder  
*Coppélia* Emilia Rouanet Feliu  
*A doll*  
*Gypsy* Maureya Lebowitz  
*Mazurka and Czárdás* Anna Monleon, Alys Shee,  
Yasuo Atsuji, Feargus Campbell

## INTERVAL

## ACT II

*Oriental Doll* Beatrice Parma  
*Spanish Doll* Brooke Ray  
*Scottish Doll* Edivaldo Souza da Silva  
*Soldier Dolls* Alexander Bird, Aitor Galende

## INTERVAL

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## ACT III

*The Duke* Yasuo Atsuji  
*His Aide* Lachlan Monaghan

### Festival of the Bell

*Father Time* Kit Holder  
*Dance of the Hours* Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet  
*Dawn* Karla Doorbar  
*Prayer* Yijing Zhang  
*Work* Laura Day, Rosanna Ely,

Johanne Monfret, Anna Monleon,  
Beatrice Parma, Rachele Pizzillo,  
Brooke Ray, Daria Stanciulescu  
*Betrothal* Ruth Brill, Lewis Turner  
*Call to Arms* William Bracewell  
*and*  
Gabriel Anderson, Alexander Bird,  
Feargus Campbell, Tim Dutton,  
Aitor Galende, Miles Gilliver,  
Brandon Lawrence, Max Maslen

*Peace* Samara Downs, Mathias Dingman

*Students on the John Pinder Studentship programme and the Robin Cadbury Studentship programme appear by kind permission of the Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst School for Dance. Children are from Birmingham Royal Ballet's Dance Track programme*

## Royal Ballet Sinfonia

*Conductor* Koen Kessels; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



### Approximate timings

*Act I* 36 minutes; *Interval* 20 minutes;

*Act II* 29 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes;

*Act III* 31 minutes

*The performance will end at approximately 10pm*

## The story

### ACT I *The square of a village in eastern Europe*

Dr Coppélius has spent his life developing his mystical powers, which sometimes work but more often than not don't! His ambition is to bring Coppélia, one of his mechanical dolls, to life. One day Coppélius puts Coppélia out on the balcony; he is delighted when everyone believes she is a real person. However, Swanilda is not so pleased when she is ignored by Coppélia but Franz, her sweetheart, gets plenty of Coppélia's attention. The Burgomaster arrives and suggests that Swanilda tests Franz's faithfulness with an ear of corn – if it rattles she will know his love is true. The Burgomaster announces that the Duke has invited everyone to a fête, where the 'Masque of the Bell' will be performed to celebrate his gift of a new bell to the church. After everyone has departed, Swanilda and her friends return to decorate the square for the festivities. They decide to enter Coppélius's house to look for the mysterious girl on the balcony. Franz then returns with the same idea.

### ACT II *Dr Coppélius's workshop, later the same night*

Inside the workshop Swanilda and her companions discover

Coppélia and are astonished to find that she is only a doll. Coppélius returns and drives them all out, except Swanilda who hides. Franz appears; Coppélius threatens to punish him. He then has second thoughts and, by putting a sleeping draught in some wine he offers Franz, he makes him fall asleep. With the help of a book of magic, he tries to bring Coppélia to life using Franz's spirit.

### ACT III *The gardens of the Duke's mansion*

The bell is presented by the Duke, who presents gifts to Franz and Swanilda and another couple who have announced their wedding. Coppélius arrives, angry that his doll has been ruined, but the Duke placates him with a gift. The masque begins with dances that illustrate the uses to which the bell will be put: the call to prayer, work, the announcement of a marriage, the call to arms and, finally, the declaration of peace, in which we see Swanilda and Franz express their true love. As everyone departs Swanilda and Franz invite Dr Coppélius to join them as the festivities continue.