BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Director David Bintley CBE

SADLERSWELLS

Thursday 15 October 2015

Swan Lake

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Choreography Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov and Peter Wright
Production Peter Wright and Galina Samsova
Designs Philip Prowse
Lighting Peter Teigen

Odette/Odile	**Momoko Hirata**
Prince Siegfried	**Joseph Caley**
The Queen Mother	**Yijing Zhang**
Baron von Rothbart	**Valentin Olovyannikov**
Benno	**Mathias Dingman**
Prince Siegfried's Friend	

Act I

The Prince's Companions	**Ruth Brill, Jade Heusen, Yvette Knight, Anna Monleon, William Bracewell, Kit Holder, Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan**
Two Courtesans	**Reina Fuchigami, Yaoqian Shang**
Court Ladies, Courtiers, Ladies in Waiting	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Three-minute pause: please remain seated

Act II

Cygnets	**Ruth Brill, Laura Day, Beatrice Parma, Laura Purkiss**
Two Swan Maidens	**Samara Downs, Delia Mathews**
Swan Maidens	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Interval

Act III

Master of Ceremonies	**Rory Mackay**
Hungarian Princess	**Delia Mathews**
Polish Princess	**Yvette Knight**
Italian Princess	**Angela Paul**
Czárdás	**Ruth Brill, Jonathan Caguioa and Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
Mazurka	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
Neapolitan Dance	**Jade Heusen, Emily Smith, James Barton, Kit Holder**
Spanish Dance	**Ana Albutashvili, Letícia Dias Domingues, Brandon Lawrence, Tom Rogers**

Ambassadors, Pages, Guards, **Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
Attendants and Courtiers

Interval

Act IV

Swan Maidens, Cygnets **Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor **Koen Kessels; *Leader* Robert Gibbs**

Students on the Robin Cadbury Studentship programme appear by permission of the Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst School for Dance and the Director of the Royal Ballet School.

Approximate timings
Act I 32 minutes; pause 3 minutes; Act II 33 minutes; Interval 20 minutes; Act III 39 minutes; Interval 15 minutes; Act IV 20 minutes
The performance will end at approximately 10.20pm

The Story

Act I *A courtyard in the castle*

Following his father's death, Prince Siegfried will be crowned king and must marry. He dreads the loss of his freedom and has no wish to marry. It is his 21st birthday and his equerry, Benno, has arranged an entertainment to divert him. His friends present him with a crossbow, but in the middle of these celebrations the Dowager Queen arrives. She is shocked at the revelry while the court is in mourning and reminds Siegfried that he must choose a bride from three Princesses who will attend a grand reception. Benno attempts to cheer Siegfried up with the help of two courtesans. When the dancers have gone, a flight of swans passes and Benno suggests that Siegfried try out his new crossbow. They depart in pursuit.

Act II *The lakeside by moonlight*

Is is midnight and Baron von Rothbart, an evil magician, awaits the arrival of the Princess Odette and her companions. He has transformed them into swans and it is only between midnight and dawn that they can return to human form. Von Rothbart hides when Siegfried arrives. Left alone, Siegfried sees a swan which, to his amazement, changes into a beautiful maiden, the Princess Odette. She explains that her enchantment can only be broken if someone who has never loved before swears an oath of undying love. Von Rothbart appears and Prince Siegfied attempts to shoot him, but Odette explains that if the magician dies the spell can never be broken. Dawn approaches. Prince Siegfried declares his love and swears to be true for eternity. Odette promises him that she will visit him the following night at the castle.

Act III *The ballroom of the castle*

At the grand reception three Princesses dance for Siegfried, but his thoughts are elsewhere. A fanfare announces the arrival of two uninvited guests; they are von Rothbart, disguised as an ambassador, and his daughter Odile, whom the sorcerer has transformed to look like Odette. The Prince believes her to be the Swan Princess. While Odile and the Prince dance, Odette keeps her promise and appears at the window, but his attention is distracted by the magician's spell. Infatuated, Siegfried asks for Odile's hand in marriage. Von Rothbart makes him swear his love for her and as Siegfried does so, Odette again appears at the window. The court is thrown into confusion and, in despair, the Prince rushes out in search of Odette.

Act IV *The lakeside*

Odette returns to the swan maidens, distraught and wishing to drown herself while she is still in human form. Realising Siegfried is following her, von Rothbart creates a storm in a vain attempt to stop him. Siegfried arrives and begs Odette's forgiveness. Sadly, she tells him that she forgives him but nothing can change the fact that his vow has been broken. Odette and Siegfried decide they cannot live apart and will die together. Odette throws herself into the lake and von Rothbart is thwarted in his attempt to stop Siegfried following her. Dawn breaks. The spell is broken as the lovers are united in a world of eternal love.

PETER WRIGHT