BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

FESTIVAL THEATRE EDINBURGH

Friday 15 March 2019

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Choreography David Bintley; **Music** Glenn Buhr; **Designs** Philip Prowse; **Lighting** Mark Jonathan

Belle	**Delia Mathews**
The Beast	**Tyrone Singleton**
The Merchant, *Belle's father*	**Michael O'Hare**
Fière	**Daria Stanciulescu**
Vanité	**Yijing Zhang**
Belle's sisters	
Monsieur Cochon	**Lachlan Monaghan**
Wild Girl	**Yaoqian Shang**
Vixen	**Beatrice Parma**
Raven	**Tzu-Chao Chou**
Woodsman	**Jonathan Payn**
Bailiff	**James Barton**
Grandmère	**Laura Day**
Hunters, Birds of the Air, Birds of the Forest, Court Beasts, Wedding Guests	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Students on the John Pinder Studentship programme appear by permission of the Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst Ballet School

ROYAL BALLET SINFONIA

Conductor Paul Murphy; *Leader* Robert Gibbs

Approximate timings

Act I 47 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes; *Act II* 47 minutes; *The performance will end at approximately* 9.35pm

THE STORY

PROLOGUE: A cruel Prince is cursed as he hunts a Vixen, becoming a terrible Beast, whilst the Vixen is transformed into a Wild Girl.

ACT I: Belle's father, a Merchant, believing his fortune lost at sea, accepts money from the rich Monsieur Cochon to pay bailiffs, but Cochon is motivated by his desire to marry one of the sisters. The Merchant's ships are then sighted and he leaves to meet them, promising his daughters gifts; Belle asks for a single rose. Robbed during a storm, the Merchant takes refuge in a castle.

The next day, he finds his trunk returned and full of gifts for his daughters. Remembering Belle, as he leaves, he picks a rose. Outraged at the theft, a Beast appears: in return for his life, the Merchant must send his youngest daughter to the castle. Wanting to save her father, Belle agrees.

ACT II Every night for months the Beast asks Belle to marry him, but is turned down each time. The Beast throws an extravagant ball and once again asks Belle for her hand. She refuses again and the Beast descends into a rage.

Belle asks to leave to see her father. The Beast agrees, but gives her another rose: she must return before the rose dies, or he too will die. Belle arrives home to find wedding preparations under way, but the greedy Cochon has yet to decide which sister he wants as his wife! Explaining her situation to her jealous sisters, Belle is detained by them whilst, back at his castle, the Beast begins to die.

Returning at the last minute, Belle declares her love for the Beast whereupon the curse is lifted and he transforms back into a handsome Prince.