BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Director David Bintley CBE

sunderland empire
The West End of the North East

Thursday 20 October 2016

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

The Tempest

A co-production with Houston Ballet Foundation

Birmingham Royal Ballet is very grateful for the generous support for *The Tempest* from Aud Jebsen, The Patrick Trust, The Foyle Foundation, David & Sandra Burbidge, PRS for Music Foundation, The Leche Trust, The Oakley Charitable Trust, The RVW Trust, The John S. Cohen Foundation, The Derek Hill Foundation, The Lynn Foundation, Birmingham Royal Ballet's New Work Syndicate and Director's Appeal, and The Big Give

Music **Sally Beamish** (*by arrangement with Peters Edition Limited*)
Choreography **David Bintley**
Designs **Rae Smith**
Lighting **Bruno Poet**

Puppetry/Storm Effects **Finn Caldwell and Toby Olié**
Sound Designer **Clement Rawling**
Performer Flying **Lee Stephenson (for Freedom Flying)**

PLEASE NOTE THIS PRODUCTION INCLUDES SOME FLASHING LIGHTS

Alonso *King of Naples* **Michael O'Hare**
Ferdinand *Alonso's son* **Joseph Caley**
Sebastian *Alonso's brother* **Lewis Turner**
Antonio *Duke of Milan* **Dominic Antonucci**
Prospero *Former Duke of Milan* **Iain Mackay**
Miranda *Prospero's daughter* **Jenna Roberts**
Caliban *Prospero's slave* **Tyrone Singleton**
Ariel *A spirit* **Mathias Dingman**
Trinculo *Court jester* **James Barton**
Stephano *A drunken butler* **Valentin Olovyannikov**
Boatswain **Lachlan Monaghan**
Neptune *God of the sea* **Lachlan Monaghan**
Ceres *Goddess of the harvest* **Céline Gittens**
Iris *Goddess of the air* **Yvette Knight**
Juno *Goddess of marriage* **Delia Mathews**
Pan *God of wine and revelry* **Tzu-Chao Chou**
Prospera *Prospero's wife* **Delia Mathews**
Prospera's Women
Céline Gittens, Yvette Knight

Mariners, Sea Nymphs, Strange Fish, Spirits of the Forest, Spirits of the Feast, Nymphs and Reapers, Spirits as Hunting Hounds
Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Royal Ballet Sinfonia
***Conductor* Paul Murphy**
***Leader* Robert Gibbs**

Students appear by kind permission of the Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst School for Dance and Director of the Royal Ballet School. Gus Payne and Harry Wright (Royal Ballet School students) are supported by Aud Jebsen. Joseph Massey and Hamish Scott (Elmhurst students) are supported by the Cecil King Memorial Foundation. Tyler Carey (Elmhurst student) is supported by the late John Pinder.

Approximate timings
Act I 54 minutes
Interval 20 minutes
Act II 54 minutes
This performance will end at approximately 9.45pm

The Story

ACT I

Alonso, the King of Naples, is returning from his daughter's wedding in Tunis. He is accompanied by his son Ferdinand, his brother Sebastian, and Antonio, the Duke of Milan. Their ship is caught in a furious storm and all the passengers and crew are thrown into the boiling sea.

Prospero, the former Duke of Milan and a magician of some power, and his 15-year-old daughter, Miranda, are watching the tempest from their island home. He tells her, for the first time, how they came to be castaways.

12 years before, when he had been Duke of Milan, his brother Antonio had, with the aid of Alonso and Sebastian, usurped Prospero, and cast him and the baby Miranda adrift on the sea. Providence had washed them ashore on this island and Prospero had turned the only inhabitant, Caliban, a deformed and savage creature, into his slave. Prospero has used his time on the island to develop his magic powers and now commands a host of spirits, foremost amongst whom is Ariel, an airy spirit who has overseen the magical tempest that has brought Prospero's enemies within his grasp.

The ship's passengers are cast up on the island unharmed. Alonso believes his son to be dead, but Ferdinand has landed on another part of the island where he encounters Miranda and the two instantly fall in love. Apart from her father and Caliban, he is the first man she has ever seen. Prospero plans to wed his daughter to Ferdinand but first puts the prince to manual labour in order to prove his love.

On another part of the island, Ariel leads the King towards Prospero's cave. During this journey Antonio persuades Sebastian to kill Alonso so that Sebastian may become king.

Two other members of the party, Trinculo, the court jester, and Stephano, a drunken butler, are also wandering about on the island. Caliban recruits them to help overthrow his hated master. They all get drunk then set off for Prospero's cave.

ACT II

Caliban and his newfound master Stephano continue their journey towards Prospero's cell with the intention of murdering the magus and seizing the island.

Antonio and Sebastian, still looking for an opportunity to murder King Alonso, are presented with the illusion of a great banquet which suddenly vanishes to be replaced by a hellish vision of Ariel as a winged harpy, who accuses them of their previous crimes against Prospero. The Royal party is driven mad by this manifestation.

Meanwhile, Prospero has released Ferdinand and given his blessing to the marriage of the two young people. He conjures up a masque to celebrate their contract of true love but it is abruptly brought to an end when the three would-be usurpers Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo arrive. However, they are distracted by some gaudily coloured clothes that have been hung out for them, then chased away by spirits who have taken on the form of a pack of hounds.

Ariel conjures up another tempest, which drives all the castaways to Prospero's cave. There they are all spell-stopped and within Prospero's power, but in an about-face Prospero reveals his great humanity and in declaring that '…the rarer action is in virtue than in vengeance', he ends the cycle of hatred, envy and revenge by forgiving his brother Antonio, and restoring Alonso's son Ferdinand to him. Even Caliban's crimes are forgiven him as Prospero acknowledges his own part in creating the creature's anger and resentment.

Mariners arrive to announce that the ship is miraculously saved, anchored off the island and ready to sail.

Prospero renounces magic and prepares to return to Milan to resume his dukedom. Ariel is set free and Caliban is left as sole inhabitant and king of the island.

DAVID BINTLEY