



# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET



## THE LOWRY

Saturday matinee 23 March 2019

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

**Choreography** David Bintley

**Music** Glenn Buhr

**Designs** Philip Prowse

**Lighting** Mark Jonathan

**Belle** **Maureya Lebowitz**

**The Beast** **Yasuo Atsuji**

**The Merchant, Belle's father** **Rory Mackay**

**Fière** **Ruth Brill**

**Vanité** **Alys Shee**

*Belle's sisters*

**Monsieur Cochon** **Kit Holder**

**Wild Girl** **Beatrice Parma**

**Vixen** **Reina Fuchigami**

**Raven** **Aitor Galende**

**Woodsman** **Valentin Olovyannikov**

**Bailiff** **James Barton**

**Grandmère** **Beatrice Parma**

**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* Misato Tomita

*Leader* Robert Gibbs



### APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

*Act I* 47 minutes

*Interval* 25 minutes

*Act II* 47 minutes

*The performance will end at approximately 4.05pm*

## 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 morning, 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 monstrous 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.

COMING NEXT FROM BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

## SWAN LAKE 4 - 7 MARCH 2020

The greatest romantic ballet

## FIRST STEPS: SWAN LAKE FRIDAY 6 MARCH

An interactive show for children