BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Director David Bintley CBE

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Wednesday 24 Febraury 2016

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

Romeo and Juliet

Music **Sergei Prokofiev**
Choreography **Kenneth MacMillan**
Designs **Paul Andrews**
Lighting **John B. Read**
Rehearsed by **Desmond Kelly**

Juliet **Jenna Roberts**

Romeo **Iain Mackay**

Mercutio **Mathias Dingman**

Tybalt **Tyrone Singleton**

Benvolio **Yasuo Atsuji**

Paris **Steven Monteith**

Lord Capulet **Michael O'Hare**

Lady Capulet **Samara Downs**

Escalus, Prince of Verona **Jonathan Payn**

Rosaline **Delia Mathews**

Nurse **Marion Tait**

Friar Laurence **Rory Mackay**

Lord Montague **Rory Mackay**

Lady Montague **Alys Shee**

Juliet's Friends
Arancha Baselga, Karla Doorbar, Maureya Lebowitz, Miki Mizutani, Laura Purkiss, Yaoqian Shang

Three Harlots
Céline Gittens, Yvette Knight, Angela Paul

Mandolin dance
Tzu-Chao Chou
James Barton, Jonathan Caguioa, Feargus Campbell, Kit Holder, Oliver Till

Ballroom guests and townspeople
Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

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

Royal Ballet Sinfonia
Conductor **Koen Kessels**
Leader **Robert Gibbs**

Approximate timings
Act I 60 minutes
Interval 20 minutes
Act II 34 minutes
Interval 15 minutes
Act III 40 minutes
This performance will end at approximately 10.25pm

The Story

The ballet is set in Verona

ACT I

Scene 1: The market place
Romeo, son of Montague, tries unsuccessfully to declare his love for Rosaline and is consoled by his friends Mercutio and Benvolio. As day breaks and the townspeople meet in the market place, a quarrel develops between Tybalt, a nephew of Capulet, and Romeo and his friends. The Capulets and Montagues are sworn enemies and a fight soon begins. The Lords Montague and Capulet join in the fray, which is stopped by the appearance of the Prince of Verona, who commands the families to end their feud.

Scene 2: Juliet's ante-room in the Capulets' house
Juliet, playing with her nurse, is interrupted by her parents, Lord and Lady Capulet. They present her to Paris, a wealthy young nobleman who has asked for her hand in marriage.

Scene 3: Outside the Capulets' house
Guests arrive for a ball at the Capulets' house. Romeo, Mercutio and Benvolio, disguised in masks, decide to go in pursuit of Rosaline.

Scene 4: The ballroom
Romeo and his friends arrive at the height of the festivities. The guests watch Juliet dance. Mercutio, seeing that Romeo is entranced by her, dances to distract attention from him. Tybalt recognises Romeo and orders him to leave, but Capulet intervenes and welcomes him as a guest in his house.

Scene 5: Outside the Capulets' house
As the guests leave the ball Capulet restrains Tybalt from pursuing Romeo.

Scene 6: Juliet's balcony
Unable to sleep, Juliet comes out on to her balcony and is thinking of Romeo, when suddenly he appears in the garden. They confess their love for each other.

ACT II

Scene 1: The market place
Romeo can think only of Juliet, and, as a wedding procession passes, he dreams of the day when he will marry her. In the meantime Juliet's nurse pushes her way through the crowds in search of Romeo to give him a letter from Juliet. He reads that Juliet has consented to be his wife.

Scene 2: The chapel
The lovers are secretly married by Friar Laurence, who hopes that their union will end the strife between the Montagues and Capulets.

Scene 3: The market place
Interrupting the revelry, Tybalt fights with Mercutio and kills him. Romeo avenges the death of his friend and is exiled.

ACT III

Scene 1: The bedroom
At dawn next morning the household is stirring and Romeo must go. He embraces Juliet and leaves as her parents enter with Paris. Juliet refuses to marry Paris and, hurt by her rebuff, he leaves. Juliet's parents are angry and threaten to disown her. Juliet rushes to see Friar Laurence.

Scene 2: The chapel
Juliet falls at the Friar's feet and begs for his help. He gives her a phial of sleeping potion which will make her fall into a deathlike sleep. Her parents, believing her to be dead, will bury her in the family tomb. Meanwhile Romeo, warned by Friar Laurence, will return under cover of darkness and take her away from Verona.

Scene 3: The bedroom
That evening Juliet agrees to marry Paris; but next morning when her parents arrive with him they find her apparently lifeless on the bed.

Scene 4: The Capulet family crypt
Romeo, who has not received the Friar's message, returns to Verona stunned by grief at the news of Juliet's death. Disguised as a monk he enters the crypt, and finding Paris by Juliet's body, kills him. Believing Juliet to be dead, Romeo drinks a phial of poison. Juliet awakes and, finding Romeo dead, stabs herself.

KENNETH MACMILLAN