BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Wednesday 5 October 2022

Coppélia

Music Léo Delibes; **Choreography** Marius Petipa, Enrico Cecchetti and Peter Wright;
Production Peter Wright; **Scenery and costumes** Peter Farmer;
Lighting Johnny Westall-Eyre (based on the original design by Peter Teigen);
Guest Répétiteur Denis Bonner

Swanilda	**Céline Gittens**
Franz	**Tyrone Singleton**
Dr Coppélius	**Michael O'Hare**

ACT I

Swanilda's Friends	**Karla Doorbar, Reina Fuchigami, Sofia Liñares, Emma Price, Lucy Waine, Yijing Zhang**
Burgomaster	**Jonathan Payn**
Innkeeper	**Rory Mackay**
Coppélia	**Olivia Chang Clarke**
A doll	
Gypsy	**Isabella Howard**
Mazurka and Czárdás	**Alys Shee, Eilis Small, Gabriel Anderson, Haoliang Feng**

INTERVAL

ACT II

Oriental Doll	**Olivia Chang Clarke**
Spanish Doll	**Amelia Thompson**
Scottish Doll	**Louis Andreasen**
Soldier Dolls	**Oscar Kempsey-Fagg, Mason King**

INTERVAL

Swan Lake

15 – 18 March 2023

Theatre Royal Plymouth
theatreroyal.com

★★★★★ *The Daily Telegraph*

Birmingham Royal Ballet returns to Plymouth next spring with the greatest of all romantic ballets in 'one of the world's finest productions'(*The Observer*).

ACT III

The Duke	**Dominic Antonucci**
His Aide	**Oscar Kempsey-Fagg**

Festival of the Bell

Father Time	**Rory Mackay**
Dance of the Hours	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
Dawn	**Miki Mizutani**
Prayer	**Yijing Zhang**
Work	**Olivia Chang Clarke, Isabella Howard,**
	Emma Price, Matilde Rodrigues,
	Eilis Small, Yuki Sugiura,
	Lynsey Sutherland, Amelia Thompson
Betrothal	**Reina Fuchigami, Gus Payne**
Call to Arms	**Riku Ito**
	and
	Gabriel Anderson, Enrique Bejarano Vidal,
	Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng,
	August Generalli, Miles Gilliver,
	Mason King, Javier Rojas
Peace	**Céline Gittens, Tyrone Singleton**

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor **Paul Murphy**; *Leader* **Robert Gibbs**

Approximate timings

Act I 36 minutes; *Interval* 20 minutes;
Act II 29 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes; *Act III* 31 minutes
The performance will end at approximately 9.55pm

The story

ACT I *The square of a village in eastern Europe*
Dr Coppélius has spent his life developing his mystical powers, which sometimes work but more often than not don't! His ambition is to bring Coppélia, one of his mechanical dolls, to life. One day Coppélius puts Coppélia out on the balcony; he is delighted when everyone believes she is a real person. However, Swanilda is not so pleased when she is ignored by Coppélia but Franz, her sweetheart, gets plenty of Coppélia's attention. The Burgomaster arrives and suggests that Swanilda tests Franz's faithfulness with an ear of corn – if it rattles she will know his love is true. The Burgomaster announces that the Duke has invited everyone to a fête, where the 'Masque of the Bell' will be performed to celebrate his gift of a new bell to the church. After everyone has departed, Swanilda and her friends return to decorate the square for the festivities. They decide to enter Coppélius's house to look for the mysterious girl on the balcony. Franz then returns with the same idea.

ACT II *Dr Coppélius's workshop, later the same night*
Inside the workshop Swanilda and her companions discover Coppélia and are astonished to find that she is only a doll. Coppélius returns and drives them all out, except Swanilda who hides. Franz appears; Coppélius threatens to punish him. He then has second thoughts and, by putting a sleeping draught in some wine he offers Franz, he makes him fall asleep. With the help of a book of magic, he tries to bring Coppélia to life using Franz's spirit.

ACT III *The village square, the following evening*
The bell is presented by the Duke, who presents gifts to Franz and Swanilda and another couple who have announced their wedding. Coppélius arrives, angry that his doll has been ruined, but the Duke placates him with a gift. The masque begins with dances that illustrate the uses to which the bell will be put: the call to prayer, work, the announcement of a marriage, the call to arms and, finally, the declaration of peace, in which we see Swanilda and Franz express their true love. They all enjoy the festivities, including Dr Coppélius – all is forgiven!