

# ROMEO AND JULIET

JOBURG  
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*Photographs:  
Romeo & Juliet  
Jobug Ballet 2023  
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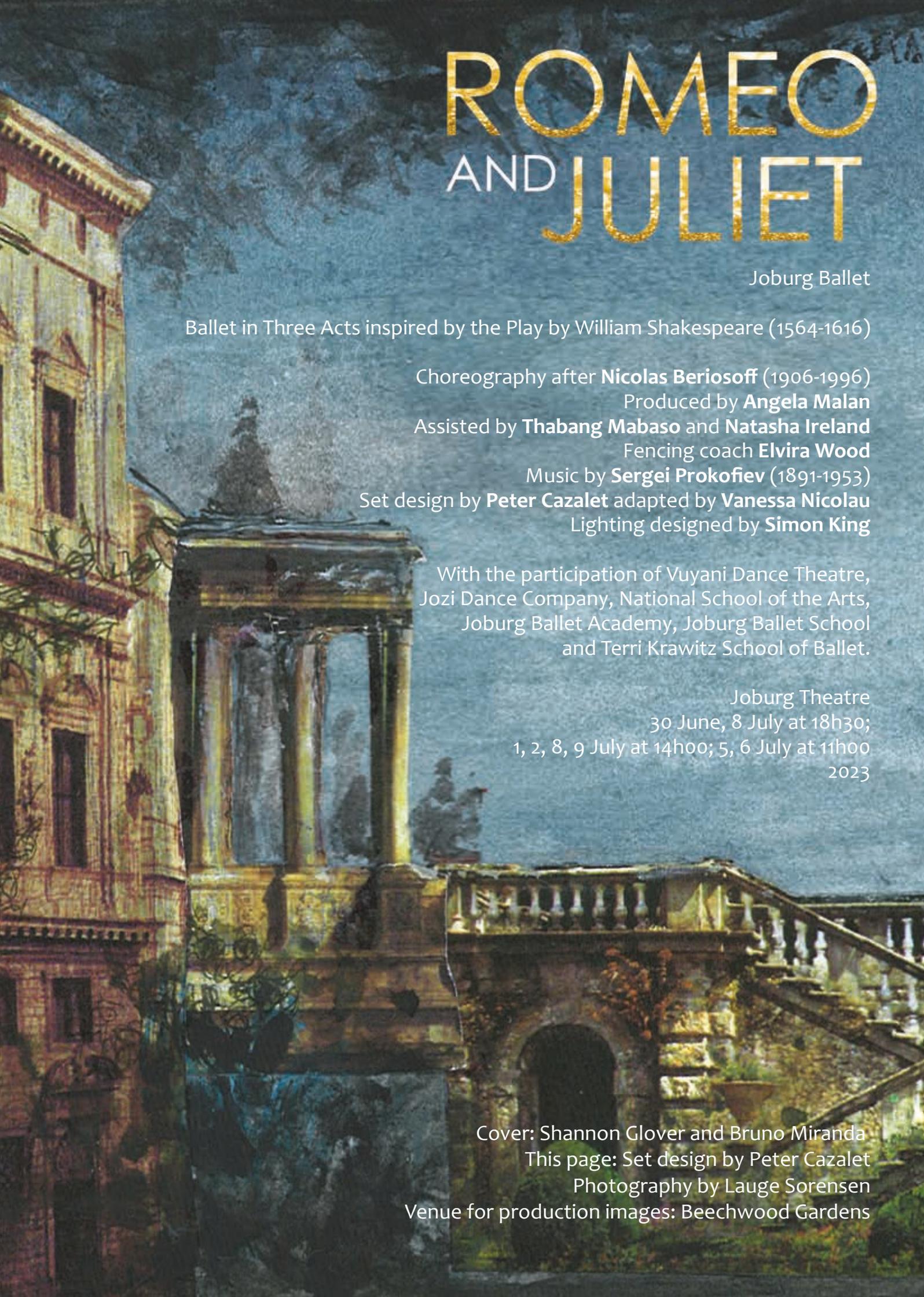
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# ROMEO AND JULIET

Joburg Ballet

Ballet in Three Acts inspired by the Play by William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Choreography after **Nicolas Beriosoff** (1906-1996)

Produced by **Angela Malan**

Assisted by **Thabang Mabaso** and **Natasha Ireland**

Fencing coach **Elvira Wood**

Music by **Sergei Prokofiev** (1891-1953)

Set design by **Peter Cazalet** adapted by **Vanessa Nicolau**

Lighting designed by **Simon King**

With the participation of Vuyani Dance Theatre,  
Jozi Dance Company, National School of the Arts,  
Joburg Ballet Academy, Joburg Ballet School  
and Terri Krawitz School of Ballet.

Joburg Theatre

30 June, 8 July at 18h30;

1, 2, 8, 9 July at 14h00; 5, 6 July at 11h00

2023

Cover: Shannon Glover and Bruno Miranda

This page: Set design by Peter Cazalet

Photography by Lauge Sorensen

Venue for production images: Beechwood Gardens



## From Esther Nasser | CEO

Seven years. That is the journey Joburg Ballet and I have travelled together. As with many of life's journeys, some years have been lean, others less so but what a journey it has been. We were battered by the pandemic, but we're still here. We have been knocked about by loadshedding and, yes, we're still here.

This year will be remembered as a time of change and renewal in Joburg Ballet and as I prepare to make way for a new Chief Executive Officer, I have many people to thank: our major sponsor, the City of Johannesburg who have renewed our funding for the next three-year cycle; CEO of the Joburg Theatre, Xoliswa Nduneni-Ngema; the Board of Joburg Ballet; our generous sponsors and supporters; our loyal and steadfast audiences; and the wonderful men and women who make up the dancers, management and staff of Joburg Ballet.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Iain MacDonald and Lauren Slade who were with Joburg Ballet since the company's inception. Iain served the company as principal dancer and later as artistic director; Lauren was the company's ballet mistress for many years. We salute them for their service and dedication.

We are privileged to have Angela Malan with us as guest producer. An acclaimed South African ballerina and now an admired producer and coach, Angela, assisted by Thabang Mabaso and Natasha Ireland, staged *Romeo and Juliet*. Angela will return for *Don Quixote* and *The Nutcracker* later this year, commuting between Johannesburg and her home in Italy.

Replacing me as CEO in September will be Elroy Fillis-Bell who brings to the company wide ranging experience in arts administration. We will also be appointing an artistic director and once that has happened, the company's plans for 2024 will be announced.

New longer-term projects have been put in place which will unfold over the next three years, marking major new developments for Joburg Ballet and for dance in South Africa and internationally, while development programmes will strengthen Joburg Ballet's future and its position on our cultural landscape.

I extend grateful thanks to the Friends of the Ballet for sponsorship that has helped make this production of *Romeo and Juliet* possible, and to The Michel Tesson Trust and Friends of the Ballet for generously supporting the season of *Don Quixote* in October. The Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra will be with us and I am delighted to announce that Royal Ballet stars Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov will dance two performances of *Don Quixote* at the Joburg Theatre.



## From Angela Malan | Guest Producer

As a young dancer I dreamed of dancing the role of Juliet and when this dream became a reality, early in my career, *Romeo and Juliet* quickly became my favourite ballet. I am grateful to Joburg Ballet for making it possible for me to return to *Romeo and Juliet*, this time as producer.

Nicholas Beriosoff's production is one of the most beautiful stagings of this iconic work, his skillful story-telling and attention to detail in the choreography allowing the dancers to explore the rich drama and multi-faceted characters. It has been an honour and pleasure to work with the dancers of Joburg Ballet, guiding them as they reach into their own life experiences in shaping their heartfelt performances.

The Vuyani Dance Theatre dancers have brought an impressive level of energy and dynamic movement to the production. It has been fantastic working with them and with the students of the Joburg Ballet Academy, Joburg Ballet School and Terri Krawitz School of Dance, the artists of Jozi Dance Company and the young men from the National School of the Arts.

It has been a treat for me to be in the studio with my former colleagues Anya Carstens and Christopher Montague who bring many years of experience to the roles of Lord and Lady Capulet. A special thank you to Natasha Ireland as Juliet's Nurse for her assistance and professionalism.

The men in the company have been fortunate to have Olympic fencer Elvira Wood guiding them through the fencing scenes, making them as authentic as possible while staying true to the choreography.

Shakespeare's tragic tale of young love, Sergei Prokofiev's soaring score and Nicolas Beriosoff's breathtaking production come together to create a passionate theatrical experience that will keep you spellbound and enthralled.

# The Story

**The setting is Verona**

**Act I**

**Scene 1: The Market Place**

Romeo, the son of Montague, woos the beautiful Rosaline but she passes into the church and seems not to see him. Romeo's reverie is interrupted by his friends, Mercutio and Benvolio. The houses of Capulet and Montague are old enemies and a quarrel soon develops between Tybalt, nephew of Capulet, and Romeo and his friends. Escalus, Prince of Verona, commands the feuding families to lay down their arms and declares whoever disobeys him shall be banished from Verona.

**Scene 2: A Room in the Capulet House**

Juliet, daughter of Lord and Lady Capulet, plays with her Nurse. Her parents enter, bringing with them the nobleman, Paris, who seeks Juliet's hand in marriage.

**Scene 3: Outside the Capulet House**

Guests arrive for a ball, among them the Prince of Verona who is welcomed by Capulet. Lurking in the shadows, Romeo, Mercutio and Benvolio mimic the arriving guests and, disguised in masks, slip into the Capulet house.

**Scene 4: The Ballroom**

Romeo is enraptured by Juliet as she dances with Paris. She asks him to remove his mask. He is recognised by Tybalt who is enraged by the presence of a Montague in the Capulet house and orders Romeo to leave. He is admonished by Lord Capulet who, mindful of the Prince's warning, welcomes Romeo as a guest in his house.

**Scene 5: The Capulet Garden**

Entranced by her encounter with Romeo, Juliet cannot sleep and comes onto the balcony of her room. Suddenly she is aware of someone in the garden below.

**INTERVAL**

**Act II**

**Scene 1: The Market Place**

It is carnival time and Verona is filled with troubadours and dancers but Romeo thinks only of Juliet. Juliet's Nurse searches for Romeo. Only after being jokingly harassed by his friends is she able to deliver a letter from Juliet telling Romeo she has consented to be his wife and to come to Friar Lorraine's chapel where they shall be married.

## The Cast

Romeo, son of Montague

Juliet, daughter of Capulet

Tybalt, nephew of Capulet

Mercutio, friend of Romeo

Benvolio, friend of Romeo

Capulet, head of a Veronese family

Lady Capulet

Paris, Juliet's suitor

Escalus, Prince of Verona

Juliet's Nurse

Friar Lorraine

Montague, head of a Veronese Family

Lady Montague

Rosaline

Harlots

Townspeople, Guests, Monks,  
Troubadours

**Scene 2: The Chapel**

In secrecy Romeo and Juliet are married. When they have left, the Friar prays their union will bring an end to the strife between their families.

**Scene 3: The Market Place**

With the festivities at their height, Tybalt and Mercutio begin to taunt each other. A fight ensues and Tybalt kills Mercutio. Consumed with grief for his friend, Romeo slays Tybalt and is banished from Verona.

**Act III**

**Scene 1: Juliet's Bedroom**

A lark heralds the new day and Romeo must flee Verona. He embraces Juliet and slips out of the Capulet house. The Nurse warns Juliet her parents are coming to her room and that Paris is with them. Juliet declares she will not marry Paris. Capulet angrily warns Juliet to prepare for her wedding or face being cast out by her family. In despair, she flees to Friar Lorraine.

**Scene 2: The Chapel**

Juliet begs the Friar for help. He gives her a potion that will put her into a death-like sleep. Her parents, believing her dead, will place her body in the Capulet crypt. In the meantime, Romeo, warned of the plan by the Friar, will return from exile and hide himself in the crypt. Upon Juliet's awakening, he will take her away from Verona.

**Scene 3: Juliet's Bedroom**

Juliet returns from Friar Lorraine and repents before her father. Left alone, she drinks the potion and sinks into a deep sleep. The next morning, Juliet's friends come to wake her for her wedding but neither they nor her Nurse can rouse her.

**Scene 4: The Capulet Crypt**

Juliet is laid to rest. The Friar's message has failed to reach Romeo and he has heard, instead, that Juliet is dead and that her body lies in the Capulet crypt. Devastated by grief, he emerges from hiding and finding Paris mourning over Juliet's body, kills him. He drinks poison secreted in his ring and dies at the foot of Juliet's tomb. Barely has Romeo drawn his last breath than Juliet awakes and finding Romeo dead, plunges a dagger into her heart.

**Bruno Miranda / Armando Barros / Gabriel Fernandes**

**Shannon Glover / Nicole Ferreira-Dill / Monike Cristina**

**Gabriel Fernandes / Armando Barros / Craig Pedro**

**Ivan Domiciano / Tumelo Lekana / Luhle Mtati**

**Luhle Mtati / Bruno Miranda / Ivan Domiciano / Revil Yon**

**Christopher Montague / Armando Barros**

**Anya Carstens**

**Revil Yon / Bruno Miranda / Ruan Galdino / Ivan Domiciano / Craig Pedro**

**Almar Kanda / Gabriel Fernandes**

**Natasha Ireland**

**Mario Gaglione / Lerato Letlape**

**Lerato Letlape / Mario Gaglione**

**Carissa Churms**

**Savannah Ireland / Marissa van den Berg**

**Monike Cristina / Nicole Ferreira-Dill / Shannon Glover / Tammy Higgins /**

**Darragh Hourrides / Savannah Ireland / Alice le Roux / Cristina Nakos /**

**Roseline Wilkens**

**Artists of the Company**





Shannon Glover | Bruno Miranda



Monike Cristina | Gabriel Fernandes



Monike Cristina | Gabriel Fernandes





Nicole Ferreira-Dill | Armando Barros

PRINCIPALS



Monike Cristina



Nicole Ferreira-Dill



Shannon Glover



Ivan Domiciano



Ruan Galdino



Tammy Higgins

SENIOR SOLOISTS

SOLOISTS

SENIOR CORPS DE BALLET



Revil Yon



Armando Barros



Gabriel Fernandes



Mario Gaglione



Cristina Nakos



Chloé Blair

JUNIOR CORPS DE BALLET



Darragh Hourrides



Savannah Ireland



Tumelo Lekana



Alice le Roux



Bruno Miranda



Donavin Cicatello

ASPIRANT

AD HOC ARTISTS



Mbongeni Moyake



Luhle Mtati



Josie Ridgway



Erica Vadelka



Savannah Jacobson



Josephine Delport

GUEST ARTIST



Miguel Franco-Green



Lerato Letlape



Thabani Ntuli



Tamar Rekhviashvili



Craig Pedro

MANAGEMENT



Jonathan Hurwitz  
Marketing &  
Publications Administrator



Kabelo Modiga  
General Manager



Di Sparks  
PR & Publicity



Marina Korkie  
Financial Accountant



Lerato Letlape  
Assistant Stage Manager  
& Company Assistant



Thabang Mabaso  
Junior Rehearsal Coach

STAFF



Kenny Mbele  
Company Driver



Nozipho Mhlambi  
School Co-ordinator &  
PA to CEO



Mbali Mthimkhulu  
HR Intern



Mishack Phaladi  
Company Driver



Yolanda Roos  
Wardrobe Mistress



Futhi Zwane  
Ticketing & Office Manager

JOBURG BALLET  
SCHOOL



Tshego Masoabi  
Teacher



Carmen Patterson  
Teacher



Jo-Anne Wyngaard  
Co-ordinator & Teacher



Anya Carstens



Natasha Ireland



Christopher Montague

GUEST ARTISTS

**Joburg Ballet School**

Olwakhe Cumbi, Bontle Tshenyego,  
Teyana Smale, Hlonolofatso Mosia, Nicole Khumalo,  
Boikokobestso Molefe, Unathi Masemola

**Terri Krawitz School of Dance**

Cici Zhu, Mila Leon, Emily Suckerman,  
Olivia Krain, Sarah Getz

**Carstens/Ireland Ballet School**

Gia Segal



### **Vuyani Dance Theatre**

Noelan Tshepo Molusi  
Noko Moses Moeketsi  
Albert Thabang Mdlalose  
Katleho Lekhula  
Gilbert Goliath  
Andile Otto Nhlapo  
Nathan Botha  
Roseline Olga Wilkens  
Ngwakwane Monicca Magoro



### **Jozi Dance Company**

Amy-Lee Besson  
Victoria Botha  
Carissa Churms  
Jadeline Gardner-Sandiford  
Almar Kanda  
Meera Luksmidas  
Lynette Smith  
Lisa Smith  
KG (Kaghiliso) Solomon  
Marissa van den Berg  
Isabella van Tonder



### **Joburg Ballet Academy**

Kayden Buys  
Maya Weir  
Tamika Grobler  
Mia Burger  
Kyra Steyn  
Carina Vasconcellos  
Zeinab Ntombifuthi Kone  
Chiara Szabo



### **National School of the Arts**

Chidera Nwoha  
Otsile Lekasapa  
Cregan Martin  
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Thato Molusi

## JOBURG BALLET

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Programme compiled by Jonathan Hurwitz

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Smoking is not permitted on the theatre premises except in designated areas. No recording equipment may be used, including cellphones, without arrangement with the Management. At the end of the performance please remain seated until the house lights are on.



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With two of the world's great dancers  
Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov  
Stars of The Royal Ballet

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