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*Photograph: Tammy Higgins - Swan Lake
Joburg Ballet 2025
Photographer: Lauge Sorensen*

SWAN LAKE

Joburg Ballet
Cape Town City Ballet
Johannesburg
Philharmonic Orchestra

Choreography after **Marius Petipa**
and **Lev Ivanov**

Original Production

Attilio Labis (1972)

Production and Staging

Veronica Paeper

Music **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

Conductor **Eddie Clayton**

Set Design **Andrew Botha**

Costumes **Peter Cazalet,**

Mervyn Williams

Joburg Ballet,

Cape Town City Ballet

Lighting Design **Simon King**

Joburg Theatre

4, 5, 11, 12 July at 19h00

5, 6, 12, 13 July at 14h00

9,10 July at 11h00 | 2025

Cover

Tammy Higgins and Revil Yon
(Joburg Ballet)

This page

Sasha Barnes

(Cape Town City Ballet)

Programme photography

Lauge Sorensen

Unless otherwise indicated





Veronica Paeper | Producer

Swan Lake is for me, and I know for many others, the ultimate classical ballet in the true sense of the word. When I was a trainee choreographer, my artistic director David Poole sent me on a world tour to view and learn from productions of ballets. I was fortunate to see many of *Swan Lake* and later many more on the internet.

In my humble opinion, I considered the production Attilio Labis, Danseur Étoile of the Paris Opera Ballet, produced for CAPAB Ballet in 1972, one of the better versions, of which there are many.

I mentioned this to Tracy Li a while ago when this exciting project came up, and she suggested I reproduce that version and later Elroy Fillis-Bell asked me to do just that for this prestigious joint production. I accepted without hesitation and with great excitement. I am extremely honoured to be entrusted with this, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the journey. The glorious music by Tchaikovsky which truly expresses the equally glorious story, is truly magical as is the original choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov for the Swans in Act Two. I know audiences will be seduced by it as I have over the years.

Ballet is a hugely collaborative art form, and my deepest gratitude goes to all who have given of their time, talent and know-how to bring this *Swan Lake* to life – dancers, répétiteurs, artists of all genres, designers, musicians, technical staff, administrative, backstage, wardrobe, front-of-house and many others. My particular thanks go to Tracy Li and Dane Hurst, artistic and managing directors of these two fine ballet companies, and especially to Elroy Fillis-Bell who is responsible for this exciting, brilliant, wonderful, crazy idea.



Dane Hurst | Artistic Director, Joburg Ballet

It is a great honour to welcome you to this landmark production of *Swan Lake* — an iconic ballet brought to life through the collaborative artistry of two of South Africa's longest-standing and most celebrated ballet companies: Joburg Ballet and Cape Town City Ballet. This production marks a historic first for South Africa, a powerful moment of unity that celebrates our rich cultural heritage, the legacy of classical ballet, and the extraordinary talent that exists within our nation and beyond. Such an ambitious undertaking would not be possible without the generous support of our funders, sponsors, partners, and loyal supporters. We extend our deepest gratitude to The City of Johannesburg, Joburg Theatre, Friends of the Ballet, SABT Trust, Air France, and a heartfelt thank you to Glynnis Higgins for her exquisite creation of the tutus worn by our principal artists.

To the many individuals who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes—thank you. Your dedication and professionalism have been instrumental in bringing this production to the stage. Special thanks go to Veronica Paeper, Kim Vieira, Thabang Mabaso, Nicole Ferreira-Dill, Tracy Li, international guest coach Fernanda Oliveira, Lauren Pienaar and Nicolette Loxton, Mervyn Williams, and all our remarkable artists from across South Africa and abroad. Your combined efforts and exceptional talents have infused this timeless work with new life. We are proud to share this magical production with you, our audience, and hope it leaves you inspired and uplifted. Enjoy the performance.



Tracy Li | Artistic Manager, Cape Town City Ballet

Swan Lake will forever be a mystery to me. I have danced, coached, and helped stage the ballet; it's never an easy task. It's incredibly hard yet profoundly rewarding. The love and betrayal are so painful, yet hauntingly beautiful. It's nearly 150 years old yet remains a timeless beauty! All the challenges this ballet presents are also the driving force behind the hard work. This unique collaboration between Cape Town City Ballet and Joburg Ballet presented challenges along the way. But the power of this iconic ballet, choreographed by Attilio Labis, drove us to push beyond boundaries. It's truly exhilarating to witness our talented artists perform together on one stage, united in passion and artistry.

A special acknowledgement and sincere thank you to Cape Town's artistic team, Nicolette Loxton and Lauren Pienaar, for your devotion in teaching and rehearsing the ballet, step by step, note by note. This collaboration is a wonderful reminder of what's possible when artists come together, driven by a shared commitment to create something special. Lastly, congratulations to the artistic team and all the dancers for this incredible achievement.

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We welcome any opportunity to discuss how we can best work together and find synergy in our work. Our interest is in building partnerships of shared value.

For more information or to arrange a meeting, please engage with our CEO, Elroy Fillis-Bell on elroy@joburgballet.com

The Story

Prologue

Prince Siegfried is revealed. Also revealed is Princess Odette and her companions. The magician, Von Rothbart, appears as a Great Owl. He captures Odette and transforms her into a swan.

Act One

It is Prince Siegfried's 21st birthday. He is celebrating with his Tutor, Jester and friends. His mother, the Queen, arrives and presents gifts to her son, among them a crossbow. She tells him he must choose a bride and marry but he refuses, much to the Queen's displeasure. She leaves and his friends continue to celebrate but the Queen's warning that he must marry has left him solemn and saddened. After everyone else has departed, the Tutor and Jester try to lift the Prince's spirits, encouraging him to use his new crossbow on a flock of swans flying overhead but he chooses to leave his friends and follow the swans alone.

Act Two

The Prince arrives at a lake. Von Rothbart watches him and when Siegfried tries to shoot him, Von Rothbart disappears. Siegfried is about to shoot a swan when it suddenly transforms into a woman. Siegfried is entranced and falls in love. She tells him that Von Rothbart has cast a spell that turns young women into swans by day. At night she briefly regains her human form. If a man falls in love with her and swears to marry her, the spell will break and she will become a Princess once more. As dawn arrives, Von Rothbart's evil spell draws Odette and her companions back to the lake and they are turned again into swans.

INTERVAL

Act Three

The Queen is holding a ball so that the Prince may choose a bride. Guests arrive from many countries, among them four princesses but Siegfried refuses to choose a bride. At that moment another guest arrives. It is Von Rothbart disguised as a nobleman and accompanied by his daughter, Odile. Von Rothbart bewitches Siegfried into believing he is looking at Odette. Siegfried tells his mother he has chosen Odile as his bride. When Von Rothbart makes him swear to marry Odile, Odette appears at the window. Siegfried realizes his error and in despair rushes to the lake.

INTERVAL

Act Four

The swans await Odette's return, watched over by Von Rothbart who has now transformed himself back into the Great Owl. Odette appears and is heartbroken. Siegfried arrives to beg for forgiveness from Odette and the swans who will now remain swans forever. Odette bids Siegfried farewell as she is taken away by Von Rothbart who then attacks Siegfried. As they struggle, Siegfried tears a wing off Von Rothbart who, mortally wounded, falls to the ground. His death vanquishes the spell and Odette regains her human form. Odette and Siegfried live happily ever after.

Die Verhaal

Proloog

Prins Siegfried word bekendgestel. Prinses Odette en haar metgeselle word ook bekendgestel. Die towenaar, Von Rothbart, verskyn as 'n Groot Uil. Hy vang vir Odette en verander haar in 'n swaan.

Bedryf Een

Dit is Prins Siegfried se 21ste verjaarsdag. Hy vier fees saam met sy Leermeester, Nar en vriende. Sy moeder, die Koningin, arriveer en bied geskenke aan haar seun, onder andere 'n kruisboog. Sy sê vir hom dat hy 'n bruid moet kies en met haar moet trou, maar hy weier, waarop die Koningin haar misnoeë te kenne gee. Sy vertrek terwyl sy vriende die feesvierings voortsit. Die Koningin se waarskuwing dat Siegfried moet trou, laat hom hartseer en bedroef. Nadat almal vertrek het, probeer die Leermeester en Nar om Siegfried se gemoed te lig deur hom aan te spoor om sy nuwe kruisboog te gebruik op 'n trop swane in die lug. Hy besluit egter om sy vriende agter te laat en die swane alleen te volg.

Bedryf Twee

Die Prins arriveer by 'n meer. Von Rothbart hou hom dop en toe Siegfried hom probeer skiet, verdwyn Von Rothbart. Siegfried is op die punt om 'n swaan te skiet toe die swaan skielik in 'n vrou verander. Siegfried word bekoor en raak verlief. Sy vertel hom dat Von Rothbart jong vroue gedurende die dag in swane omtower. Snags sal sy haar menslike vorm kortstondig herwin. Sou 'n man verlief raak op haar en belowe om met haar te trou, sal die towerspreuk verbreek word en sy sal weer eens 'n Prinses word. Met dagbreek lok Von Rothbart se bese towerspreuk Odette en haar metgeselle terug na die meer en hulle word weer in swane omtower.

Bedryf Drie

Die Koningin bied 'n bal aan sodat die Prins 'n bruid kan kies. Gaste van talle lande arriveer en onder hulle vier prinsesse, maar Siegfried weier om 'n bruid te kies. Op daardie oomblik arriveer nog 'n gas. Dit is Von Rothbart, vermom as 'n adellike en vergesel

van sy dogter, Odile. Von Rothbart betower Siegfried om te glo dat hy na Odette kyk. Siegfried sê vir sy ma dat hy Odile as sy bruid gekies het. Toe Von Rothbart hom laat sweer dat hy met Odile sal trou, verskyn Odette by die venster. Siegfried besef sy fout en uit wanhoop haas hy hom na die meer.

Bedryf Vier

Die swane wag op Odette se terugkeer en word dopgehou deur Von Rothbart wat homself weer in die Groot Uil verander het.

Udaba

Isandulela

UPrince Siegfried wembulwa. Okunye okuveziwe nguPrincess Odette nabangane bakhe. Usomilingo, uVon Rothbart, uvela njengesikhova esikhulu. Ubamba u-Odette futhi amguqule abe yidada.

Isigcawu Sokuqala

Usuku lokuzalwa luka-Prince Siegfried lwesi-21. Ugubha noMfundisi wakhe, uJester kanye nabangane. Unina, iNdlovukazi, ufika futhi enikeza indodana yakhe izipho, phakathi kwazo kukhona umnsalo. Umtshela ukuthi kumele akhethe umakoti ashade kodwa wenqaba, okwamcasula kakhulu uNdlunkulu. Ahambe abangani bakhe baqhubeke nokujabula kodwa isexwayiso seNdlovukazi sokuthi kumele ashade simshiye edabukile futhi edabukisa. Ngemva kokuba bonke abanye sebehambile, uMfundisi noJester bazama ukuphakamisa umoya kaNkosana, bamkhut- haza ukuba asebenzise umcibisholo wakhe omusha emhlambini wamadada andiza phezulu kodwa akhethe ukushiya abangani bakhe alandele amadada eyedwa.

Isigcawu Sesibili

INkosana ifika esizibeni. UVon Rothbart uyabuka futhi lapho uSiegfried ezama ukumdubula, u-Von Rothbart uyanyamalala. U-Siegfried usezodubula idada lapho lishintsha ngokuzumayo libe ngowesifazane. U-Siegfried uyaheheka futhi uba nothando. Umtshela ukuthi uVon Rothbart wenze isilingo esishintsha abesifazane abasebasha babe amadada emini. Ebusuku ubuye abe sesimweni somuntu okwesikhashana. Uma indoda ithandana naye ifunge ukuthi izomshada, kuyonqamuka isilotha aphinde abe

Odette verskyn en is hartseer. Siegfried arriveer om Odette, en die swane wat vir ewig swane sal bly, om vergifnis te vra. Odette neem afskeid van Siegfried terwyl Von Rothbart haar weglei, waarna hy vir Siegfried aanval. Terwyl hulle worstel, skeur Siegfried een van Von Rothbart se vlerke af. Dodelik gewond val hy neer op die grond. Sy dood oorwin die towerspreuk en Odette herwin haar menslike vorm. Odette en Siegfried leef vir altyd en gelukkig saam.

yiNkosazana. Njengoba kuqala ukuntwela kokusa, isilingo esibi sikaRothbart sidonsela u-Odette nabangane bakhe echibini futhi baphinde baphendulwa amadada.

Isigcawu Sesithathu

INdlovukazi yenze umcimbi ukuze iNkosana izokhethe umakoti. Izivakashi zifika zivela emazweni amaningi, phakathi kwazo kukhona inkosazana ezine kodwa uSiegfried uyenqaba ukukhe- tha umakoti. Ngaleso sikhathi kufika esinye isivakashi. NguVon Rothbart ozifihlile njengesikhulu futhi ephelezelwa indodakazi yakhe u-Odile. UVon Rothbart wenza umlingo kuSiegfried ukuze akholelwe ukuthi ubona u-Odette. USiegfried utshela unina ukuthi ukhethe u-Odile njengomakoti wakhe. Lapho uVon Rothbart emfungisa ukushada no-Odile, u-Odette uvela efasitele- ni. USiegfried uyalibona iphutha lakhe futhi ngokuphelelwa yithemba uphuthuma echibini.

Isigcawu Sesine

Amadada alindele ukubuya kuka-Odette, ebhekwe nguVon Rothbart, oseziguqule wabuyela ekubeni Isikhova Esikhulu. U-Odette uyavela futhi udabukile. U-Siegfried ufika ezocela intethelelo ku-Odette kanye namadada azohlala edada unomphe- la. U-Odette uvalelisa uSiegfried njengoba ethathwa nguVon Rothbart obese ehlasela uSiegfried. Njengoba bezabalaza, uSiegfried udabula uphiko ku-Von Rothbart owathi, elimele kakhulu, wawela phansi. Ukufa kwakhe kuqeda umlingo futhi u-Odette aphinde abe sesimweni somuntu. U-Odette no-Siegfried baphila ngokujabula ngemva kwalokho.

The Cast

Odette-Odile	Monike Cristina / Tammy Higgins / Kirstel Paterson / Hannah Ward / Ryoko Yagyu / Sasha Barnes / Isabella Redman
Prince Siegfried	Bruno Miranda / Revil Yon / Leusson Muniz / Jerome Barnes / Ivan Domiciano
Von Rothbart	Gabriel Fernandes / Axton Green / David Maluleka
Vision	Maseroka Mothiba / Sasha Barnes / Cristina Nakos / Savannah Jacobson / Genevieve Magua / Tammy Higgins
Prince's Tutor	Thando Mgobhozi
Jester	Ivan Domiciano / Tumelo Lekana / Jordan Roelfze / Elvis Nonjeke / Mario Gaglione
Pas De Trois	Isabella Redman / Isobel Fisher / Cristina Nakos / Savannah Jacobson / Ashton Harris / Sasha Barnes Caitlin Smith / Sasha Barnes / Darragh Hourrides / Chloé Blair / Gabriella Ghiaroni / Isobel Fisher Jordan Roelfze / Axton Green / Gabriel Fernandes / Mario Gaglione / Miles Carrott / Leusson Muniz
The Queen	Anya Carstens
Cygnets	Chloé Blair / Daria D'Orazio / Savannah Jacobson / Genevieve Magua / Latoya Mokoena / Kirstel Paterson / Isabella Redman / Caitlin Smith
Three Swans	Sasha Barnes / Isobel Fisher / Gabriella Ghiaroni / Ashton Harris / Darragh Hourrides / Savannah Ireland / Cristina Nakos / Caitlin Smith / Kayleigh Smith / Hannah Ward
Fiancées	Hannah Ward / Savannah Jacobson / Sasha Barnes / Isabella Godinho Isabella Redman / Latoya Mokoena / Kayleigh Smith Chloé Blair / Isobel Fisher / Daria D'Orazio / Genevieve Magua Ashton Harris / Georgia Richardson / Cristina Nakos / Caitlin Smith / Gabriella Ghaironi
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Neapolitan Dance	Caitlin Smith / Darragh Hourrides / Chloé Blair / Savannah Jacobson / Genevieve Magua Jordan Roelfze / Elvis Nonjeke / Mario Gaglione / Fanelo Ndweni / Tumelo Lekana / Likhaya Loyiti
Mazurka	Miguel Franco-Green / Bruno Miranda / Jerome Barnes / Leusson Muniz / Axton Green / Gabriel Fernandes Gabriella Ghiaroni / Ashton Harris / Hannah Ward / Isobel Fisher / Georgia Richardson
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Monike Cristina and Bruno Miranda | Joburg Ballet







Kirstel Paterson and Leusson Muniz | Cape Town City Ballet
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Ryoko Yagyu



Revil Yon



Bruno Miranda

SOLOISTS



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Miles Carrott



Gabriel Fernandes



Mario Gaglione



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TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support provided by Vanessa Nicolau Theatre and Events (Pty) Ltd

Production Manager: Vanessa Nicolau • **Stage Manager:** Christopher Montague • **Props:** Simon Legodi • **Followspotters:** Gugu Xabu, Jo Sathegke, Donald Gololo • **Stage Technicians:** Caiphus Motena, Simon Legodi, Mike Mokwena, Edwin Hadebe, Marlon Mothwa, Lawrence Leburu, Mike Mokwena, Cedric Mulauzi



JOBURG CITY THEATRES

Chief Executive Officer: Xoliswa Nduneni-Ngema • **Chief Financial Officer:** Vukani Magubane • **Chief Operating Officer:** Bridget Mashika • **Company Secretary:** Nare Mokgobi • **Artistic Director:** James Ngcobo • **Senior Technical Manager:** Enos Ramoroko • **Resident Company Manager:** Timothy Le Roux • **General Manager: Catering and Hospitality:** Branden Karim • **General Manager: Building and Security:** Pierre Pretorius • **Senior Customer Services Manager:** Justine Lipson • **Theatre Manager:** Mogapi Mokgautsi • **General Manager: Financial Accounting & Reporting:** Phumlani Nkomo • **General Manager: Supply Chain Management:** Graham Momple • **General Manager: Human Resources:** Thomas Sadiki • **General Manager: Strategic Support:** Wendy Adams • **General Manager: Strategic Relations and Projects:** Lindiwe Lekasapa

A Municipal Entity of the City of Joburg

Board of Directors: Godfrey Katsana (Chairperson), Bernice Dollie, Bonga Kweyama, Andile Ledwaba, Virginia Tselane Magale, Rabone Moripe, Pamela Ndlovu, Sherray Petersen, Orapeleng Ramagaga, Candice Patricia Savage, Sbusiso Francisco Xaba, Vukani Magubane (CFO), Xoliswa Nduneni-Ngema (CEO)

THANK YOU

Air France • Anne Wilkinson • Annzie Hancock • City of Johannesburg • Cheryl Carolus • Dis-Chem Foundation • Evan Speechley • Friends of the Ballet • Joburg Ballet Academy • Joburg Ballet Board of Directors • Joburg City Theatres • Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media • Lanlogix • Lauge Sorensen • Lift • Louis Maritz • Minit Print and Tshwane Press • Mint Hotels and Residences • My School • National School of the Arts • Newsclip Media Monitoring • SABT Trust • South African National Dance Trust • Sue Pyler • The Ball Family Foundation • The Michel Tesson Trust • The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust • Xoliswa Nduneni-Ngema

Programme compiled by Jonathan Hurwitz

Latecomers will not be seated until a suitable break in the performance. Please ensure your cellphone is on silent.

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.

COMMUNION OF LIGHT

Linbury Theatre
Royal Opera House, London

30 Oct 20
02 Nov 25



AIRFRANCE 

Joburg

SPRING GALA 2025

FEATURING GUEST ARTISTS
FROM THE ROYAL BALLET

Date: Friday 3rd October 2025
Time: 6.00pm
Theatre: The Mandela at Joburg Theatre
Tickets: Webtickets

Presented by

SANDT
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DANCE TRUST

in
partnership
with

JOBURG
BALLET 



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JOBURG
BALLET



2026 | 25th Anniversary

GISSELLE



Joburg

the mandela at
JOBURG THEATRE

12 – 15 February 2026

web tickets