



THE ROYAL BALLET

Director KEVIN O'HARE CBE  
Founder DAME NINETTE DE VALOIS OM CH DBE  
Founder Choreographer SIR FREDERICK ASHTON OM CH CBE  
Founder Music Director CONSTANT LAMBERT  
Prima Ballerina Assoluta DAME MARGOT FONTEYN DBE

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# La Fille mal gardée

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Choreography FREDERICK ASHTON  
Music FERDINAND HÉROLD  
Arranged and orchestrated by JOHN LANCHBERY  
Performances are given by permission of Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Limited on behalf of Oxford University Press  
Scenario JEAN DAUBERVAL  
Designer OSBERT LANCASTER  
Lighting Designer JOHN B. READ  
Staging CHRISTOPHER CARR  
Principal Coaching ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, STUART CASSIDY, JEAN CHRISTOPHE LESAGE, ISABEL MCMEEKAN  
Senior Répétiteur SAMANTHA RAINE  
Répétiteurs SIAN MURPHY, ZHAN ATYMTAYEV  
Benesh Choreologist DANIEL KRAUS

Conductor JOSÉ SALAZAR

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House  
Principal Guest Concert Master by arrangement with Trittico VASKO VASSILEV

Exceptional philanthropic support from Royal Ballet and Opera Principals THE JULIA RAUSING TRUST  
Generous philanthropic support from THE JEAN SAINSBURY ROYAL OPERA HOUSE FUND, RICKI GAIL AND ROBERT CONWAY, LINDSAY AND SARAH TOMLINSON, SIR LLOYD AND LADY DORFMAN OBE, CHARLES HOLLOWAY OBE, DOUG AND CERI KING, CLAIRE JEFFS, FRANCESCA STOREY-HARRIS IN MEMORY OF JUDY HARRIS, THE THOMPSON FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST, THE LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE PRODUCTION SYNDICATE and ROYAL BALLET AND OPERA FRIENDS

The 2025/26 Royal Ballet Season is generously supported by AUD JEBSEN

General Rehearsal  
Friday 22 May 2026 at 11.30am

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## Approximate Timings

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, including one interval.

Act I: 1 hour 5 minutes

Interval: 30 minutes

Act II: 40 minutes

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## Guidance

Suitable for ages 5+

There are flashing lights and strobe lighting in this production.

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## Cast

Widow Simone THOMAS WHITEHEAD  
A rich farmer

Lise LETICIA DIAS  
Her daughter

Colas JOSEPH SISSENS  
A young farmer in love with Lise

Thomas BENNET GARTSIDE  
A prosperous vineyard owner

Alain JOSHUA JUNKER  
His son

Cockerel TAISUKE NAKAO

Hens SCARLETT HARVEY, ELLA NEWTON SEVERGNINI, REBECCA MYLES STEWART, GINEVRA ZAMBON

Lise's Friends MICA BRADBURY, NADIA MULLOVA-BARLEY, VIOLA PANTUSO, MADDISON PRITCHARD, JULIA ROSCOE, CHARLOTTE TONKINSON, AMELIA TOWNSEND, YU HANG

Flute Boy LUC FOSKETT

Village Notary JAMES LARGE

Notary's Clerk TAISUKE NAKAO

Villagers, Harvesters, Grooms  
ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

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# Synopsis

Lise, the only daughter of Simone who is a widow and owner of a prosperous farm, is in love with Colas, a young farmer, but her mother has far more ambitious plans.

## ACT I SCENE 1: THE FARMYARD

The dawn of a busy day on the farm is heralded by the cock and his attendant hens. Lise, disappointed at not seeing Colas, leaves a ribbon tied in a lover's knot as a token of her devotion. Colas finds it and binds it to his staff. The lovers meet, but are interrupted by Simone, who sets her daughter a task churning butter. Colas, hiding in the loft, joins her. The work is shared and then forgotten as they declare their love.

The farm girls summon Lise to play, but her mind is elsewhere. Her suspicious and ever-watchful mother catches hold of her and chastizes her. Just then Thomas, the pompous and wealthy proprietor of a vineyard, arrives with his son Alain. Simone, aware of their mission, dismisses Lise, and Thomas asks her hand for his son. When Lise returns, Alain coyly and clumsily shows off his paces. She is amused and a little shocked by his antics, but not interested. They set off for the harvest.

## SCENE 2: THE CORNFIELD

It is harvest time, and after working in the fields the harvesters, led by Colas, relax in a joyful dance. Lise and Alain dance, but Colas intervenes, and the young girl makes it clear where her preference lies. One of the harvesters plays the flute, to everybody's general delight, and Alain thinks he will have a try; but the harvesters mock him and he is rescued from their horseplay by his indignant father.

The field is now left clear for the triumphant Colas, who dances with Lise. Simone joins in the merriment of the harvesters. Suddenly they are interrupted by a storm that drenches them, scattering them far and wide.

## ACT II INTERIOR OF THE FARMHOUSE

Mother and daughter, soaked by the storm, return to the farmhouse. They sit down to spin; work, thinks the mother, should keep Lise out of mischief. But she is overcome by sleep, and Lise, who has seen Colas through the gate, tries to take the key from her. Simone wakes and, in order to remain watchful, plays the tambourine for Lise to dance. But the taps grow feebler, she begins to nod, and now she is fast asleep.

Colas opens the top part of the farmhouse door and leans towards Lise. She runs joyfully into his arms. The knocking of the harvesters, coming for their pay, awakens Simone. Simone tells her daughter to get on with her chores as she leaves to give the harvesters a drink. Lise, thinking she is alone, dreams of the delights of married life. Colas cannot resist, and comes out from hiding. She is bashful at having been taken by surprise, but once again they declare their love, exchanging scarves as a token.

As Simone reappears, Lise hustles Colas into her bedroom. The ever-suspicious mother realizes that the lovers have been meeting, and in her turn hustles Lise into the bedroom, locking the door.

Alain and his father now arrive with a notary to complete the contract. When it has been signed, Simone hands Alain the bedroom key. After a moment of idiotic indecision, he opens the door and to everyone's dismay Colas and Lise come out. The lovers fall on their knees to ask Simone for forgiveness

and a blessing. In spite of Thomas and Alain, she finally gives in amid general rejoicing.

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# The Royal Ballet

Director KEVIN O'HARE CBE  
Music Director KOEN KESSELS  
Resident Choreographer SIR WAYNE MCGREGOR CBE  
Artistic Associate CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON OBE  
Administrative Director HEATHER BAXTER  
Rehearsal Director CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS  
Clinical Director Ballet Healthcare SHANE KELLY

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