



Press release

Tuesday 7 October 2025

Escape to the Country with The Royal Ballet's *La Fille mal gardée*, in cinemas 5th November

- Live cinema relay: Wednesday 5 November 2025
- Encore screenings from Sunday 9 November 2025
 - Tickets at [La Fille mal gardée](#)

Frederick Ashton's charming classic *La Fille mal gardée* returns to The Royal Ballet with a live cinema relay this autumn. Brimming with humour and choreographic invention, *La Fille mal gardée* is the perfect ballet for all the family. Royal Ballet Principal dancers **Francesca Hayward** and **Marcelino Sambé** perform the lead roles as Lise and Colas respectively for the **live Cinema relay** on **5 November** with encore screenings from **Sunday 9 November 2025**.

La Fille mal gardée premiered in Covent Garden on 28 January 1960 and instantly become a popular staple of The Royal Ballet repertoire. Inspired by **Jean Dauberval's** French ballet, Ashton's version captures the essence of the English countryside, with comic capers, exuberant energy and a love story to melt your heart. Lise, the only daughter of Widow Simone, is in love with the young farmer Colas, but her mother has far more ambitious plans for her.

Prepare to be whisked away to pastoral bliss with Ashton's affectionate portrayal of village life, his virtuosic choreography combining with **Ferdinand Hérold's** score and **Osbert Lancaster** designs to create a ballet of pure perfection.

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PRESS CONTACT

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The Royal Ballet

LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE

Live Cinema Relay 5 November, encore screenings 9th November

18 October – 13 November 2025

23 May – 9 June 2026

Production images can be download [HERE](#)

Casting

Full casting can be found here: [La Fille mal gardée](#)

Creatives

Choreography **Frederick Ashton**

Music **Ferdinand Hérold**

Arranged and orchestrated by **John Lanchbery**

Scenario **Jean Dauberval**

Designer **Osbert Lancaster**

Lighting Designer **John B. Read**

Conductor **Jonathan Lo, José Ángel Salazar**

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Part of **ASHTON WORLDWIDE**, the Frederick Ashton Foundation's international festival 2024-28

Exceptional philanthropic support from Royal Ballet and Opera Principal **Julia Rausing Trust**

Generous philanthropic support from **Sir Lloyd and Lady Dorfman OBE, Charles Holloway OBE, The Jean Sainsbury Royal Opera House Fund, Doug and Ceri King, Lindsay And Sarah Tomlinson, 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**

About The Royal Ballet

Under the directorship of Kevin O'Hare, The Royal Ballet unites tradition and innovation in world-class performances and is a driving force in the development of ballet as an art form. Based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together today's most dynamic and versatile dancers with a world-class orchestra and leading choreographers, composers, conductors, directors and creative teams to share awe-inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide. The Company's extensive repertoire embraces 19th-century classics, the singular legacy of works by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, a compelling new canon of work by choreographers today including Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon, and the bold and complementary programming in the Linbury Theatre. Guest choreographers Kyle Abraham, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Cathy Marston, Arthur Pita, Crystal Pite, Hofesh Shechter, Pam Tanowitz, Mthuthuzeli November, Jessica Lang, Gemma Bond and Twyla Tharp have also created work for the Company.

About the Royal Ballet and Opera

The Royal Ballet and Opera is the home of world-class opera and ballet. We are a cultural powerhouse, bringing together two world-class performing companies in one of the UK's leading arts institutions, supported by a cast of more than 3,000 employees including technical staff, creatives, and freelancers. Based primarily at the Royal Opera House in the heart of London's Covent Garden, with production and logistics sites in Thurrock and Aberdare, our work is enjoyed by audiences in our two theatres and globally through our streaming platform, cinema Season and company tours. Our work in schools and communities up and down the country is driven by our curriculum linked programmes, specially designed to inspire creativity, widen access to the arts and diversify the future of opera and ballet. These sit alongside industry-leading talent development projects, regional partnerships, our Young RBO scheme, and a raft of daytime events, family activities, tours, exhibitions, and concerts in our Covent Garden home. We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment and aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.

About RBO Cinema

Since 2008, our cinema programme has brought over 120 opera and ballet broadcasts to audiences across the globe. It now reaches more than 1,500 cinemas from the UK to New Zealand, bringing the best of our resident companies to the big screen. Each broadcast offers audiences the best seat in the house, and includes exclusive behind-the-scenes footage, interviews and insights into the rehearsal process. The programme forms an integral part of our plan to secure our future, expand audiences and continue to help facilitate the vital recovery of cinema domestically and internationally.

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