



ROYAL
BALLET

2017 QPAC INTERNATIONAL SERIES



THE WINTER'S TALE

BALLET IN A PROLOGUE AND THREE ACTS

In loving memory of Peter Wheeldon, my Dad, 1935–2014

CHOREOGRAPHY CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON

SCENARIO CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON AND JOBY TALBOT

MUSIC JOBY TALBOT

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CHESTER MUSIC LTD

DESIGNER BOB CROWLEY

LIGHTING DESIGNER NATASHA KATZ

PROJECTION DESIGNER DANIEL BRODIE

SILK EFFECTS DESIGNER BASIL TWIST

STAGING JACQUELIN BARRETT, CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS

BALLET MASTERS CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS, GARY AVIS

PRINCIPAL COACHING JACQUELIN BARRETT, JONATHAN COPE, JONATHAN HOWELLS

BENESH NOTATOR ANNA TREVIEN

PERFORMING WITH THE QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR ALONDRA DE LA PARRA

7.30PM THURSDAY 6 JULY 2017

LYRIC THEATRE, QPAC

THE WINTER'S TALE IS A CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN THE ROYAL BALLET AND THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

THE KING FAMILY

GEOFFREY GRIFFITHS

LADY PITMAN

JANINE ROXBOROUGH BUNCE

ADRIENNE WATERFIELD

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY KENNETH AND SUSAN GREEN

LEONTES KING OF SICILIA	BENNET GARTSIDE
HERMIONE QUEEN OF SICILIA	MARIANELA NUÑEZ
PERDITA PRINCESS OF SICILIA	BEATRIZ STIX-BRUNELL
MAMILLIUS PRINCE OF SICILIA	JENSON BLIGHT
PAULINA HEAD OF QUEEN HERMIONE'S HOUSEHOLD	LAURA MORERA
ANTIGONUS HEAD OF KING LEONTES' HOUSEHOLD	JONATHAN HOWELLS
POLIXENES KING OF BOHEMIA	RYOICHI HIRANO
FLORIZEL PRINCE OF BOHEMIA	VADIM MUNTAGIROV
STEWARD HEAD OF KING POLIXENES' HOUSEHOLD	KEVIN EMERTON
FATHER SHEPHERD	GARY AVIS
BROTHER CLOWN SHEPHERD'S SON	LUCA ACRI
YOUNG SHEPHERDESS	YASMINE NAGHDI

Approximate timings

Prologue and Act I 50 minutes – **Interval** 30 minutes – Act II 40 minutes – **Interval** 25 minutes – Act III 25 minutes
Please note that there are two flashes of strobe lighting approximately two minutes before the end of Act I.



THE WINTER'S TALE SYNOPSIS

PROLOGUE

Two kings separated as children are reunited in adulthood.

One king, Leontes of Sicilia, marries Hermione, giving her a beautiful emerald. They have a son, Mamillius, and are blissfully happy. The other king, Polixenes of Bohemia, visits the court of Leontes. He is delighted to be reunited with his old friend and stays for nine months. By the time of his departure, Hermione is soon to give birth to her second child.

ACT I The court of Sicilia

It is the day of Polixenes' departure. The Bohemian court say goodbye to their Sicilian friends. At Hermione's request, Polixenes agrees to stay on another week. In a flash of jealousy, Leontes becomes convinced that his wife has been unfaithful and is carrying Polixenes' child. Jealousy turns to rage and he attacks Polixenes, who flees back to Bohemia. Leontes publicly accuses Hermione of adultery and treason, then has her arrested. This so distresses Mamillius that he falls seriously ill.

In prison, Hermione has given birth to a daughter. The head of her household, Paulina, brings the newborn to Leontes, hoping to convince him that the baby is his daughter. Instead, Leontes violently rejects the child, then orders Paulina's husband Antigonus to abandon the baby in a remote place. Antigonus sets sail into a brewing storm with the baby and some treasure, including the emerald once given to Hermione by Leontes.

Hermione is brought to trial and pleads her innocence. Leontes, now quite mad, refuses to believe her. Dazed and feverish, Mamillius enters the courtroom and, upon witnessing the unfolding tragedy, he collapses and dies from distress. Seeing the death of her child, Hermione too collapses dead and is taken away. Only now does Leontes realise the disastrous consequences of his terrible mistake.

The shores of Bohemia

Battling the storm, Antigonus struggles ashore to abandon the baby princess. As he leaves, he is pursued and killed by a wild bear. His ship, waiting at sea, is smashed to pieces on the rocks. As day breaks, a shepherd and his son Clown discover the baby girl and the treasure.

INTERVAL I

ACT II A hillside in Bohemia. Sixteen years later

Perdita, the abandoned daughter of King Leontes and Queen Hermione, has been raised by the shepherd who found her. She dances beneath the great tree with her love, Prince Florizel, the son of Polixenes, whom the other villagers know only as a shepherd boy.

The villagers arrive for the annual springtime festival. King Polixenes, who has heard that his son has been cavorting with a shepherdess, sends his steward to spy on the young prince. When the steward confirms his suspicions, Polixenes is enraged, and demands to see for himself.

At the festival, Perdita is to be crowned May Queen. In honour of the occasion, Father Shepherd presents her with the emerald necklace he found with her on the beach. Polixenes and his steward arrive in disguise, keen to see what Florizel is up to. On witnessing Florizel's engagement to a mere shepherdess, Polixenes reveals himself. He is furious with Florizel, and condemns Perdita and her family to death. They all flee by boat to Sicilia, pursued by Polixenes.

INTERVAL II

ACT III A clifftop in Sicilia

King Leontes mourns by the clifftop graves of his wife and son, watched over by Paulina. Perdita and Florizel's ship approaches Sicilia.

The palace in Sicilia

Perdita and Florizel appeal to Leontes to allow their union, and to intercede with the enraged Polixenes on their behalf. Leontes is taken with the likeness of the Prince to Polixenes. He agrees to help the young couple, who remind him of his lost children. Polixenes arrives and Leontes tries to reason with him, but he violently handles Perdita, revealing the emerald. The long-lost Princess of Sicilia is miraculously alive and the two kings are reunited.

The Palace celebrates the wedding of Florizel and Perdita. As the festivities die down, Leontes is led by Paulina to see a new statue of Hermione. Deeply remorseful, he kneels at its base. Suddenly, the statue comes to life – it is Hermione, who is alive and has been kept in hiding by Paulina for 16 years. She embraces Leontes, and the family is reunited.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Stage Management **Johanna Adams Farley** (Senior Stage Manager), **Sarah Woodward** (Deputy Stage Manager),

Mimi Palmer-Johnston (Assistant Stage Manager), **Alexandra Legg** (Junior Assistant Stage Manager)

Production Manager **Jo Maund** Assistant to the Production Manager **Catherine Smith**

Costume Supervisor **Christine Collins**

Associate Designer **Jaimie Todd** Design Assistants **Ros Coombes, Justin Nardella**

Associate Projection Designer **Gabriel Aronson** Design Engineer **Mike Barnett**

Scenery construction and painting **Royal Opera House Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshops, Bay Productions**

Additional engineering **Karris Welding Services** Cloths printing **Big Image Systems**

Bear silk scenic painting **Richard Nutbourne** Bear funnel construction **Capital Scenery**

Bear artwork created by **Brandon Hardy**

Dance floor printing **Harlequin Radio control** **Howard Eaton Lighting Ltd**

Cloths **J.D. McDougall Wires A1 Ropes & Rigging**

Costumes, jewellery, headdresses, dyeing, wigs, props **Royal Opera House Production Department**

Additional costumes **Fran Alderson, Robert Allsopp, Denny Andrews, Britt Beal, The Cloth Shop Portobello, Mark Costello, Karen Crichton, Anna Edwards-McConway,**

Jane Gill, Naomi Issacs, Coleman James, Emma Jealouse, Suzanne Parkinson, David Plunkett, Ingrid Pryer, Phil Reynolds, Klaus Schreck GmbH, Will Skeet,

Sue Smith, Sten Vollmuller, Susanna Wilson Additional dyeing **Nicola Killeen, Schultz and Wiremu**

Footwear **Lewis Jones** (all ballet boots), **Bloch, Freed of London, Gaynor Minden, Grishko, Principal, Repetto, Sansha, So Danca**

Make-up supplied by **Kryolan Professional Make-up at Charles Fox of Covent Garden**

On-stage band **Eliza Marshall** (bansuri), **Gregory Knowles** (dulcimer), **Ian Watson** (accordion), **Nigel Charman, Jeremy Wiles** (percussion)