

Queensland Ballet

HOTA in association
with Queensland Ballet presents

Coppélia

1 - 2 NOVEMBER 2024
HOTA, HOME OF THE ARTS



Welcome

It's so wonderful to be back at HOTA, sharing this family ballet with our Gold Coast audiences.

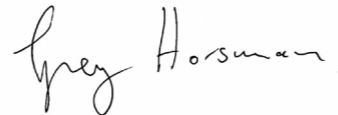
Coppélia is a ballet close to my heart. I choreographed it in 2014 with a few contemporary twists to the original ballet, setting it in the beautiful South Australian town of Hahndorf instead of Austria, and weaving in some history that I hope you will enjoy. The story's essence, however remains true to the 1870 original: it is a tale of love, envy, community, and friendship.

A co-production with West Australian Ballet, there is an incredible creative team that has brought *Coppélia* to vibrant life. Noelene Hill's costume designs, including the stunning 19th century bodices, floral headpieces and Aussie Rules football uniforms, add a brilliant touch of Australian flair to the work, while Hugh Colman's set designs wonderfully depict early Australian settlement life. Further enhancing the production is lighting design by Jon Buswell, and a sublime score by Léo Delibes, arranged by Nigel Gaynor. I must also thank PixelFrame for their creation of the video in the prologue. My gratitude goes to the entire team for their vision and creativity.

It's a true pleasure to present works here at HOTA, and I'd like to warmly thank the team who work tirelessly with us to ensure each season is a success.

I must also extend my sincere gratitude to our valued supporters, who enable us to share our art form with as many people as possible. Thank you to the Australian and Queensland Governments, our Partners, and our passionate family of donors.

And finally, thank you to you – our audience, for joining us. I hope you enjoy this version of *Coppélia* and who knows, maybe you will visit Hahndorf someday if you haven't already.



Greg Horsman
Acting Artistic Director

Creatives

Choreographer	Greg Horsman, after Arthur Saint-Léon & Marius Petipa
Music	Léo Delibes
Music Arranger	Nigel Gaynor
Costume Designer	Noelene Hill
Set Designer	Hugh Colman
Lighting Designer	Jon Buswell
Animation	Produced by PixelFrame Illustrated by S.M. Olive Directed by Lucas Thyer Edited by Ryan Smith

A co-production of Queensland Ballet and West Australian Ballet, first performed in Brisbane, Australia, on 24 April 2014.

Coppélia is a classical ballet in three acts. Original libretto by Charles Nutter, based on ETA Hoffmann's stories, *Der Sandmann (The Sandman)* and *Die Puppe (The Doll)*.

This production is performed to recorded music featuring Queensland Symphony Orchestra conducted by Nigel Gaynor.

The performance lasts approximately two hours including two 20-minute intervals.

The Story

Prologue

Germany, 1878

Dr Coppélius and his daughter Coppélia are migrating to South Australia, where he will be a doctor in the small German settlement of Hahndorf. During the long voyage to Australia, Coppélia's fragile health deteriorates, and she dies in her father's arms.

Act I

South Australia

In Hahndorf, Dr Coppélius is grief-stricken and shuts himself off from the townspeople, despite their entreaties for his medical help. When he smashes his daughter's mechanical toy, he is suddenly struck by an idea which could restore his beloved Coppélia to him.

Six years later, Swanilda and her friend Mary are intrigued by a beautiful young woman, Coppélia, sitting on Dr Coppélius's balcony. When she blows a kiss to Swanilda's sweetheart, Franz, and he enthusiastically returns the gesture, Swanilda is enraged.

The townspeople return victorious after a local football match. Mr Angus announces that the new bell which he has commissioned for the church has arrived and will be dedicated tomorrow. The celebrations are interrupted by a cacophony of noise and strange lights in Dr Coppélius's house.

Swanilda tests Franz's faithfulness by the tradition of listening to an ear of wheat – if the wheat whispers, it means that her beloved is true. Unhappily, the wheat is silent. The older folk encourage the young people to dance with them in the style of their forebears and soon everyone is dancing together.

As night falls, Dr Coppélius emerges. He is teased by a group of boys, and unknowingly drops his house key. Finding the key, Swanilda urges her friends to enter his house. Franz has a similar idea.

Act II

Swanilda and her friends discover that Coppélia is in fact a life-size doll. When Dr Coppélius returns and drives the girls out in a rage, Swanilda manages to hide. Franz enters the workshop by climbing up a ladder. Seizing the new intruder, Dr Coppélius tries to use Franz's spirit to give life to his precious mechanical doll. Playfully masquerading as Coppélia, Swanilda dupes the doctor into thinking that his dearest wish has come true.

Act III

The new church bell is hung with great ceremony. Having escaped from Dr Coppélius's workshop, Swanilda and Franz are telling Mary and Henry of their adventure, when they are confronted by an angry Dr Coppélius, clutching his lifeless doll. In the scuffle which follows, Mary is knocked to the ground. Shocked, Dr Coppélius revives Mary and makes his peace with the townspeople. Franz proposes to Swanilda, who joyfully accepts, and all join in the celebrations.

Queensland Ballet acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we train and perform. Long before we arrived on this land, it played host to the dance expression of our First Nations Peoples. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made and continue to make to the cultural landscape of this country.

Queensland Ballet

Queensland Ballet was founded in 1960 by Charles Lisner OBE.

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