

Queensland Ballet

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LI CUNXIN AO

GISELLE
REGIONAL TOUR
3 - 16 MARCH 2022

Every step a **iconic**
mystical story
haunting love
jealous



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Queensland Ballet is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We are delighted to be on tour once again, presenting one of our favourite productions in some of our favourite regional venues in Queensland.

Regional tours have always played a special part in Queensland Ballet's history. We've been bringing ballet to theatres across the state since 1961, when we toured to 84 towns across New South Wales and Queensland. In 2022 it's wonderful to start our year in the Toowoomba and Maryborough regions, as well as Cairns in tropical North Queensland.

First performed in Paris, France in 1841, *Giselle* is a masterpiece from the Romantic era of ballet and explores themes of passion, betrayal and love in a luminous supernatural setting.

Ai-Gul Gaisina's production follows tradition, overlaid with the Russian style, and is charming and refreshing. Her emphasis is as much on the characters as it is on technique. The set and costume designs of esteemed theatrical designer Peter Cazalet and the atmospheric lighting created by Ben Hughes provide an ideal canvas on which our dancers paint this poetic and tragic story choreographed by Marius Petipa, while Adolphe Adam's music is elegant and full of dramatic expression.

We are so thankful to the many individuals and organisations for their avid support of Queensland Ballet, in particular the State and Federal Governments, as well as all our corporate partners and donors.

As we travel across Queensland with this exciting season, I also invite young dancers across the region to explore the wonderful world of ballet and participate in our workshops on the Community Engagement tour.

Enjoy the performance!



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Li Cunxin'.

Li Cunxin AO
Artistic Director

PERFORMANCE DATES



3 & 4 March 2022
Empire Theatre, Toowoomba



9 March
Cairns Performing Arts Centre,
Cairns



16 March
Brolga Theatre and Convention
Centre, Maryborough

Queensland Ballet acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and perform. Long before we performed on this land, it played host to the dance expression of our first 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.

SYNOPSIS

Act I

Young, innocent and passionate about dancing, the peasant girl Giselle is in love. She is courted by Albrecht, Duke of Selesia, who disguises himself as a peasant lad and visits her in the village. Hilarion, a gamekeeper, is secretly in love with Giselle. He witnesses their meeting and becomes jealous and suspicious. Giselle's mother, Berthe, is superstitious and over-protective of her daughter, concerned for her delicate and fragile health. She warns Giselle that too much dancing could be dangerous and that young girls who die before marriage

are destined to become Wilis – vengeful, ghost-like creatures. The unexpected arrival of a hunting party led by the Prince of Courland and his daughter Bathilde – who is the real fiancée of Albrecht – brings more dancing to the autumn harvest celebration. Amidst the joyous festivities, Hilarion reveals Albrecht's true identity. The shock of Albrecht's betrayal causes Giselle to lose her reason. She dances as if in a trance. Devastated, she collapses and dies of a broken heart.

Interval

Act II

In the gloomy village cemetery, Myrtha, the Queen of the Wilis, holds her mystical and supernatural powers over the magical sisterhood. Each night between dusk and dawn, the Wilis seek male prey who they force to dance until exhausted, or their hearts give out, or they are so weak they can be thrown to their deaths in the nearby lake. Hilarion mourns by Giselle's grave, but flees in terror when he is visited by the ghostly forms. Albrecht, sad and remorseful, brings field flowers to Giselle's grave.

He senses her spirit around him. Hilarion falls victim to the Queen of the Wilis. He succumbs to her powers and to those of her spirit helpers, and drowns in the lake. Giselle defies Myrtha and dances with Albrecht all through the night until he is at the very point of exhaustion. The sound of the church bell heralds the dawn. The Wilis vanish and the spirit of Giselle disappears with the soft morning light. Albrecht is saved and is left with only her memory to cherish.

CREATIVES

PRODUCED AND STAGED BY

Ai-Gul Gaisina

CHOREOGRAPHERS

Marius Petipa, after Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot

MUSIC

Adolphe Adam

LIBRETTO

Jules-Henri Vernoy de Saint-Georges and Théophile Gautier

SETS AND COSTUMES

Based on an original design by Peter Cazalet

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Ben Hughes

Giselle was first presented by the Ballet du Théâtre de l'Académie Royale de Musique in Paris, France, on 28 June 1841. The choreography in this production derives from the revival by Marius Petipa for the Imperial Russian Ballet in 1884, 1899, and 1903.

This performance is to recorded music.

The performance lasts approximately two hours including one 20-minute interval.

DANCERS

PRINCIPAL ARTISTS

Victor Estévez, Lucy Green, Yanela Piñera, Joel Woellner and Neneka Yoshida.

SENIOR SOLOISTS

Mia Heathcote, Alexander Idaszak, Kohei Iwamoto and Patricio Revé.

SOLOISTS

Vito Bernasconi, Lina Kim and Georgia Swan.

FIRST COMPANY ARTISTS

Joseph Chapman, Zhi Fang, Liam Geck, Chiara Gonzalez, Serena Green, Vanessa Morelli, David Power, Rian Thompson, Laura Tosar and Sophie Zoričić.

COMPANY ARTISTS

D'Arcy Brazier, Mali Comlekci, Shaun Curtis, Luke Dimattina, Lewis Formby, Clayton Forsyth, Heidi Freeman, Renee Freeman, Francisco Gomes, Ines Hargreaves, Bronte Kielly-Coleman, Kaho Kato, Dylan Lackey, John Paul Lowe, Callum Mackie, Briana McAllen, Keigo Muto, Libby-Rose Niederer, Samuel Packer, Edward Pope, Brooke Ray, Paige Rochester, Lou Spichtig, Isabella Swietlicki, Ari Thompson, Hayley Thompson and Kayla Van Den Bogert.

JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS

Luca Armstrong, Heidi Craig, Sophie Kerr, Edison Manuel, Samaël Maurice, Matthew Maxwell, Amber Mitchell-Knight, Frederick Montgomery, Joshua Ostermann, Sophie Smith, Jessica Stratton-Smith and Laura Viola.

Queensland Ballet was founded in 1960 by Charles Lisner OBE.

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Dr Jeannette Young PSM, Governor of Queensland

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Head of Production
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