

National Presenting Partner **BMO** 

BALLETJÖRGEN

Sleeping Beauty



May 3 & 4, 2025
Dalhousie Arts Centre - Halifax, NS

Saniya Abilmajineva & Daniel Da Silva; Photo by Kamal Daid.

Message from the Artistic Director

Welcome to *Sleeping Beauty*!

Our production of *Sleeping Beauty*, which is in part an adaptation of the librettos from Charles Perrault's story *La belle au bois dormant* and the Brothers Grimm's *Little Briar Rose*, follows the young Aurora through an enchanted world of light and darkness.



Sleeping Beauty can be interpreted as a nature allegory with a tug-of-war between winter and summer, darkness and light; this is a theme of conflicting forces that can also be found in the music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in the form of the characters of the Lilac Fairy and Carabosse, who each possess their own distinct leitmotifs. The setting of the ballet has been re-imagined to a place where the legend and myth meet: a proverbial Garden of Eden. This production was inspired by the many legends, including a native Saskatchewan tale, of how the rose got its thorns. The rose, symbolized by the budding Aurora, is loosely based on the Greek myth of Persephone, which holds that the months Persephone spent in the underworld with Hades left the earth cold, dark, and wintry. As a nature allegory, Florimund, who represents spring, cuts away brambles with his sword, allowing the Sun to awaken the sleeping nature. The kidnapping of Persephone and her ultimate fate of belonging to both Hades and Demeter underlies the dramatic axis of this production: a rose bush is comprised of both flowers and thorns.

I am indebted to Margaret Fountain C.M. and David Fountain C.M. for making *Sleeping Beauty* possible. This performance is made possible by BMO Financial Group and with touring support from the Ontario Arts Council. Support for Ballet Jörgen's Support for Ballet Jörgen's Apprentice Program is provided by the RBC Foundation. Nationwide support for Dance for All programming is provided by the Azrieli Foundation. Atlantic Canada Youth Engagement Programming is made possible by TD Bank Group. Additional support for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick programming is provided by the River Philip Foundation. Ballet Jörgen's Halifax performance hotel sponsor is Moxy Hotel Halifax by Marriott.

Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bengt Jörgen'.

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

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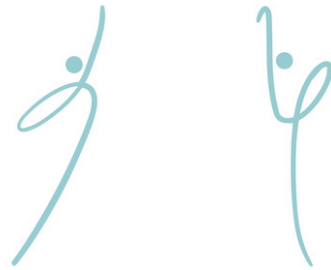
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Synopsis

ACT I

Scene 1

Carabosse, ruler of the underworld, the Roots, Weeds and Thorns, and the Lilac Fairy, ruler of the upper world with its Flowers, Sky and Sun, struggle with the memories of an impossible love. Neither can live in the space of the other but, united through a child whom they each struggle to possess, a beautiful new blossom is formed.

Scene 2

A newborn's arrival is celebrated by the King and Queen of the Garden of Flowers. Everyone is excited from the lowliest seedlings to the most elegantly scented petals. Birds – handmaidens of the Lilac Fairy – arrive to bestow gifts of Beauty, Purity, and Elegance on the newborn child. The festivities are abruptly interrupted by Carabosse, who is outraged by not having received an invitation to the christening. In retaliation, he casts his spell: the newborn – Aurora – will live for 16 years in the upper world garden, after which she will prick her finger on a spindle and become subsumed as a thorn into the underworld. The Lilac Fairy, arriving late to the celebrations, is unable to reverse the spell, but is instead able to alter it so that Aurora will not become a thorn, but that the world of flowers will fall into a still sleep underneath the hedge of thorns that will rise around them. The spells can only be broken by true love's kiss.

Scene 3

Happy-go-lucky knitting and weaving seedlings go about their business until Carabosse crosses their path, sowing discord. Carabosse is on his way to ensure his spell is fulfilled.

Scene 4

Celebrations are underway for Aurora's sixteenth birthday. Arriving at the party Aurora has now grown into a vibrant and enchanting Rosebud. The young suitors swoon around her. An old lady appears, offering Aurora a beautiful golden spindle; before the King and Queen can take it from her, Aurora pricks her finger. Carabosse reveals himself and claims his prize, but before he can bring Aurora with him the Lilac Fairy arrives with her handmaiden. They fulfill the vow to protect Aurora and put all the flowers to sleep. Deadly weeds and thorns grow around the flowers, a hedge which only one who is pure of heart can get through without becoming entangled.

–INTERMISSION–

ACT II

Scene 1

With the flower garden long forgotten, new plants and trees have sprung forth. Celebrating the arrival of spring, a party of young revelers enjoys a picnic in a clearing in the forest. Among them there is one who is more distinguished than others named Florimund. The Lilac Fairy, searching for someone able to break the spell on Aurora, seizes the moment and guides him deeper into the forests.

Scene 2

Arriving at a lake deep in the forest, Florimund is surrounded by Naiads, water nymphs and servants of the Lilac Fairy. Rising out of the water, the Lilac Fairy conjures a vision that is so true of the beautiful Aurora that it feels real to the touch.

Scene 3

Florimund, smitten with love, is guided by the Lilac Fairy and plunges deeper into the forest to find the sleeping Aurora. At the edge of the world of Carabosse, the Lilac Fairy can go no further and sends Florimund forward to face the darkness on his own.

Scene 4

Carabosse, jealously guarding his domain, is disturbed by the approaching Florimund and commands his destruction. Florimund almost succumbs to the thorns but at last fights his way through and breaks the spell with true love's kiss.

Scene 5

With the spell broken, the Garden of Flowers blooms anew, bringing birds and flowers to celebrate the union of Aurora and Florimund. Aurora is no longer just a blossom: through the prick of his world, Carabosse still jealously guards the lovely flower we now call a Rose, bestowing the sting of sharp thorns on greedy fingers. The Rose has both flower and thorns, shared by the worlds of Carabosse and the Lilac Fairy.

The Cast

In order of appearance, program & cast subject to change.

**Local Youth Participant Roles*

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CARABOSSE | Adrián Ramírez Juárez |
| LILAC FAIRY | Esther Zignaigo (3), Lydia Laure-Germain (4) |
| *ROSE BUD CHILD | Ella Crowell (3), Lina Price (4) |
| SERVANT SEEDINGS | Rose Juliette & Lily Villeneuve |
| FLOWER COURTIERS | Company |
| *LADIES IN WAITING | Julie Harris, Isla Rovers |
| HUMMING BIRD | Risa Takeshima |
| CANARY | Chabi Arauz |
| BLUE BIRD FEMALE | Sakura Kawamura |
| QUEEN | Camilla Hood |
| KING | Bengt Jörgen C.M. |
| *ATTENDANTS | Leigh Kennedy, Laura Keyes, Victoria Moore |
| CARABOSSE MINION | Ryusei Nagafuchi |
| *HEDGE | Company & *Sophie Connick (3), *Charis Greeley (3), *Martha Raymond (3), *Lucy Risser-Milne (3), *Natalie Bent (4), *Lily Crooks (4), *Rachel Ellsmere (4), *Elena Mason (4) |
| KNITTING SPROUTS | Rose Juliette, Lydia-Laure Germain (3), Lily Villeneuve, Taisiya Zamula, Esther Zignaigo (4) |
| *PAGES | Ella Crowell (3), Leigh Kennedy (3), Laura Keyes (4), Lina Price (4) |
| WALTZING FLOWERS | Company |
| SUITORS | Matthew Jordan, Callum McGregor, Adrián Ramírez Juárez, Leandro Prado |
| AURORA | Akari Fujiwara |
| FLOWER FRIENDS | Company |
| PICNIC PARTY | Chabi Arauz, Camilla Hood, Taisiya Zamula, Lydia-Laure Germain (3), Esther Zignaigo (4), Adam Davidson, Ilia Dogudovskii, Matthew Jordan, Callum McGregor, Ryusei Nagafuchi, Leandro Prado |
| *CHILDREN | Leigh Kennedy, Laura Keyes, Victoria Moore |
| FLORIMUND | Omar Hernández |
| NAIADS | Chabi Arauz, Mandi Bryce, Camilla Hood, Lydia-Laure Germain (3), Rose Juliette, Sakura Kawamura, Risa Takeshima, Anna Turkington, Lily Villeneuve, Esther Zignaigo (4), Taisiya Zamula |

TREES

Adam Davidson, Ilia Dogudovskii, Matthew Jordan,
Callum McGregor, Ryusei Nagafuchi,
Callum McGregor

BLUE BIRD MALE

Sleeping Beauty Youth Community Credits

Local Youth Participants:

Natalie Bent, Sophie Connick, Lily Crooks, Ella Crowell, Rachel Ellsmere, Charis Greeley, Julie Harris, Leigh Kennedy, Laura Keyes, Elena Mason, Victoria Moore, Lina Price, Martha Raymond, Lucy Risser-Milne, Isla Rovers

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of:

Cadance Academy, Halifax Dance, Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, Leica Hardy School of Dance, The Dance Institute, The School of Port City Ballet

Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks



Emma MacKenzie
Physiotherapy Resident at Scotia Physiotherapy
BSc Kin (Hns), MscPT



Meghan Cosman, BSc Kin, MSc PT
PT Resident at Quantum Sport Therapy.

All of our volunteers that made this production possible.

Thank You to Our Individual Atlantic Donors

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Chabi Arauz
Panama City, Panama
Company Member
since 2024



Mandi Bryce
Maple Ridge, British Columbia
Company Member
since 2024



Daniel Da Silva
São Paulo, Brazil
Company Member
since 2009



Adam Davidson
Zephyr, Ontario
Company Member
since 2019



Ilia Dogudovskii
Moscow, Russia
Company Member
since 2024



Akari Fujiwara
Aichi, Japan
Company Member since 2017
Sponsored by Mary and Graham Hallward.



Lydia-Laure Germain
Montréal, Québec
Company Member since 2022
Sponsored by Marie-Elle Carrothers.



Omar Hernández
Pinar del Rio, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



Matthew Jordan
Adelaide, Australia
Company Member
since 2024



Adrián Ramírez Juárez
Mexico City, Mexico
Company Member
since 2014



Sakura Kawamura
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
since 2022



Callum McGregor
Glasgow, Scotland
Company Member since 2019
Sponsored by Mary and Graham Hallward.



Leandro Prado
Altamira, Pará, Brazil
Company Member since 2016
Sponsored by Kevin Goldthorp.



Risa Takeshima
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
since 2024
Sponsored by Hitoshi Ohtsuji.



Taisiya Zamula
Moscow, Russia
Company Member
since 2023



Esther Zignaigo
Lima, Perú
Company Member
since 2021



Camilla Hood
Brandon, Manitoba
RBC Apprentice



Ryusei Nagafuchi
Aichi, Japan
RBC Apprentice



Anna Turkington
Katrine, Ontario
RBC Apprentice



Rose Juliette
Montréal, Québec
Mentorship Student



Lily Villeneuve
Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario
Mentorship Student

**Learn More About
Our Dancers**



Production Credits

Choreography & Synopsis (*After Marius Petipa*)

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Set & Costume Design Camellia Koo

Lighting Design Rebecca Picherack

Stage Direction & Additional Concept

Development Heinar Pillar

Scenic Carpentry Hamilton Scenic Specialty

Costume Coordinator Nicole Franklin-Ablanedo

Cutters Brenda Clark, Kim Crossley, Susan Dicks

Tutu Coordinator & Cutter Anne Armit

Tutu Bases Noel DeLeon

Tutu Decorater Kath Posslif

Costume Construction Monica Berg, Susan Dicks

Company, Carolyn Kasperski, Kamila Kayser,

Debbie Kschesinski, Deborah S. Count, Lucie

Moreau, Christine Yurt

Assistants Karoline Kayser, Jenna Selvey, Monica Wier

Millinery Monica Viani Custom Millinery

Dyer Jean Rummyey

Props Builder Vanessa Janiszewski

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Co-Founders Susan Bodie & Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Artistic Director & CEO Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Artistic Lead & Rehearsal Director Daniel Da Silva

Principal Ballet Coach Saniya Abilmajineva & Svea Eklof

Company Dancers Chabi Arauz~, Mandi Bryce, Daniel Da Silva, Adam Davidson~, Ilia Dogudovskii, Akari Fujiwara~, Lydia-Laure Germain~, Omar Hernández, Matthew Jordan~, Adrián Ramírez Juárez~, Sakura Kawamura~, Callum McGregor~, Leandro Prado, Risa Takeshima, Taisiya Zamula'~, Esther Zignaigo

RBC Apprentices Camilla Hood, Ryusei Nagafuchi, Anna Turkington

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Resident Stage Direction Heinar Pillar

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