BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Saturday matinee 29 September 2018

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE

Choreography Frederick Ashton
Music Ferdinand Hérold *freely adapted and arranged by* John Lanchbery
Scenario Jean Dauberval
Designs Osbert Lancaster
Lighting Peter Teigen

Widow Simone, *a rich farmer* **Michael O'Hare**

Lise, *her daughter* **Momoko Hirata**

Colas, *a young farmer in love with Lise* **Mathias Dingman**

Thomas, *a prosperous vineyard owner* **Jonathan Payn**

Alain, *his son* **Tzu-Chao Chou**

Village Notary **Rory Mackay**

Notary's Clerk **Gus Payne**

Cockerel **Gus Payne**

Chickens
Rosanna Ely, Beatrice Parma, Rachele Pizzillo, Lynsey Sutherland

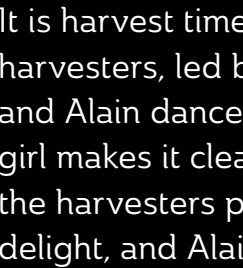
Lise's Friends
Karla Doorbar, Reina Fuchigami, Jade Heusen, Yvette Knight, Laura Purkiss, Brooke Ray, Yaoqian Shang, Alys Shee

Villagers, Harvesters, Grooms
Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Students on the Cecil King Memorial Foundation Studentship programme appear by kind permission of the Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst Ballet School

ROYAL BALLET SINFONIA

Conductor Paul Murphy
Leader Robert Gibbs



APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Act I 30 minutes
Interval 20 minutes
Act II 34 minutes
Interval 20 minutes
Act III 38 minutes
This performance will end at approximately 5pm

THE STORY

Lise is the only daughter of Simone, a widow and owner of a prosperous farm; she is in love with Colas, a young farmer, but her mother has far more ambitious plans

ACT I
The Farmyard
The dawn of a busy day on the farm is heralded by the cock and his attendant hens. Lise, disappointed at not seeing Colas, leaves a ribbon tied in a lover's knot as a token of her devotion. Colas finds it and binds it to his staff. The lovers meet, but are interrupted by Simone, who sets her daughter a task churning butter. Colas, hiding in the loft, joins her. The work is shared and then forgotten as they declare their love.

The farm girls summon Lise to play, but her mind is elsewhere. Her suspicious and ever-watchful mother catches hold of her and chastises her. Just then Thomas, the pompous and wealthy proprietor of a vineyard, arrives with his son Alain. Simone, aware of their mission, dismisses Lise, and Thomas asks her hand for his son. When Lise returns, Alain coyly and clumsily shows off his paces. She is amused and a little shocked by his antics, but not interested. They set off for the harvest.

ACT II
The Cornfield
It is harvest time, and after working in the fields the harvesters, led by Colas, relax in a joyful dance. Lise and Alain dance, but Colas intervenes, and the young girl makes it clear where her preference lies. One of the harvesters plays the flute, to everybody's general delight, and Alain thinks he will have a try; but the harvesters mock him and he is rescued from their horseplay by his indignant father.

The field is now left clear for the triumphant Colas, who dances with Lise. Simone joins in the merriment of the harvesters. Suddenly they are interrupted by a storm that drenches them, scattering them far and wide.

ACT III
Inside the farmhouse
Mother and daughter, soaked by the storm, return to the farmhouse. They sit down to spin; work, thinks the mother, should keep Lise out of mischief. But she is overcome by sleep and Lise, who has seen Colas through the gate, tries to take the key from her. Simone awakes and, in order to remain watchful, plays the tambourine for Lise to dance. But the taps grow feebler, she begins to nod, and soon she is fast asleep.
Colas opens the top part of the farmhouse door and leans towards Lise. She runs joyfully into his arms.
The knocking of the harvesters, coming for their pay, awakens Simone. Simone tells her daughter to get on with her chores as she leaves to give the harvesters a drink. Lise, thinking she is alone, dreams of the delights of married life. Colas cannot resist, and comes out from hiding. She is bashful at having been taken by surprise, but once again they declare their love, exchanging scarves as a token.

As Simone reappears, Lise hustles Colas into her bedroom. The ever-suspicious mother realises that the lovers have been meeting, and in her turn hustles Lise into the bedroom, locking the door.

Alain and his father now arrive with a notary to complete the contract. When it has been signed, Simone hands Alain the bedroom key. After a moment of idiotic indecision, he opens the door and to everyone's dismay Colas and Lise come out. The lovers fall on their knees to ask Simone for forgiveness and a blessing. In spite of Thomas and Alain, she finally gives in amid general rejoicing.