



**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**

**H BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME**

Wednesday 20 February 2019

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET

DURING A PERFORMANCE

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Choreography David Bintley

Music Glenn Buhr

Designs Philip Prowse

Lighting Mark Jonathan

Belle Momoko Hirata

The Beast César Morales

The Merchant, Belle's father Michael O'Hare

Fière Ruth Brill

Vanité Alys Shee

Belle's sisters

Monsieur Cochon Kit Holder

Wild Girl Miki Mizutani

Vixen Laura Day

Raven Lachlan Monaghan

Woodsman Rory Mackay

Bailiff James Barton

Grandmère Laura Purkiss

Hunters, Birds of the Air, Birds of the Forest,

Court Beasts, Wedding Guests

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Students on the John Pinder Studentship programme appear by permission of the Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst Ballet School

ROYAL BALLET SINFONIA

Conductor Philip Ellis

Leader Robert Gibbs



APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Act I 47 minutes

Interval 25 minutes

Act II 47 minutes

The performance will end at

approximately 9.35pm

THE STORY

PROLOGUE

A cruel Prince is cursed as he hunts a Vixen, becoming a terrible Beast, whilst the Vixen is transformed into a Wild Girl.

ACT I

Belle's father, a Merchant, believing his fortune lost at sea, accepts money from the rich Monsieur Cochon to pay bailiffs, but Cochon is motivated by his desire to marry one of the sisters. The Merchant's ships are then sighted and he leaves to meet them, promising his daughters gifts; Belle asks for a single rose. Robbed during a storm, the Merchant takes refuge in a castle.

The next morning, he finds his trunk returned and full of gifts for his daughters. Remembering Belle, as he leaves, he picks a rose. Outraged at the theft, a monstrous Beast appears: in return for his life, the Merchant must send his youngest daughter to the castle. Wanting to save her father, Belle agrees.

ACT II

Every night for months the Beast asks Belle to marry him, but is turned down each time. The Beast throws an extravagant ball and once again asks Belle for her hand. She refuses again and the Beast descends into a rage.

Belle asks to leave to see her father. The Beast agrees, but gives her another rose: she must return before the rose dies, or he too will die. Belle arrives home to find wedding preparations under way, but the greedy Cochon has yet to decide which sister he wants as his wife! Explaining her situation to her jealous sisters, Belle is detained by them whilst, back at his castle, the Beast begins to die.

Returning at the last minute, Belle declares her love for the Beast whereupon the curse is lifted and he transforms back into a handsome Prince