

## 16. MAYPOLE DANCE\*

Signifying elements	Effects
<i>Props:</i> a maypole adorned with colourful ribbons – each villager in the circle holds one.	Symbol of traditional country pursuits / pagan fertility ritual
<i>Relationships:</i> the villagers form one large circle around the maypole, alternating male, female. Lise, Colas and two other villagers are in the centre, talking and assisting. Alain joins them. He gazes up at the ribbon pattern on the pole.	Community spirit – everyone dancing together  He is fascinated and excited, like a child
<i>Space:</i> men and women circle the pole, moving in and out. They circle round their partners; men and women rotate in opposite directions to weave in and out of each other, the ribbons making different patterns on the pole	Lively, energetic and flirtatious fun
<i>Movement:</i> unison – galloping, heads down, arms on each other's shoulders; skipping with outside hand on hip; men drop to one knee whilst the ladies circle them with a rapid running step.	Everyone knows all the steps as they've been handed down from generation to generation.

\*The May Dance was adapted from genuine folk dances taught at the Royal Ballet School and extends Ashton's ribbon motif one stage further, this time with the whole village involved, signalling their wholehearted support for the couple.

## 17. STORM AND FINALE

Signifying elements	Effects
<i>Lighting:</i> stage darkens; flashes of light; rain effects	A sudden fierce thunder storm
<i>Movement:</i> dancing stops abruptly, palms up. A line of girls runs across, up-stage, but pulling in different directions, the line breaks. They stagger one way, tip backwards, run, form tight turning circles, joining up in lines to sidestep, kick and drop back.	Heavy winds / blustery / people running for shelter hanging on to one another  Like mini cyclones / as if blown by a powerful wind
<i>Space:</i> Widow Simone, Alain and Thomas are down-stage	Focuses attention on them
<i>Relationships:</i> Widow Simone and Alain hold each other, hopping sideways across the stage, off balance. Thomas tries to catch Alain, but keeps missing. Everyone exits. Lise and Colas run onto an empty stage; he throws his coat over her shoulders; they exit.	Comic – Alain is being especially blown about by his umbrella.  The storm abates for a moment; Colas is calm and chivalrous.
<i>Dynamics:</i> the scene builds in intensity. Groups of dancers run and leap across the space. Thomas and Widow Simone bump into one another and watch as Alain is swept up into the air smiling and kicking astride his umbrella.	Although obviously in danger, Alain is so excited by the prospect of flying, the drama dissolves into comedy.



The Act II maypole dance



The storm