

WORLD BALLET
C O M P A N Y
SWAN LAKE

Act 1.

Prologue.

Princess Odette is taking a walk along the shore of the lake. She meets a mysterious stranger who frightens her. Rothbart is captivated by Odette's beauty and asks for her hand and heart, but the Princess refuses him. In anger, Rothbart turns Odette into a beautiful white swan. Now the only one who can save her is the one who will fall in love with her, take an oath of faithfulness and keep that oath.

Scene 1.

Spring day. In the park of the ancient royal castle, Prince Siegfried is celebrating coming of age. Eligible young ladies of the Prince's court seek his attention, but he is not in a hurry to

tie himself in marriage. Graceful dances of gentlemen and ladies are followed by Jester's funny performances. Siegfried's Princess-mother appears, accompanied by her entourage. She congratulates the Prince on his maturity and presents him with a crossbow. Siegfried is delighted with the gift. The Princess-mother retires with her entourage. The party continues, but the Prince gets bored, and he asks everyone to leave. Siegfried goes to the lake to hunt.

Act 2.

Scene 3.

In the castle of the Princess-mother a big ball is held, dedicated to the Prince's birthday. At this ball, by his mother's will, Siegfried must finally choose his bride. Guests appear, brides show themselves off to the Prince. Mother asks Siegfried to make a choice. He hesitates. Suddenly an unknown knight appears with a beautiful daughter Odile. Odile, in every way emphasizing her resemblance to the swan girl, seduces the Prince. Siegfried makes his choice – convinced that Odette and Odile are one person, he declares Rothbart's daughter as his bride and swears eternal love to her. Rothbart and Odile laugh at him. A white swan is beating its wings on the window of the castle. Siegfried realizes his fatal mistake. In desperation, he rushes to the swan lake.

Scene 4.

Lake shore. The swan girls are anxiously awaiting the return of Odette. In desperation, she tells them about Siegfried's treason. The evil wizard triumphed, and now the girls have no salvation. A storm begins on the lake. The Prince runs ashore, begging Odette for forgiveness. The evil wizard stirs up the natural forces against Odette and Siegfried. But the two lovers are not terrified by thunder and lightning, and the storm does not frighten them. The Prince fights with the keeper of the lake and defeats him.

Epilogue.

Evil charms no longer have power over Odette. The swan turns into a beautiful princess and together with Siegfried joyfully meets the first rays of the rising sun.