

WORLD BALLET COMPANY

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 falls in love with her, takes an oath of faithfulness and keeps that oath.

Scene 1

On a 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 marry any of them. Graceful dances of gentlemen and ladies are followed by the Jester's funny performances. Siegfried's 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.

Scene 2

Prince Siegfried is on the shore of the beautiful lake while the evil wizard Rothbart watches him. A flock of swans comes to swim in the lake. Siegfried is surprised to see that the swans are turning into girls. The swan queen Odette tells the Prince that she and her friends are victims of the evil sorcery of the wizard Rothbart, who turned them into swans. Only at night, near this lake, can they take on human form. The terrible charms will continue until a man who has never sworn love to any other girl loves Odette for life. Siegfried swears eternal love and faithfulness to Odette. But the evil sorcerer has seen everything and is already making a cunning plan to separate the two lovers. It's getting light. Odette says goodbye to her lover. The flock of swans swims away.

Act II

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, and potential brides show themselves off to the Prince. The Princess-Mother asks Siegfried to make a choice. He hesitates. Suddenly an unknown knight appears with his beautiful daughter Odile. Odile, in every way emphasizing her resemblance to the swan girl from the lake, 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 to the lake shore, begging Odette for forgiveness. The evil wizard stirs up natural weather forces to harm Odette and Siegfried. But the two lovers are not scared of 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.