

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
AND HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

Edinburgh International Festival

*In association with the Scottish Committee of
the Arts Council of Great Britain, the British Council
and the Corporation of the City of Edinburgh*



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Programme Price One Shilling

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Programme

THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL SOCIETY
presents

THE NATIONAL BALLET OF FINLAND

from the National Opera of Finland, Helsinki

General Director: JOUKO TOLONEN

Director: ALFONS ALMI

Ballet Director: GEORGE GÉ

Assistant Ballet Director: ELSA SYLVESTERSSON

Conductor-in-chief: JUSSI JALAS

Conductor: NISSE RINKAMA

FESTIVAL BALLET ORCHESTRA

(Management: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra)

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For one week commencing MONDAY, 31st AUGUST, 1959

THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL SOCIETY

presents

THE NATIONAL BALLET OF FINLAND

with

MARGARETHA VON BAHR

DORIS LAINÉ

MAJ-LIS RAJALA

LISA TAXELL

UNO ONKINEN

JAAKKO LÄTTI

KLAUS SALIN

HEIKKI VÄRTSI

and full Company

Ballet Master:

GEORGE GÉ

Conductors:

JUSSI JALAS, NISSE RINKAMA

FESTIVAL BALLET ORCHESTRA

(Management: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra)

31st August; 1st, 2nd, 5th September at 7.30 p.m.

L'ÉPREUVE D'AMOUR

SCARAMOUCHE

DON QUICHOTTE

2nd and 5th September, at 2.30 p.m.

CIRCLE OF ROSES

VALSE TRISTE

DANCE OF THE SPIDER

THREE HARLEQUINS

BLACK SWAN: PAS DE DEUX

DON QUICHOTTE

3rd and 4th September, at 7.30 p.m.

GISELLE

Programme

Wednesday 2nd September and Saturday 5th September at 2.30 p.m.

CIRCLE OF ROSES

Ballet in One Act

Libretto and music by AHTI SONNINEN

Choreography by ELSA SYLVESTERSSON

Scenery and costumes by SEPPO NURMIMAA

Conductor: NISSE RINKAMA

The Girl	...	...	...	...	...	LISA TAXELL
The Boy	...	...	...	...	...	UNO ONKINEN
The Rival	...	...	...	...	...	JAAKKO LÄTTI
The Neighbour Girl	...	...	...	...	...	VIRPI LARISTO
Gipsies	...	...	...	...	...	MARITA STÄHLBERG, HELMER SALMI, LEO AHONEN

Girls and Boys.

Ahti Sonninen composed this work in 1956 for the National Opera of Finland. The subject is taken from a poem of the same name by Aleksis Kivi, Finland's national poet.

The libretto is lyric, like the poem. The Boy asks the Girl to tie her scarf in a rosette as a sign of love. While dancing in the evening twilight of the northern summer the knot comes undone before the Boy arrives. The Boy misunderstands this and begins to make love to the Neighbour Girl. When the short, light summer night begins to turn into day the misunderstanding is cleared up and the young lovers are reunited.

The music of the ballet is based on Finnish folk-dances and folk-songs.

INTERVAL

DIVERTISSEMENT

VALE TRISTE

Music by JEAN SIBELIUS

Choreography by ELSA SYLVESTERSSON

MARGARETHA VON BAHR

JAAKKO LÄTTI

DANCE OF THE SPIDER

Music by AHTI SONNINEN

Choreography by IRJA KOSKINEN

MAJ-LIS RAJALA

THREE HARLEQUINS

Music by NISSE RINKAMA

Choreography by GEORGE GÉ

HEIKKI VÄRTSI

HELMER SALMI

LEO AHONEN

THE BLACK SWAN

Music by PETER TSCHAIKOWSKY

Choreography by PETIPA-IVANOV

DORIS LAINÉ

KLAUS SALIN

INTERVAL

DON QUICHOTTE

Ballet in One Act

Music by MINKUS arranged by NISSE RINKAMA

Choreography by GEORGE GÉ

Scenery by SEPPO NURMIMAA

Costumes by MARTHA PLATONOFF

Conductor: NISSE RINKAMA

Innkeeper	...	...	...	...	...	JAAKKO LÄTTI
Kitri, his daughter	...	...	...	...	...	MAJ-LIS RAJALA
Basilio	...	...	...	...	...	UNO ONKINEN
Don Quichotte	...	...	...	...	...	AARNE VAINIO
Sancho Panza	...	...	...	...	...	HEIKKI VÄRTSI
Mercedes	...	...	...	...	...	SEIJA SILFVERBERG
Espada	...	...	...	...	...	... INTO LÄTTI
The Marquis	...	...	...	...	...	FRED RICHARD
Kitri's friends	...	...	...	...	...	MARITA STÄHLBERG, SONIA TAMMELA VIRPI LARISTO, SEIJA SIMONEN

Toreadors and Spanish girls

George Gé's version of the great ballet *Don Quichotte* by Minkus is a kind of dance cavalcade. Don Quichotte and Sancho Panza, the innkeeper's daughter Kitri, with her friend Basilio and his rival the Marquis, are the principal characters and have been compressed to form a one-act ballet, retaining all the finest features of the original.

For NATIONAL BALLET OF FINLAND									
Stage Director	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	AUGUST LINDSTRÖM
Stage Manager	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	UOLEVI LÖNNBERG
Chief Electrician	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	GLEB SCHORIN
Wardrobe Manager	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	IRJA HEINO
Stage Properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	IMPI KARIMA

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THE NATIONAL BALLET OF FINLAND

The history of the Lyric National Theatre of Finland is bound up with the Finnish Theatre, founded in 1872. The following year a separate section for singing was started, the so called Finnish Opera. After six years of very successful activity this had to close down for lack of funds. In 1911 a group of Finnish artists founded the Domestic Opera, and in 1914 a permanent Opera Company was formed. In 1956 this Company became the National Opera of Finland.

In 1921 a Ballet was founded, with a Ballet Master, George Gé, and soloists who had all studied with the Russian Imperial Ballet in St. Petersburg. At their opening performance on 17th January, 1922, the ballet they presented was *Swan Lake*, which is still one of the most important ballets in their repertory. To-day the Finnish Ballet dances *Swan Lake* in both the Bolshoi and the Royal Ballet versions. Furthermore all the famous classical ballets and many modern ballets have been in their repertory. The artists of the Finnish Ballet have studied in Paris, London, Moscow and Leningrad under the guidance of the best ballet teachers in the world. The Ballet has reached international fame principally because of the high standard of its prima ballerinas, and the youthful charm, exuberance and discipline of the whole company.

The Ballet has given successful performances in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Spain, Poland, Estonia, Russia and West Germany. During the autumn they will go on a three months tour of the United States, Canada, Cuba and Mexico.

The principal choreographer and Ballet Master of the Finnish Ballet is still George Gé, who since 1922 also worked in Paris for some years, and was attached to the Swedish Royal Opera in Stockholm as Ballet Master.

PROGRAMME NOTE :

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performance
the part of
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