

**Recorded at the Liverpool Empire  
28 October 2017**

**Directed for the screen by**  
Ross MacGibbon

**English National Ballet  
Philharmonic**

**Conductor**  
Gavin Sutherland

**Leader**  
Matthew Scrivener

**Direction and Choreography**  
Akram Khan

**Composition and Sound Design**  
by Vincenzo Lamagna, after the  
original score of Adolphe Adam

**Orchestration by**  
Gavin Sutherland

**Visual Design and Costumes**  
Tim Yip

**Lighting Design**  
Mark Henderson

**Dramaturgy**  
Ruth Little

**Assistant Choreographer**  
Andrej Petrovič

**Rehearsal Director**  
Mavin Khoo

**Sound Designer**  
Yvonne Gilbert

Supported by



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The original production was supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, and the *Giselle* Production Syndicate, and co-produced by **Manchester International Festival** and **Sadler's Wells, London**

With special thanks to Aud Jebesen, Sponsor of the Aud Jebesen International Talent Programme

The role of Giselle is generously sponsored by Carol Brigstocke

Running time: 1 hour, 55 minutes including one 10 minute interval

## Cast

**Giselle**  
Tamara Rojo

**Albrecht**  
James Streeter

**Hilarion**  
Jeffrey Cirio

**Bathilde**  
Begoña Cao

**Landlord**  
Fabian Reimair

**Giselle's Friends**  
Jung ah Choi  
Adela Ramírez  
Anjuli Hudson  
Maria José Sales

**Outcasts**  
Artists of the Company

**Myrtha, Queen of the Wilis**  
Stina Quagebeur

**Wilis**  
Artists of the Company

## Synopsis

**ACT I**  
Giselle is one of a community of migrant garment factory workers (the Outcasts). Dispossessed of their jobs by the factory's closure, and separated by a high wall from their hopes of livelihood and security, the Outcasts function as little more than exotic entertainment for the factory Landlords.

In Act I, the wealthy Albrecht disguises himself as an Outcast in order to visit his lover Giselle.

But his presence is noted by Hilarion – Giselle's would-be-lover – a shape-changing 'fixer' who trades with and mimics the Landlords for his own and his community's profit.

Albrecht's wooing of Giselle is interrupted by the unexpected arrival of the Landlords.

Seeing his fiancée Bathilde among them, Albrecht tries to hide.

Giselle recognizes the fine dress worn by Bathilde as the product of her own factory labour.

The Outcasts dance for the Landlords until Albrecht and Hilarion disturb the Ceremony with their conflict. Bathilde's father confronts Albrecht, forcing him to return to Bathilde and to their world.

When he submits and returns to Bathilde, Giselle is driven mad with grief. The Landlord gives a command, and the Outcasts encircle Giselle. When the crowd disperses, her lifeless body is revealed. Denying any responsibility, the Landlords retreat beneath the Wall.

## Interval – 10 minutes

**ACT II**  
A wrecked, abandoned 'ghost' factory is revealed – a place where Giselle and her female co-workers have laboured, and many have died.

Here Albrecht, grieving for Giselle, confronts and condemns the Landlords.

Myrtha, Queen of the Wilis (ghosts of factory workers who seek revenge for the wrongs done to them in life), enters, driving Albrecht away. She summons Giselle from her lifeless body into the realm of death, to join the company of the remorseless Wilis.

Hilarion enters to mourn at Giselle's grave. The Wilis surround him, demanding retribution for Giselle's death, and Hilarion is brutally killed.

Albrecht returns and becomes aware of Giselle's presence. The lovers are reunited on the threshold between life and death. Breaking the cycle of violence – and defying Myrtha's command – Giselle forgives Albrecht and releases him into life.

The Wilis depart with Giselle, and Albrecht, now an outcast from his own community, is left alone by the Wall.



## Our Next Step

*Introducing our new home from 2019*

*"A space that will echo the sound of creative Britain."* Tamara Rojo

We have long had the dream of having our own home, designed around our dancers' needs, which brings the Company and the School together under one roof, and has space to develop our innovative engagement and learning work.

This dream will become a reality next year when we move to London City Island in East London.

Please consider helping us by donating online. All donations enable us to extend the reach of our work, into schools, in the local community, and to audiences at our touring venues, nationally and internationally.

Find out more at  
[ballet.org.uk/london-city-island](http://ballet.org.uk/london-city-island)

Tweet your thoughts about Akram Khan's *Giselle* using **#ENBGiselle**

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## Future performances

We aim to bring world-class ballet to the widest possible audience. Catch us live near you this Summer and Autumn.

### **Akram Khan's *Giselle***

Dublin 2 – 6 May  
Hong Kong 28 – 30 Jun  
Chicago 28 Feb – 2 Mar 2019

### **Emerging Dancer 2018**

Our annual celebration of the Company's talents  
London 11 Jun

### ***The Sleeping Beauty***

Kenneth MacMillan's beautiful fairy tale ballet  
London 6 – 16 Jun

### **Lest We Forget**

Three ballets commemorating the centenary of the end of World War I  
London 20 – 29 Sep

Visit [ballet.org.uk](http://ballet.org.uk) for full performance schedule.

### ***Manon***

A full-blooded ballet of love, decadence and passion  
Manchester 17 – 20 Oct  
Milton Keynes 24 – 27 Oct  
Southampton 31 Oct – 3 Nov  
London 16 – 20 Jan 2019

### ***Swan Lake***

The timeless classic  
Liverpool 21 – 24 Nov  
Bristol 27 Nov – 1 Dec  
London 3 – 13 Jan 2019

### ***Nutcracker***

The magical Christmas tradition  
London 13 – 30 Dec