

The Sleeping Beauty

Inspired by Tchaikovsky's noble score, Christopher Anderson's grand interpretation of this most famous fairy tale will transport all to the kingdom that slept 100 years.

PROLOGUE: A PRINCESS IS BORN

In a magical Fairy Kingdom, the Princess Aurora is born, and the King and Queen joyfully invite all the fairies in the land to celebrate their treasured daughter. But in the midst of the excitement, the royal family missed one name on their guest list: the fairy Carabosse.

Furious at being forgotten, Carabosse crafts a plan for revenge. On the day of the celebration, she arrives in a fiery rage and casts a terrible spell on the baby: on her 20th birthday, Princess Aurora will prick her finger and die. The kingdom is aghast. Another guest, the Fairy of Wisdom, the Lilac Fairy, responds quickly. She can't undo Carabosse's spell, but she has the power to diminish it with a second spell: Princess Aurora will not die but will instead fall into a deep sleep.

Carabosse is skeptical that the Lilac Fairy has overpowered her evil spell and defiantly gathers her minions and storms off. The King and Queen and all in the kingdom are hopeful, placing their faith in the strength of the Lilac Fairy.

ACT ONE, 20 YEARS LATER: THE SPELL

The Kingdom gathers for Princess Aurora's birthday. The garden is filled with flowers and the crowd with anticipation. Princess Aurora enters from the grand staircase. Four princes are among the guests, each who have travelled from far-away kingdoms to win Princess Aurora's heart. Each prince presents Princess

Aurora with a rose. The presentations unfold in a celebrated ballet sequence known as the Rose Adagio.

After the dancing, Princess Aurora notices an old woman holding a beautiful bouquet. She approaches her to get a closer look, and the woman offers the bouquet as a gift. Princess Aurora dances about with the flowers, but the bliss of the moment ends abruptly when she pricks her finger on a spindle hidden deep within the bouquet. The old woman erupts in sinister laughter and reveals her true identity: the evil fairy Carabosse. Princess Aurora collapses in the arms of her parents. The four Princes rally and give chase, but Carabosse disappears in a cloud of smoke.

As the dust settles, the Lilac Fairy arrives. She reminds everyone of the second spell: Princess Aurora is only asleep, not dead. The Lilac Fairy casts a spell of sleep over the entire Castle and everyone inside. When the Princess awakens, they will awaken too, but until then, the slumbering kingdom is protected behind an shield of forest.

ACT TWO, 100 YEARS LATER: TRUE LOVE'S KISS

A young Prince named Desire is off exploring with his tutor and friends. Included in the entourage is a countess who is determined to capture the Prince's affection. Weary of the Countess' advances, the Prince elects to let the group go ahead. Prince Desire is wistfully daydreaming when the Lilac Fairy appears. She has come to show him a vision of the Sleeping Beauty. Prince Desire is entranced and begs the

Lilac Fairy to take him to the princess at once. The Lilac Fairy summons a magical boat, and together they journey to the protected kingdom. On the way, the Lilac Fairy tells Prince Desire the story of Carabosse's rage and revenge and how the deadly spell was altered so that the entire kingdom would instead slumber for 100 years. The Lilac Fairy also reveals to Prince Desire that while 100 years have passed, only truly love's kiss will awaken the Princess and her kingdom.

The Lilac Fairy and Prince Desire arrive at the castle, where flowers and ivy have grown thick all around Princess Aurora. Just as the prince approaches to break the spell, Carabosse and her minions appear. They do all they can to stop Prince Desire from breaking the spell. The battle is fierce, but even outnumbered as he is, Prince Desire overpowers the minions. Without a moment's hesitation, he rushes to Princess Aurora. Carabosse, seeing that her minions have failed, prepares a final attack. But it's too late!

Staging and additional choreography by
CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON

Music Composed by
PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

Sets designed by
CURTIS VAN CHARLES

With a gentle kiss to the princess's forehead, Prince Desire awakens Aurora. The evil spell is forever broken.

ACT THREE, THE WEDDING

The people in the Kingdom are overjoyed to have awakened from the curse of their 100-year slumber. The King and Queen open the palace's grand hall to celebrate the day of Princess Aurora and Prince Desire's wedding.

The splendid affair includes a guest list of many familiar fairytale characters. Little Red Riding Hood, Puss in Boots, Bluebird and Princess Florine are all in attendance, as are the fairies from the fateful day when that first spell was cast.

All of the guests honour the Royal couple with their stories, and then Princess Aurora and Prince Desire celebrate their love with a grand Pas de Deux.

Props designed by
RAVEN HEHR

Costumes designed by
DAVID HEUVEL & PETER CAZALET

Lighting Designed by
PIERRE LAVOIE

A project of this scale requires a tremendous community effort with many behind-the-scenes key partners. It couldn't have been accomplished with the support, hard work and commitment of so many in the Alberta Ballet community.

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And to all who are attending: thank you for joining us in celebrating this incredible milestone in our company's history.

– Christopher Anderson, Associate Artistic Director and Choreographer