



# THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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Logos for this production: **Rising Alternative + A Contracorriente Films + RaiCom + Teatro alla Scala + Clasart**

Libretto by Ivan Vsevolozhsky and Marius Petipa, based on Charles Perrault's *La Belle au bois dormant*.  
Ballet in a prologue and three acts

Recorded on 2019  
From Teatro alla Scala

Approximately 3h30, includes an interval

## CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Felix Korobov
Director	Rudolf Nureyev
Sets and costumes	Franca Squarciapino
Lightning	Marco Filibeck

## ARTISTIC TEAM

Princess Aurora	Polina Semionova
Désiré	Timofej Andrijashenko
King Florestan XXIV	Alessandro Grillo
The Queen	Marta Romagna
Catalabutte, the master of ceremonies	Riccardo Massimi
The Lilac Fairy	Emanuela Montanari
Carabosse, the evil fairy	Beatrice Carbone
Seven Fairies	Martina Arduino, Alessandra Vassallo, Gaia Andreanò, Caterina Bianchi, Agnese Di Clemente, Maria Celeste Losa, Nicoletta Manni
Their knights	Gabriele Corrado, Christian Fagetti, Andrea Risso, Andrea Crescenzi, Mattia Semperboni, Emanuele Cazzato, Walter Madau
Four Princes	Marco Agostino, Gioacchino Starace, Edoardo Caporaletti, Nicola Del Freo
Princess's friends	Vittoria Valerio, Alessandra Vassallo, Gaia Andreanò, Christelle Cennerelli, Marta Gerani, Caterina Bianchi, Alessia Auriemma, Agnese Di Clemente
The Countess	Deborah Gismondi
The Duke	Giuseppe Conte
Puss in boots	Federico Fresi
The white cat	Antonella Albano

Blubird  
Princess Florine

Daniele Antonangeli  
Vittoria Valerio

Teatro alla Scala Ballet Company and Orchestra

## **PRESENTATION**

In his rendering of the dreamiest, most sumptuous of ballets, perhaps the ballet par excellence, Nureyev maintained the incredible purity of Petipa's original choreography, just as he had learned it at the Kirov, but infused it with a fresh sense of theatrical drama and inner strength through remarkable variations and an articulated choreographic composition that reveals all of the characters' psychological nuances. Indeed, it was to La Scala in 1966 that Nureyev entrusted the debut of "his" *Sleeping Beauty*, and now, twelve years after its last performance, his masterpiece returns to the stage with the magnificent sets created by Oscar winner Franca Squarciapino at La Scala in 1993, and Felix Korobov conducting the extraordinary score by Tchaikovsky.

## **SYNOPSIS**

### **PROLOGUE**

Beyond the gates, in the palace of King Florestan XXIV, a reception-hall has been prepared for the ceremony of Princess Aurora's presentation at court. The royal procession descends the grand staircase, the courtiers followed by the king and queen and the new-born girl, carried by her nurses. Catalabutte, the master of ceremonies, starts the celebrations. Enter the seven Fairies, accompanied by their escorts, each bearing a gift and a blessing. But suddenly the wicked witch Carabosse appears with her acolytes. Indignant at not having been invited to the ball, she casts a curse upon the baby girl: at the age of sixteen – exactly as in the vision which she evokes – the princess shall die after pricking her finger. The good Lilac Fairy, however, enters to reassure the desperate parents: Aurora shall not die, but will fall into a deep sleep until she is awakened by a kiss of love.

### **ACT I**

Outside the gates of the royal gardens three women are knitting. The master of ceremonies discovers them, to the consternation of those present. All forms of needles or spindles have been banned from the country lest the curse should come true. The king and queen arrive, but show the utmost clemency, for today is Princess Aurora's sixteenth birthday. The dancing begins. Aurora enters with her friends and dances the Rose adagio with the four princes who aspire to her hand. Carabosse, disguised as an old woman, approaches and offers a bunch of flowers to Aurora. Without realising, the princess pricks her finger on a spindle concealed in the flowers. Carabosse vanishes triumphantly as Aurora falls into her deep sleep and is mournfully carried off to her apartments by the courtiers. In a short time, the whole court falls asleep. The Lilac Fairy returns and magically envelops the castle in a thick wood.

### **ACT II**

One hundred years after, three carriages draw up in a clearing in the wood. Prince Désiré's courtiers get out and begin their games and dancing. The prince appears, joins them in their pastimes and organizes a game of blind man's buff. Then he asks to be left alone. He is melancholy and restless until the Lilac Fairy comes up to him, tells him the story of Aurora and conjures up a vision of her surrounded by sylphs. Florimondo falls in love with her and is conducted by the Lilac Fairy to the *Sleeping Beauty's* castle, where Carabosse unwinds her treacherous thread. When the Lilac Fairy appears, the thread snaps and Carabosse is dragged away in a faint. Florimondo advances incredulously into the sleeping court. Drawing near to Aurora's bed, ravished with delight, he gazes at the girl and kisses her. At once Aurora wakes up and with her the entire court. The princess leads Florimondo to her parents, who bless the young couple.

**ACT III**

In the ballroom the festivities for the marriage of Aurora and Florimondo are in progress. The king, the queen and the courtiers dance a saraband. Then the gifts arrive, with a number of characters from the fairy-tales of Perrault: Diamonds, Gold, Silver, Sapphire, Puss in Boots and White Cat, Blue Bird and Fiorina. The betrothed end the dancing and move off towards the ceremony and happiness.