

## Hi there!

Giselle is the next ballet to be performed by the Royal New Zealand Ballet. It was first produced in 1842, and was choreographed by Jean Corelli and Jules Perrot. Adolphe Adam took only a week to compose the music especially for the ballet!

Carlotta Grisi was the first Giselle. Ever since then it has been one of the most challenging and sought after roles for a ballerina to dance.

You can read the story of Giselle over the page.

## GISELLE Word Search

S B I Y C P W B U A K X X K M  
 A N R S A B A P E L L G A Q Q  
 A Z O R I T I L G B I V O G E  
 R E I I H R L M R R D R G K H  
 E S C I R E G A W E V A R G P  
 I H L G S A A D F C U S C V L  
 L D V I B Z L A O H Q D U E O  
 E I G Q Q E P I A T Z Q U X D  
 D D L P Z Y J F H W L A D E A  
 G Z P I C L I P C I A F N Y P  
 M E X M E V C L G L Q S O Z G  
 P C J N R S G Q P I G T Y U R  
 A T T O L R A C R S W C S C K  
 M X O V T K C G Q U H Z V H R  
 M T I I M F C O R E L L I D X

ADAM  
 ADOLPHE  
 ALBRECHT  
 BATHILDE  
 CARLOTTA

WILIS  
 PARIS  
 LILIES  
 HILARION

GISELLE  
 GRAVE  
 CORELLI  
 GRISI

*Check out your toes –  
 Do you have Giselle feet?*

*The Giselle or peasant foot type has at least three toes the same length (sometimes more) and the toes tend to be short. It is usually a foot shaped well for pointework.*

## DANCER PROFILE

**Alana Baird**



Our featured dancer in this issue is Alana Baird. Alana is the lovely dancer on the posters and flyers advertising Giselle. She writes to you over the page.

## MIME IN GISELLE

Giselle is called a Ballet d'Action which means a ballet that tells a story through mime and dance. Here are some of the meanings for the ballet mime movements in Giselle.

In the ballet, look for Giselle's mother when she warns against the dangers of dancing and Giselle's mime when she discovers she has been betrayed.



'LISTEN'

'SEE'



'LOVE'

'I SWEAR'

'BEAUTIFUL'

'DEATH'

Photos: Stephen A'Court

## **Here is a letter from Alana Baird**

Hey there, Young Friends!

I trained at the New Zealand School of Dance and have been a member of the company for 3 years. I am originally from Perth in Western Australia, but after being in New Zealand for so long, I now call Wellington home.

Last year I was chosen to be the face of the Giselle season. I was so excited and nervous – I had never done a photo shoot like that before. I had to arrive at the photographer's studio an hour before so that a make-up artist could do my make-up and hair. It was so fun to have someone else do all the preparation for me for a change! I asked her about a thousand questions and learnt a lot about make-up tricks from her.

Once this was done, I got into my costume and into position. Our Artistic Director, Gary Harris was there to help with which poses he wanted. He gave me a lot of corrections to make sure I looked my best. It was really hard to hold the positions while they made sure my body looked nice and the line was flattering through the camera. I had a lot of sore muscles the next day!

I am really happy with the way the photos turned out. I never expected to be on the cover of the subscription brochure though! It is odd to see your face on the cover of something that goes out to the public and on the posters around town too!

Keep working hard and having fun –

Your friend  
Alana Baird



Alana Baird

Photo: Ross Brown

## **THE STORY OF GISELLE**

### **Act 1**

Giselle, a young peasant girl has fallen in love with Count Albrecht, who is tired of his life at court and is disguised as a peasant. Hilarion, one of the villagers who is in love with Giselle, tries to warn her that Albrecht is a noble who is already engaged to Bathilde and can never marry a simple village girl like Giselle.

Giselle and Hilarion dance at the grape harvest, where Giselle is crowned the Harvest Queen. Giselle's mother Berthe warns her of the dancing ghosts called Wilis in the nearby forest that rise from their graves at night and lure men to their deaths. She wants Giselle to stop dancing because she is so delicate.

Bathilde and her father arrive in the village and are welcomed by Giselle and the villagers. Giselle and Bathilde become friends and discover they are both in love and engaged to be married.

Hilarion finds Albrecht's sword with his real name on it and uses it to prove to Giselle that Albrecht is not who she thinks he is. Giselle rushes over to Bathilde and when she sees Albrecht's engagement ring she realises she has been betrayed! She is completely overcome and, after wildly dancing her grief and passion, she dies, her heart broken.

### **Act 2**

Hilarion prays at Giselle's grave deep in the forest. He is captured by Queen Myrtha and her band of Wilis. Wilis are girls who, like Giselle, have died before their wedding day. Myrtha forces Hilarion to dance until he collapses and dies.

When Albrecht arrives, full of sadness for what he has done, Myrtha decides that Giselle must dance with him until he dies. Through the night, they dance a beautiful pas de deux together. Despite his betrayal, Giselle still loves Albrecht. She dances with him until dawn when the power of the Wilis vanishes and they must return to their graves.

Albrecht is exhausted and near death as day breaks. Giselle holds Albrecht one last time and then must return to her tomb, but she has managed to protect him and save his life.

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