

Hi there!

Swan Lake is the next ballet to be performed by the Royal New Zealand Ballet. It was first produced in 1877 at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.

The wardrobe department has been busy making 25 new tutus for the swans. It takes one person a whole week to make one tutu. Each tutu needs 13 metres of tulle and has 13 layers. Although the tutus for the swans look white, they actually have 5 layers of cream tulle and 1 layer of pale blue tulle in amongst the white layers.

Read the story of *Swan Lake* over the page.

SWAN LAKE word search

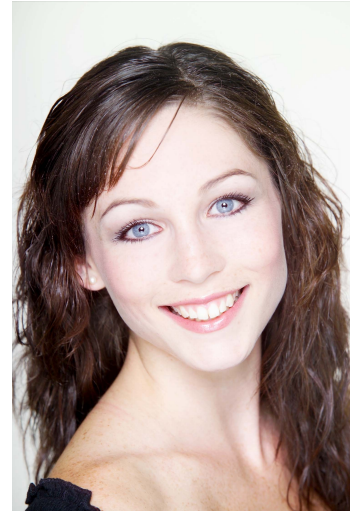
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 B U S J D E C S F R T R L V B
 X P A T F Y R Z S K E T M Q E

ODETTE
 PRINCE
 QUEEN
 EVIL
 ROTHBART
 BLACK
 BRIDE
 VOW
 SWAN

ODILE
 PRINCESS
 HUNTING
 MAGICIAN
 SEIGFRIED
 WHITE
 LOVE
 ABIGAIL
 LAKE

DANCER PROFILE

Abigail Boyle



Our featured dancer in this issue is Abigail Boyle. In 2001 she was the recipient of the Sir John Logan Campbell Award, having won the New Zealand Nationals and received the Royal Academy of Dance Scholarship in 2000. In 2007 Abigail became a Friends of the Ballet partnered dancer.

Have a giggle

Q: What is a toad's favourite ballet?

A: Swamp Lake!

Q: What is a pig's favourite ballet?

A: Swine Lake!



There was a young dancer from NZ
 Her Swan Queen was the best, so they said
 Her portrayal so true
 That bouquets wouldn't do
 So they showered her with pieces of bread!

Here is a letter from Abigail Boyle

Hey there!

My name is Abigail and I'm in my second year with the Royal New Zealand Ballet. I was born in Auckland and started ballet in Wellington when I was 5. When I was 7 my family (Mum, Dad, 3 older brothers, and dog and 2 cats) moved to Auckland and I continued my dancing under Delphine Burkette at the North Shore Ballet Academy.

I enjoyed playing the violin and taking music exams until I was 15 and had to choose between ballet and violin, as both took up a lot of my time.

I had a year at NZ School of Dance before moving to the International Ballet Academy in Christchurch. I joined the RNZB when I was 20 and my first season was *The Wedding* where I absolutely loved being a "Temptation". (I never expected I would be wearing cowgirl boots in a ballet!)

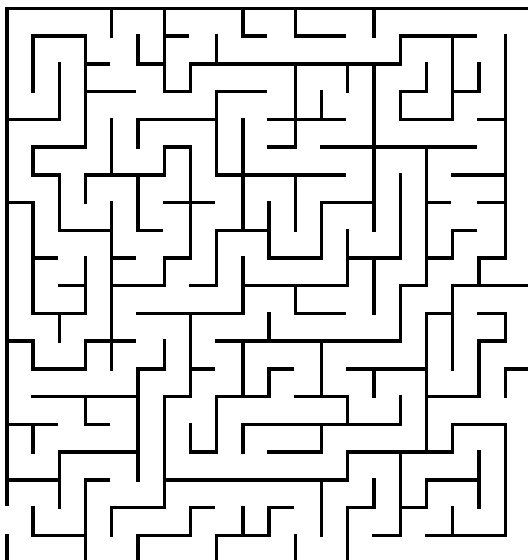
I'm loving working with the company, a supportive and loving atmosphere with interesting people. In my spare time I love to shop or stay at home and chill with my boyfriend and flatmate.

I'm looking forward to *Swan Lake* – it seems a monster of a ballet! I'm one of the Big Swans. It's challenging because of all the big jumps involved but at the end of the day I go home singing the music.

Your friend

Abigail

AMAZING



THE STORY OF SWAN LAKE

Act 1

Prince Siegfried is celebrating his birthday with his friends when his mother interrupts the party. For his birthday she gives him a crossbow. Then she announces that he is to be married immediately and must choose his bride from the princesses who will be presented to him at a ball the very next night. The prince is not very happy with this idea and, noticing some swans flying overhead, he and his friends decide to try out his new crossbow and go hunting by the lake.

Act 2

At the lake a beautiful creature appears, part woman and part bird, dressed in pure white. She tells Siegfried she is Odette, Queen of the Swans. The evil magician Von Rothbart has transformed her into a swan and she is only allowed to be human between midnight and dawn. Only a pledge of marriage and eternal love can break the spell. The prince falls instantly in love and promises to marry her.

Suddenly Von Rothbart appears to take her away. Siegfried wants to kill him but Odette stops him. The prince is so in love with her that he invites her to the ball the next night.

Act 3

At the ball, Siegfried dances with all the princesses but he can think only of Odette. Suddenly Von Rothbart and his daughter Odile arrive. Even although Odile is dressed in black Siegfried believes she is really Odette and dances happily with her.

Siegfried is so deceived that he swears his eternal love to Odile and she and Von Rothbart leave triumphantly. The prince finally realises he has been tricked, but too late!

Act 4

Siegfried rushes back to the lake where Odette tells him that, because of his vow of love to Odile, they can now never be united in life. She flies into the lake and Siegfried decides to follow her. His love for her is so great he would rather die with her than live without her. As they fly into the lake together, the spell of the evil Von Rothbart is finally broken and they are united in everlasting love.
