

LA BAYADÈRE

Ballet by Ludwig Minkus

World premiere on 23 January 1877 at Maria Theatre, St. Petersburg

Premiere at the Estonian National Opera on 16 May 2013

Libretto and original choreography: **Marius Petipa and Sergei Hudekov**

Choreographer and Stage Director of the new production: **Thomas Edur**

Conductors: **Risto Joost** and **Mihhail Gerts**

Designer: **Peter Docherty** (England)

"La Bayadère" is a story of eternal love, vengeance and justice. The ballet recounts the story of the impossible love between the temple dancer Nikiya and the noble warrior Solor. In a moment of forgetfulness, Solor becomes engaged to the rajah's daughter Gamzatti and, in order to assure the young man's love for Gamzatti, the rajah decides to kill Nikiya...

"La Bayadère" is an important connection between the romantic and classical eras of ballet. Although a major work in the Russian tradition, the ballet remained unknown for a long time in the West. It was only in 1961, in the course of a Kirov appearance at the Palais Garnier, that a stunned Western public was able to discover its beauty.

The most notable numbers in the ballet include the incredibly demanding men's variation "The Golden Idol" and the scene of "The Kingdom of the Shades", which has become a symbol of ballet and is quite often performed on its own.



Age Oks and Thomas Edur in the production of
"La Bayadère" at the English National Opera, in 1994.