



THE FRASER AUDITORIUM
July 22 - 26, 2026
mcdonald.nsw.edu.au

Synopsis

Once Upon a Time... the story of The Sleeping Beauty

Prologue - The Christening

Set in the grand palace, the King & Queen have invited the magical kingdom fairies to bestow their qualities as gifts upon their precious Aurora at her christening. Unbeknownst to the King, his Master of Ceremonies was loathe to include Carabosse and tore up her invitation to this important event. Just as the Lilac Fairy is about to bless Princess Aurora, Carabosse enters, furious for being left out of this joyous occasion. In revenge, Carabosse curses Princess Aurora to prick her finger on a spindle and die on her sixteenth birthday. The Lilac Fairy softens the curse so that Aurora will instead fall into a deep sleep for a hundred years until awoken by a prince's kiss. Thankful for the Lilac fairy's protection, the King declares that all spindles are now banned from the kingdom and anyone caught with one will be put to death.

Act 1 - The Spell

In disguise, Carabosse hides a spindle in her cape and makes her way into Princess Aurora's 16th birthday party unnoticed. The King & Queen have also taken the opportunity for Aurora to choose a foreign prince to marry. Beautiful yet shy, each prince presents her with a rose and tries to charm her for her affection. Before being able to make her choice, Carabosse steps forward and presents Aurora with a spindle. Having never seen a spindle before, she is captivated and dances with it before pricking her finger and collapsing. Believing she has won, Carabosse reveals her identity and laughs triumphantly before fleeing the palace. At this moment, the Lilac Fairy reminds the King & Queen that Aurora is not dead but asleep. Placing a spell over the whole kingdom, all the guests fall into a deep sleep for 100 years.

Act 2 - The Awakening

100 years have passed and the grounds of the palace have become overgrown and hidden from the world as a forest. The Lilac fairy, also a godmother to Prince Desiré, reveals an image of Aurora to him. Captivated by her beauty, the Lilac fairy calls the forest fairies to bring the spirit of Aurora to him for Desiré to see her true beauty. Declaring his love for her, the Lilac fairy leads the way to where Aurora is sleeping so that he can wake her with a kiss of true love to break the 100-year-old curse over the hidden kingdom. Guarding her resting place, there is a brief battle between good and evil before true love triumphs and Aurora is awakened by the kiss of a prince.

Act 3 - The Wedding

To celebrate the wedding of their beloved Aurora to Desiré, the King & Queen host a lavish banquet with guests dressed as characters from Desiré's favourite fairytale books. The fairies and Aurora's godmothers bring lavish gifts to the married couple. The Lilac fairy blesses the marriage and crowns both Princess Aurora and Prince Desiré to rule over the kingdom with love, joy and peace.

Cast

Princess Aurora - Allegra Ariola/Matilda Byrne

Prince Desiré - Myles Goodwin

The Lilac Fairy - Claudia Valenzuela/Lily Foley

Carabosse - Piper Hough/ Summer Skiris

King & Queen - Jeffrey Dimi & Grace Zingel

Master of Ceremonies - Oliver Austin

Courtiers - Danielle Tsang/Olivia O'Bryan, Camilla Mikosic/Clara Micallef, Jenny Lin, Sofia Mureau/Andrea Lui, Alicia Dooley/Abigail Kakala, Charlotte King/Billi Hartley-Brown, Stephanie Li, Madelyn Phu/Natalia Maryanka, Oliver Austin, Kyril Prokopchuk, Jackson Francis

Fairy of Sincerity - Imogen Stephens/Adrianne Breen

Fairy of Grace - Katerina Kazakonis/Piper Hough

Fairy of Generosity - Alice Gully/Yani Poon

Fairy of Eloquence - Natalia Maryanka, Scarlett Honan

Fairy of Temperament - Rae Wang/Jasminetra Netphrom

Lilac Fairy Attendants - Olivia O'Bryan/Danielle Tsang, Clara Micallef/Camilla Mikosic, Sharon Wang, Andrea Lui/Sofia Mureau, Abigail Kakala/Alicia Dooley, Billi Hartley-Brown/Charlotte King

Carabosse Minions - Olivia Canas, Liam Nixon

Cavalieres - Oliver Austin, Jackson Francis, Kyril Prokopchuk

Waltz of the Flowers - Olivia O'Bryan, Clara Micallef, Camilla Mikosic, Sofia Mureau, Billi Hartley-Brown, Abigail Kakala, Andrea Lui, Olivia Canas, Stephanie Li, Sharon Wang, Jenny Lin, Yani Poon/Katerina Kazakonis, Scarlett Honan/Natalia Maryanka, Oliver Austin, Kyril Prokopchuk, Jackson Francis, Liam Nixon

The Rose Adage Four Princes - Myles Goodwin, Oliver Austin, Kyril Prokopchuk, Jackson Francis

Aurora's Girlfriends - Charlotte King, Alicia Dooley, Danielle Tsang, Adrianne Breen/Alice Gully, Jasminetra Netphrom/Rae Wang, Matilda Byrne/Allegra Ariola, Lily Foley/Claudia Valenzuela, Madelyn Phu/Imogen Stephens

Forest Fairies - Charlotte King, Alicia Dooley, Danielle Tsang, Matilda Byrne/Allegra Ariola, Lily Foley/Claudia Valenzuela, Adrianne Breen/Imogen Stephens, Madelyn Phu/Piper Hough, Yani Poon/Alice Gully, Scarlett Honan, Jasminetra Netphrom/Rae Wang, Natalia Maryanka, Katerina Kazakonis

Polonaise & Mazurka - Adrianne Breen, Olivia Canas, Billi Hartley-Brown, Scarlett Honan, Abigail Kakala, Katerina Kazakonis, Stephanie Li, Jenny Lin, Andrea Lui, Natalia Maryanka, Clara Micallef, Camilla Mikosic, Sofia Mureau, Jasminetra Netphrom, Olivia O'Bryan, Madelyn Phu, Yani Poon, Imogen Stephens, Rae Wang, Sharon Wang

Blue Bird Pas de Deux - Danielle Tsang & Oliver Austin

Godmothers - Charlotte King, Alicia Dooley, Matilda Byrne/Allegra Ariola

Cinderella & Prince - Clara Micallef/Billi Hartley-Brown/Imogen Stephens, Liam Nixon

Red Riding Hood and the Wolf - Sofia Mureau/Olivia O'Bryan/Abigail Kakala, Kyril Prokopchuk

Puss in Boots - Scarlett Honan/Camilla Mikosic/Andrea Lui & Jackson Francis/Sharon Wang

Director's Message

It has been such a joy to see this traditional four act fairytale ballet come to life. It's big and beautiful, it's filled with tutus, fairies and opportunities galore for each dancer. Inspired by productions from the Australian Ballet, The Royal Ballet and The Paris Opera Ballet, we have created the perfect one for our beautiful dancers.

As always there are many people to give my heartfelt thanks to: Rae Edds-Gibson for her assistance with choreographing, rehearsing, staging, the endless laminated lists and humour throughout. To Keryn Kirk for her perfectly beautiful costumes and the many people who walked through the costume room doors to help: Laura Ariola, Oliver Austin, Sienna Micallef, Claudia Moore, Natalie Morel Lewis, Danielle Tsang, Rae Wang and Claudia Valenzuela. To Jeffrey Dimi for slotting in perfectly as our King and to Oliver Austin for being my right-hand man with editing the music for this whole production. For the magnificent life-size books, storytelling backdrop and chaise lounge all created by Peter Slattery. To Peter Eirth & Riley Gibson for the staging and lighting and to Peter Kraft for producing The Sleeping Beauty. And of course, to all the Ballet teachers, staff, administration, parents and family members who support our dancers to follow their passion, thank you.

Jane Kesby

Production Credits

Director:	Jane Kesby
Choreography:	Jane Kesby & Rae Edds-Gibson
Producer:	Peter Kraft
Stage Manager:	Peter Eirth
Set Design & Construction:	Peter Slattery
Lighting Design & Operation:	Riley Gibson & Peter Eirth
Assistant Rehearsal Team:	Rae Edds-Gibson & Nicky Gattorna
Composer:	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Music Score:	Andrew Mogrelia & Czecho-Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra, André Previn & London Symphony Orchestra
Music Edits:	Oliver Austin & Jane Kesby
Costumes:	Keryn Kirk
Properties:	Peter Slattery Jane Kesby
Photography:	Dani Brown - Dancetrain Magazine
Archival Video:	ProShowreel Co.