

The Ballets Russes in Australasia, 1936-1940

Performing Arts Programs and Ephemera (PROMPT)

Australian Collection Development

This finding aid lists programs and ephemera which document 1936-1940 Australasian tours of the Ballets Russes, primarily based on material in the National Library of Australia's PROMPT collection.

Historical notes

Ballets Russes is a generic name given to a succession of ballet companies which emerged in Europe after the demise of Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in 1929. These companies were founded and managed by Colonel Wassily de Basil and Rene Blum, either jointly or separately. They continued the Diaghilev tradition performing much of his repertoire and using some dancers from the Diaghilev companies.

During the 1930s and 1940s there were several Ballets Russes companies which toured throughout Europe, the Americas and to Australasia. Three Ballets Russes companies were formed for touring to Australia between 1936 and 1940. Two of these tours, in 1936-1937 and 1938-1939, included New Zealand. J.C. Williamson Theatres Ltd entrepreneured all three Australasian tours.

Audiences in Australia had previously seen a sampling of the Diaghilev tradition through earlier tours by companies built around prominent ballerinas. In 1913, Adeline Genee toured to Australia with members of the Imperial Russian Ballet. Anna Pavlova toured to Australia twice with her own companies in 1926 and 1929.

In 1934, the Dandre-Levitoff Russian Ballet Company toured to Australia, headed by the famous Russian ballerina Olga Spessivtzeva. These companies had strong links to each other, eg. Victor Dandre was Pavlova's Manager. As well, dancers such as Algeranoff came to Australia with Pavlova in 1926 and 1929, and later returned with the Ballets Russes.

Note: The National Library also holds collections of programs for each of these earlier visiting companies.

Additional research information:

- In 2010 a [Ballets Russes Research site](#) was created to make available documentation from the 2006-2009 research project [Ballets Russes in Australia - our](#)

[cultural revolution](#). The *research* site contains the resource [The Ballets Russes in Australia: a bibliographic guide](#), while the *project* site contains articles, photographs, galleries and information about related productions by The Australian Ballet.

- Biographical materials on some of the personnel associated with the Ballets Russes tours are available in the Library's biographical cuttings files. They may be requested through the National Library's catalogue for reading room use.
- Manuscript collections of personnel associated with the Ballets Russes tours include [Harcourt Algeranoff](#), [Irina Baronova](#), Edouard Borovansky, [Tamara Tchinarova Finch](#), [Margaret Walker](#), [J.C. Williamson \(Firm\)](#). The Geoffrey Ingram Ballet Archive contains additional material on the Ballets Russes tours. Accessible through the Library's catalogue – some online, others for reading room use.
- Newspapers contain articles, reviews of performances and social notes on the Ballets Russes tours. Accessible through the Library's catalogue – some online, others for reading room use.
- [Oral history interviews of some of the personnel associated with the Ballets Russes](#) tours include [Paul Hammond](#), [Geoffrey Ingram](#), [Valrene Tweedie](#), [Max Dupain](#), [Kira Bousloff](#), [Tamara Tchinarova Finch](#), [Irina Baronova](#), [Anna Volkova Barnes](#), [Kirril Vassilkovsky](#), [Sono Osato](#), [Betty Low \(Ludmilla Lvova\)](#), [Jean Haet \(Kira Bounina\)](#), [Annette Gillen](#) and [Edward Pask](#). Accessible through the Library's catalogue – some online, others for reading room use.

Pictures of some of the personnel associated with the Ballets Russes tours include [Edouard Borovansky](#), [Irina Baronova](#), [David Lichine](#), [Max Dupain](#), [Anton Dolin](#), [Helene Kirsova](#), [Valentina Blinova](#), [Kira Bousloff](#), [Valrene Tweedie](#). They are accessed through the Library's catalogue – some online, others for reading room use.

Prime sources used in compiling this finding aid were:

- [‘Another beginning’](#) [motion picture]. Sydney : Australian Broadcasting Commission c. 1970. Film No. 564; Call No.FLM [0114785](#), National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA). Other films used for research include the Ewan Murray-Will ‘Ballets Russes collection’ and Ringland Anderson ‘Ballet films’ held at the NFSA.
- [‘The Ballets Russes in Australia : an avalanche of dancing’](#) [video recording]. Canberra : National Film and Sound Archive ; National Library of Australia, 1999.
- Cargher, John. [Opera and ballet in Australia](#). Stanmore, NSW: Cassell Australia, 1977. p. 217-222.
- [From Russia with love : costumes for the Ballets Russes 1909-1933](#) / [edited by] Susan Hall ... Canberra : National Gallery of Australia, 1999.
- Garcia-Marquez, Vicente. [The Ballets Russes : Colonel de Basil's Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo, 1932-1952](#). New York : A. Knopf, 1990.

- Haskell, Arnold L. [*Dancing round the world: memoirs of an attempted escape from ballet*](#) / by Arnold L. Haskell ; [drawings by Daryl Lindsay]. London : V. Gollancz, 1937.
- Healy, Robyn. [*From studio to stage: costumes and designs from the Russian Ballet in the Australian National Gallery*](#) / by Robyn Healy and Michael Lloyd. Canberra : Australian National Gallery, 1990.
- Parsons, Phillip, general editor [*Companion to theatre in Australia*](#). Stanmore, NSW : Currency Press, 1995.
"J.C. Williamson's": p. 299-303.
- Pask, Edward H. [*Enter the colonies dancing: a history of dance in Australia, 1835-1940*](#). Melbourne : Oxford University Press, 1979. p. 135-169.
- Potter, Michelle. 'The fire and the rose,' in [*Brolga – an Australian journal about dance*](#), No. 29, December 2008. Australian Dance Council – Ausdance: Braddon, ACT, 2008. pp. 11-16.
- Potter, Michelle. [*A full house: the ESSO guide to the Performing Arts Collections of the National Library of Australia*](#). Canberra : National Library of Australia, 1991.
- Potter, Michelle. [*A Passion for dance*](#). Canberra : National Library of Australia, 1997.
- Potter, Michelle. [*The Russian Ballet in Australia 1936-1940: sources for modernism in Australian art*](#) [manuscript]. 1987. Thesis (B.A.). Canberra: Australian National University, 1987. Contains an important appendix entitled: 'Appendix II. The Australian repertoire, 1936-1940 : chronology', leaves 113-143.
- Tait, Viola. [*A Family of brothers : the Tait's and J.C. Williamson : a theatre history*](#). Melbourne : Heinemann, 1971.
- Tweedie, Valrene. 'Memories of Symphonie fantastique,' in [*Brolga – an Australian journal about dance*](#), No. 26, June 2007. Australian Dance Council – Ausdance: Braddon, ACT, 2007. p. 28.
- Walker, Kathrine Sorley. [*De Basil's Ballets Russes*](#). London : Hutchinson, 1982.
- West, John. [*Theatre in Australia*](#). Stanmore, NSW : Cassell Australia, 1978.
- Whiteoak, John, and Aline Scott-Maxwell, Aline, eds, *Currency companion to music and dance in Australia*, Sydney : Currency Press, 2003.

Publications released since this collection finding aid was originally compiled include:

- Brissenden, Alan, and Keith Glennon. [*Australia Dances - Creating Australian dance 1945-1965*](#). Kent Town, South Australia, Wakefield Press, 2010.
- Bell, Robert. [*Ballets Russes : the art of costume*](#). Canberra : National Gallery of Australia, 2010.

- BurrIDGE, Stephanie and Julie Dyson, editors. *Shaping the landscape: Celebrating dance in Australia*. New Delhi : Routledge/Taylor and Francis Books, 2011 - see Jordan Beth Vincent and Lee Christofis, 'Forging an Identity: Transformation and Synthesis in Twentieth Century Australian Dance', pp. 13-33.
- Carroll, Mark, editor. [*The Ballets Russes in Australia and beyond*](#), Kent Town, South Australia : Wakefield Press, 2011. Contributors: Mark Carroll, Jane Albert, Alan Brissenden, Lee Christofis, Michael Christoforidis, Joel Crotty, Helen Ennis, Gillian Forwood, Nicolette Fraillon, Lynn Garafola, Stephanie Jordan, Valerie Lawson [This book grew out of *Our Cultural Revolution – The Ballets Russes in Australia*, a research project of The Australian Ballet, the University of Adelaide and the National Library of Australia.]

Access and arrangement

The [Ballets Russes PROMPT files may requested by eCall-slip](#) for use via the Library's Petherick Reading Room. It is important to note that individual theatre programs and ephemeral items are not listed in the catalogue record. Using the PROMPT collection files is a browsing exercise in which the user may be confronted with a single item in a manila folder or a large number of folders in many boxes.

Selected items have been digitised and use of those digital copies helps preserve the printed originals.

The Ballets Russes files in the PROMPT collection are arranged as follows and may be requested by tour:

- [Ballets Russes: Tour No. 1, 1936-1937](#)
- [Ballets Russes: Tour No. 2, 1938-1939](#)
- [Ballets Russes: Tour No. 3, 1939](#)

The most complete holdings of cast lists for certain portions of the three tours are held within the bound volumes of the J.C. Williamson segment of the PROMPT Collection. These are referred to in this Finding Aid as "JCW/BS Vol ...".

Copies should be requested in the following manner, example:

PROMPT
JCW/BS Volume....

The following search strategies are suggested to maximise discovery of other Ballets Russes material in the Library's catalogue:

- Personal names of key personnel involved

- Title keywords: Ballet(s) Russe(s), Monte Carlo Russian Ballet, Covent Garden Russian Ballet, Original Ballet Russe, de Basil, de Basil's, J.C. Williamson and Educational Ballets
- Subject keywords: Ballet(s) Russe(s), Monte Carlo Russian Ballet, Covent Garden Russian Ballet, Original Ballet Russe, de Basil, de Basil's, J.C. Williamson Firm, Educational Ballets, Ballet Australia History and Ballet companies Australia

Names: a ballet company by any other name?

The various companies formed by de Basil and Blum tended to use parts of each other's names, which can lead to confusion.

For the Australasian tours the first company in 1936-1937 was called Colonel W. de Basil's Monte Carlo Russian Ballet, sometimes abbreviated to The Monte Carlo Russian Ballet.

The second company in 1938-1939 was called the Covent Garden Russian Ballet.

For the third company touring in 1939-1940 three names were used: Colonel W. de Basil's Covent Garden Ballet, Colonel W. de Basil's Ballet Company and The Original Ballet Russe. The last name was used from 1940 until the company ceased operating in 1952.

Further details on the companies' lineages are given in various references such as [Walker](#), [Pask](#) and [Cargher](#).

Publications produced for the Australasian tours

A cautionary note: In documenting the visit to Australasia of the three Ballets Russes companies in the 1930s, one of the prime aims is to establish which ballets were performed, when they were performed, and who performed in them. To achieve this, three critical factors have to be taken into account:

1. Complex nature of the programs of ballets performed by the companies which involved frequently changing multiple bills on each program.
2. Particular pattern of program publishing practised by J.C. Williamson.
3. Variety of sources for the programs within the National Library's PROMPT ephemera collection.

Each tour of the Ballets Russes followed a familiar pattern of performing a large number of shorter ballets. None of the seasons included a program featuring just one full length ballet. Instead, there was an average of three ballets per program, sometimes up to five. In addition, the company changed programs frequently. The longest run of one program was for eight nights plus matinees; the shortest was for just one performance.

All these factors are common to any dance company, particularly a touring one. However with the Ballets Russes, the large number of ballets performed over a long period of time makes for a particularly complex picture.

The publishing of programs

Beginning in the 1920s, the [J.C. Williamson organisation \[JCW\]](#) published a *Magazine programme* in cities with theatres operated by them, namely Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. These multi-purpose publications covered current and forthcoming attractions in JCW theatres in each of these cities for various periods.

The frequency of the magazine programs is difficult to accurately establish. Some assistance in dating is given on cast list pages announcing "Season commencing. June 23...". In some cities such as Melbourne and Sydney where JCW operated up to three theatres the issuing of a magazine program appears to have been relatively frequent (either weekly or fortnightly) and the publications themselves were larger, often over 50 pages.

In general, the covers of the magazine programs were the same for long periods of time and were usually used in all cities. However, for major attractions such as the Ballets Russes tours, some special covers were used at various times. These special covers are indicated in the chronological listings for each Ballets Russes tour.

The Magazine programs included a large amount of advertising and publicity material for current and forthcoming attractions with biographies, portraits, scenes from attractions and reports from overseas featuring prominently. Much of this information was repeated or rearranged from issue to issue. Advance publicity increased in volume as the attraction drew nearer.

In relation to the Ballets Russes tours, Magazine programs are particularly useful for the publicity surrounding the tours, articles by Arnold Haskell, biographies, and portraits of dancers, music staff and management. Product advertising using leading dancers is also of interest.

The combined publicity machines of de Basil and JCW produced glossy Souvenir programs for some of the seasons. Largely photographic in nature, they featured principal dancers of the company, scenes from some of the ballets performed, and leading personalities associated with the tour. These should not be confused with some issues of the routine Magazine programs which have 'Souvenir Program' overprinted on the cover, but which contain nothing of a special nature.

Cast lists for musicals, variety shows, dramas and comedies were usually included in the text of the Magazine program. However, for opera and ballet they were NOT included. Instead, separate four page folded cast lists were published covering a season of a multiple bill, whether it was one, three, five or eight nights in duration.

It is important to note that two 'types' of cast lists occur indicating either repertoire or cast changes. These can appear to be duplicates but reveal changes after a careful internal examination of the text has been done. This is in spite of the same date span being stated,

for example, "Week commencing Saturday, November 7, 1936". Evidence suggests that these 'weekly' cast lists were in some instances issued daily. The second smaller 'type' are those where the specific performance date has been printed at the top of the cast list, for example, "Wednesday, evening, December 9". These subtle changes may reflect cast or repertoire changes from one night to the next, a factor which the researcher needs to be aware of. Differences in dating which occur on cast lists have been noted in the list which follows.

The collecting and preserving of these loose cast lists is particularly important as they represent the best available evidence of the repertoire actually performed and who performed it.

The Library has acquired cast lists from many sources over the years. Some have come to the Library loosely inserted into an issue of a magazine program and these have been retained in situ as it is assumed that is the manner in which they were issued. Others have been acquired as individual items which might have been handed out to patrons at the performance in that form. On the other hand they might have become separated from a magazine program. Cast lists held as individual items form the bulk of the documentation of the Ballets Russes tours in the PROMPT Collection.

Some examples of advertising ephemera such as brochures, booking forms, invitations, etc. have survived and are noted under the relevant season. Advertisements, reports, reviews and listings in newspapers can also be used as source material for documenting the Ballets Russes tours, however, these sources have *not* been included in this finding aid.

Sources of the National Library's holdings

Over the years, the Library has acquired published material on the Ballets Russes tours from three sources – J.C. Williamson, Geoffrey Ingram, and through routine acquisitions of retrospective Australiana whether by gift or purchase.

When the firm of J.C. Williamson's closed in 1973, the Library acquired a significant collection of material from the Sydney office of the company (See the description in Potter, [A Full house](#) - reference in the Sources section above). Included in the large collection was a bound set of *Magazine programmes* and cast lists which provide a near complete record of JCW theatres in Sydney from the 1920s to the late 1960s. It is thought that they were probably working copies for JCW office staff, as they are well used, indexed and occasionally annotated.

In some cases these bound volumes constitute the most complete holdings of cast lists for certain portions of the three Ballets Russes tours. These are referred to in the listing as "JCW/BS Vol...".

Individual cast lists covering other portions of the tours were acquired from JCW and form part of the PROMPT ephemera holdings. These are referred to in the finding aid as 'separates'.

Geoffrey Ingram was a former dancer with the Borovansky Ballet and was founding administrator of the Australian Ballet, as well as being a collector of historical Australian dance material. The Library acquired a significant portion of his collection including substantial holdings of magazine programs and cast lists for the Ballets Russes, particularly the Melbourne seasons. These have been integrated into the PROMPT collection.

The Library is actively filling in gaps in its Australiana collections. As such it acquires retrospective material, including published material relating to the Ballets Russes tours. These are integrated into the PROMPT collection.

With the compilation of this holdings list, the Library's holding of Ballets Russes programs and ephemera have been brought together for the first time to form a near complete record of these historic tours.

Note: JCW consistently used 'program' to refer to their magazine program. This meaning has been retained in this finding aid. To avoid confusion, 'program' in inverted commas is used throughout when referring to a ballet season.

Russian names

Russian names can vary greatly. Spelling used in this Ballets Russes holdings list is based on that commonly used in the programs and cast lists published during the tours.

Repertoire: full list of all ballets performed on Australasian tours

Between 1936 and 1940 the three touring Ballets Russes companies performed 44 separate ballets in Australia, most of which were Australian premieres. Five ballets received their world premieres during the three tours. Twelve of the ballets became standard favourites and were repeated for each visit.

"Tour 1" refers to the 1936-1937 tour, "Tour 2" refers to the 1938-1939 tour and "Tour 3" refers to the 1939-1940 tour.

L'amour sorcier

Australian premiere

Choreography: Leon Woizikowsky

Music: Manuel de Falla

Scenery and costumes: Nathalie Gontcharova

Performed Tour 1

L'après midi d'un faune (Afternoon of a faun)

Australian premiere

Choreographic poem after Waslaw Nijinsky

Music: Claude Debussy from his *Prelude a l'après-midi d'un faune*

Scenery: Prince A. Schervachidze

Costumes: Leon Bakst
Performed Tours 1 and 3

Aurora's wedding – see *Le mariage d'Aurore*

Le beau Danube (The beautiful Danube)

Australian premiere

Book and choreography: Leonide Massine
Music: Johann Strauss, arranged by Roger Desormiere
Scenery: Vladimir Polunin after Constantin Guys
Costumes: Count Etienne de Beaumont
Performed Tour 1

Bolero

Australian premiere

Choreography: Anton Dolin
Music: Maurice Ravel
Performed Tour 2

La boutique fantasque

Australian premiere

Choreography: Leonide Massine
Music: Gioacchine Rossini, arranged by Ottorino Respighi
Décor and costumes: Andre Derain
Performed Tour 1

Carnaval

Australian premiere

Ballet in once act
Choreography: Michel Fokine
Music: Robert Schumann orchestrated by Rimsky-Korsakoff, Glazounoff, Liadoff
Performed Tours 1 to 3

Cendrillon (Cinderella)

Australian premiere

Ballet in three parts after Perrault's fairy tale
Choreography: Michel Fokine
Music: Frederic d'Erlanger
Scenery: Nathalie Gontcharova, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze
Costumes: Nathalie Gontcharova, executed by B. Karinska
Performed Tours 2 and 3

Les cent baisers (The hundred kisses)

Libretto: Boris Kochno after the fairy tale by Hans Andersen
Choreography: Bronislava Nijinska
Music: Frederic d'Erlanger
Scenery and costumes: Jean Hugo
Costumes: Jean Hugo, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze
Performed Tours 1-3

Choreartium (Choreographic symphony)

Australian premiere

Choreography: Leonide Massine
Music: J. Brahms from his *4th Symphony*
Scenery: Constantin Terechkovitch and Eugene Lourie, executed by Elisabeth Polunin
Costumes: Constantin Terechkovitch and Eugene Lourie
Curtain: Georges Annenkoff
Performed Tours 2 and 3

Cimariosiana

Australian premiere

Ballet divertissement
Choreography: Leonide Massine
Music: Domenico Cimarosa
Scenery and costumes: Jose-Marie Sert
Performed Tour 3

La concurrence (The competition)

Australian premiere

Ballet by Andre Derain
Choreography: Georges Balanchine
Music: Georges Auric
Scenery: Andre Derain, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze
Costumes: Andre Derain, executed by B. Karinska
Curtain: Andre Derain
Performed Tour 2

Contes russes (Children's tales)

Australian premiere

Choreography: Leonide Massine
Music: Anatol Liadoff
Scenery and costumes: Michel Larionoff
Performed Tour 1

Le coq d'or (The golden cockerel)

Australian premiere

Ballet in three scenes based on the fairy tale by Puchkine and opera libretto by Bielsky.

Choreography: Michel Fokine

Music: From the opera by Rimsky-Korsakoff adapted by N. Tcherepnine

Scenery: Nathalie Gontcharova, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze

Costumes: Nathalie Gontcharova, executed by B. Karinska

Curtain: Nathalie Gontcharova

Performed Tour 2

Cotillon (The Dance)

Australian premiere

Ballet by Boris Kochno

Choreography: Georges Balanchine

Music: Emmanuel Chabrier arr. E. Chabrier, F. Mottl, Vittorio Rieti

Scenery: Christian Berard, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze

Costumes: Christian Berard, executed by B. Karinska

Performed Tours 1 and 2

Danses slaves et tziganes (Gypsy dances)

Australian premiere

From the Russian opera Roussalka

Choreography: Bronislava Nijinska

Music: A. Dargomijsky

Scenery: A. Golovine

Costumes: C Korovine, executed by Helene Pons (New York)

Performed Tour 2

Le Danube bleu (The Blue Danube)

World premiere

Scenes and dances arranged by Serge Lifar.

Music: Johann Strauss

Scenery: Vladimir Polunin after Constantin Guys

Costumes: Count Etienne de Beaumont

Performed Tour 3

Les dieux mendiants (The Gods go a-begging)

Australian premiere

Pastoral by Sobeka.

Choreography: David Lichine

Music: G.F. Handel arranged by Sir Thomas Beecham

Scenery: Leon Bakst

Costumes: Juan Gris

Performed Tours 2 and 3

Les femmes de bonne humeur (The Good humoured ladies)

Australian premiere

Ballet in one act after a comedy by Carlo Goldoni.

Choreography: Leonide Massine

Music: Domenico Scarlatti , orchestrated and arranged by Vincenzo Tommasini

Scenery and costumes: Leon Bakst

Performed Tours 2 and 3

Le fils prodigue (The Prodigal son)

World premiere

Scenes in three tableaux by Boris Kochno.

Choreography: David Lichine

Music: Serge Prokofieff

Scenery: Georges Rouault, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze

Costumes: Georges Rouault, executed by Mme V. Soudeikine

Performed Tour 2

The Firebird – see L'oiseau de feu

Francesca da Rimini

Australian premiere

Choreographic drama in two scenes by David Lichine and Henry Clifford partly drawn from Dante.

Choreography:

Music: P Tchaikovsky

Scenery: Oliver Messel, executed by Prince. A. Schervachidze

Costumes: Oliver Messel, executed by B. Karinska

Performed Tour 3

Graduation Ball

World premiere

Ballet in one act by David Lichine.

Choreography: David Lichine

Music: Johann Strauss. Compiled, arranged and orchestrated by Antal Dorati

Scenery: Alexandre Benois, executed by Nadejda Benois

Costumes: Alexandre Benois with ladies costumes executed by Antoinette (Sydney) and male costumes executed by A. H. Leiser (Sydney).

Performed Tour 3

Icare

World premiere (superseding the 1935, Paris original production)

Choreographic legend in one act by Serge Lifar.

Choreography: Serge Lifar

Rhythms: Lifar, orchestrated by Antal Dorati
Scenery and costumes: Sidney Nolan
Performed Tour 3

Jeux d'enfants (Children's Games)

Australian premiere

Ballet: Boris Kochno
Choreography: Leonide Massine
Music: Georges Bizet
Curtain, scenery, costumes and designs: Joan Miro. Curtain painted by Joan Miro, scenery painted by Prince A. Schervachidze and costumes executed by Madame B. Karinska
Performed Tour 2

Le lac des cygnes (Swan Lake)

Australian premiere

Choreographic poem in one act.
Choreography: After Marius Petipa
Music: Piotr Tchaikovsky
Scenery: C. Korovine, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze (Tours 1-2), O. Allegri (Tour 3)
Costumes: C. Korovine
Performed Tours 1-3

Lutte eternelle (Eternal struggle)

World premiere

Ballet in one act by Igor Schwezoff.
Choreography: Igor Schwezoff
Music: Robert Schumann from *Etudes symphoniques* orchestrated by Antal Dorati
Scenery: Kathleen and Florence Martin, executed by G. Upward
Costumes: Kathleen and Florence Martin, executed by Olga Larose
Performed Tour 3

Le mariage d'Aurore (Aurora's wedding)

Australian premiere

Choreography: After Marius Petipa
Music: Piotr Tchaikovsky
Scenery: Leon Bakst
Costumes: Alexandre Benois
Performed Tours 1-3

L'oiseau de feu (The Firebird)

Australian premiere

Ballet in two scenes by Michel Fokine from Russian folk tales.

Choreography: Michel Fokine

Music: Igor Stravinsky

Scenery and costumes: Leon Bakst (Tour 1) and Nathalie Gontcharova (Tour 3)

Performed Tours 1 and 3

Paganini

Australian premiere

Fantastic ballet in three scenes by S. Rachmaninoff and M. Fokine.

Choreography: Michel Fokine

Music: Serge Rachmaninoff from his *Rhapsody on a theme by Paganini*

Scenery: Serge Soudeikine, executed by Oreste Allegri

Costumes: Serge Soudeikine

Performed Tour 3

Papillons (The Butterflies)

Australian premiere

Ballet in one act.

Choreography: Michel Fokine

Music: Robert Schumann, arranged by N. Tcherepnine

Scenery: Designed and executed by M. Doboujinsky

Costumes: Leon Bakst

Performed Tours 2 and 3

Pavane (Pavane of the Infantas)

World premiere

Choreography: Serge Lifar

Music: Gabriel Faure

Scenery: Executed by Prince A. Schervachidze

Costumes: Jose-Maria Sert

Performed Tour 3

Pavillon

Australian premiere

Ballet: Boris Kochno

Choreography: David Lichine

Music: A. Borodine, arranged and orchestrated by Antal Dorati

Scenery: Nicolas Benois

Costumes: Cecil Beaton, executed by B. Karinska

Performed Tour 3

Petrouchka

Australian premiere

A burlesque in four acts.
Book: Alexandre Benois and Igor Stravinsky.
Choreography: Michel Fokine
Music: I. Stravinsky
Scenery, costumes and curtain: Alexandre Benois
Performed Tours 1-3

Port Said

Australian premiere

Choreography: Leon Woizikowsky
Music: Konstantinoff
Scenery and costumes: Michel Larionoff
Performed Tour 1

Les presages (Destiny)

Australian premiere

Choreographic symphony.
Book and choreography: Leonide Massine
Music: Piotr Tchaikovsky from his *Fifth Symphony*
Scenery: Andre Masson, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze
Costumes: Andre Masson
Performed Tours 1-3

Prince Igor

Australian premiere

Polovtsien dances from the opera *Prince Igor*.
Choreography: Michel Fokine
Music: Alexander Borodine
Scenery and costumes: Nicholas Roerich
Performed Tours 1-3

Protee

Australian premiere

Choreographic tableau by David Lichine and Henry Clifford.
Choreography: David Lichine
Music: Claude Debussy from his "Dances sacree et profane"
Scenery: Giorgio de Chirico, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze
Costumes: Giorgio de Chirico, executed by B. Karinska
Performed Tours 2-3

Scheherazade

Australian premiere

Choreographic drama in one act by Michel Fokine and Leon Bakst

Choreography: Michel Fokine

Music: N. Rimsky-Korsakoff

Scenery and costumes: Leon Bakst

Performed Tours 1-3

Scuola di ballo (The School of Dance)

Australian premiere

A comedy by Carol Goldoni arranged and adapted by Leonide Massine.

Choreography: Leonide Massine

Music: L. Boccherini. Orchestrated by J. Francaix

Scenery: Count Etienne de Beaumont, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze

Costumes: Count Etienne de Beaumont

Performed Tours 1-3

Soleil de Nuit (The Midnight Sun)

Australian premiere

Russian scenes and dances from the opera "Snegoutotchka".

Choreography: Leonide Massine

Music: N. Rimsky-Korsakoff

Scenery and costumes: Michel Larionoff

Performed Tours 1-2

Le Spectre de la Rose (The Spirit of the Rose)

Australian premiere

Romantic poem in one act by J.J. Vaudoyer after the poem by Theophile Gautier.

Choreography: Michel Fokine (reconstructed for Tour 1 by Leon Woizikowsky)

Music: C.M. Weber

Scenery and costumes: Leon Bakst

Performed Tours 1

Swan Lake – see *Le lac des cygnes*

Les Sylphides

Australian premiere

A romantic reverie in one act by Michel Fokine.

Choreography: Michel Fokine

Music: F. Chopin, orchestrated by Vittorio Rieti

Scenery: Prince A. Schervachidze after Corot

Costumes: Executed by O. Larose

Performed Tours 1-3

Symphonie Fantastique

Australian premiere

An episode in the life of an artist.

Choreography: Leonid Massine

Music: H. Berlioz

Scenery: Christian Berard

Costumes: Christian Berard, executed by Prince A. Schervachidze

Performed Tours 2 and 3

Tcherepnine

Scenery and costumes: Leon Bakst

Performed Tours 1-3

Thamar

Australian premiere

Choreographic drama in one act

Choreography: Michel Fokine

Music: M. Balakireff

Scenery and costumes: Leon Bakst

Performed Tour 1 and 3

Union Pacific

Australian premiere

An American ballet in one act and four scenes

Choreography: Leonide Massine

Music: Nicolas Nabokoff based on folk songs of the period 1860

Libretto: Archibald MacLeish

Scenery: Valentine Kashuba

Costumes: Irene Sharaff

Performed Tour 2

FIRST TOUR: OCTOBER 1936 – JULY 1937

Colonel W. De Basil's Monte Carlo Russian Ballet (sometimes abbreviated to Monte Carlo Russian Ballet) toured Adelaide-Melbourne-Sydney-New Zealand-Brisbane-Sydney-Melbourne-Adelaide.

Note: (E) denotes an evening performance, (M) denotes a matinee.

Personnel

Dancers as listed in cast lists

Ballerinas: Helene Antonova, Valentina Blinova, Irina Bondireva, Nathalie Branitzka, Mona Dimidova, Mira Dimina (Madeleine Parker), Helene Ducrailova, Nina Golovina, Margot Guerard (Mary Garina), Vanda (or Wanda) Grossen, Xenia Kalinowska, Helene Kirsova, Marija (or Moussia) Korjinska, Vera Lipska, Tatiana Mouravieva, Nina Natova,

Helene Polouchina, Nina Raievska, Lilia (or Lelia) Roussova, Anna Severska, Anna Skarpa (or Anna Skarova), Elisabeth Souvorova (Betty Scorer), Tamara Tchinarova, Maria Valevska, Olga Valevska, Irina Vassilieva, Sonia Woizikowska and Nina Youchkevitch

Also appearing briefly (Source: Walker, 1982): Jean Brandon, Edna Brusse, Cherlova (Melbourne, 1937), Peggy Chauncey (Petrova), Patricia Cape, Jean Edwards, E. Georgieva, Joan Hope, Anne Mackentosh (Anne Chloe Elder), Marianne Martin, Mourova, Lindsay Shaw and Alexandra Stepanova.

Male dancers: Savva Andreieff, Thomas Armour, Jean Aykoff, Valentine Baline, Birger Bartholin, Jashf Crandall (Joseph Crandall), Joseph (or Jash or Jashf) Dolotine, Alexis Frank, Valentin Froman, Roland Guerard, Jean (or Jan) Hoyer, Milos Ristic, Ivan (or Vania or Jean) Rykoff, Valery Shaevsky, Thadee Slavinsky, Arnold Spirka, Dmitri Tovaroff, Serge Unger (or Serge Ungern), Serge Vladimiroff, Marjan Winter, Igor Youskevitch and Leon Woizikowsky.

Also appearing briefly (Source: Walker, 1982): Vassilie Trunov.

Dance staff

Choreographer: Leon Woizikowsky

Maitre de ballet/Regisseur-General: Leon Woizikowsky

Regisseur/Assistant Regisseur: Jean Hoyer

Music staff

Principal conductor: Jascha Horenstein

Associate conductor/musical director: Ivan Clayton

Management

Director: Jacques Lidji

Founder and Director General: Col. W. de Basil

Colonel de Basil's representative: Alexander Philippov

Liaison officer: Arnold Haskell

General tour publication

DIGITISED

[Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo \(Col. W. de Basil's\) Ltd. : Australia and New Zealand, season 1936-1937.](#) New York : Nicolas Publishing Co, 1936. [29 p.] : ill. (some col.), ports. ; 31 cm.

A souvenir book issued for the Australasian tour featured a coloured cover of a reproduction of an original design by Ivan Bilibine of five women in Russian regional costume. The book contained a group photo of the company ; portraits of dancers ; synopses to 20 ballets ; 8 pages of colour illustrations of costumes, colour illustrations of scenery for *Aurora's wedding*, *Pulcinella*, *Scheherazade*, *Soleil de nuit*, *L'oiseau de feu*, *Les cent baisers*, *Cotillon*, *Scuola di ballo* and *Les presages*.

DIGITISED [Advertising leaflet](#)

1 leaflet, 11 x 25 cm., cream paper. Name of the company in red, probably used as signage.

Tour 1: Adelaide

Theatre Royal, 13–28 October 1936

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

DIGITISED Magazine program: [Three issues were published for the Adelaide season](#). All have 32 pages and contain stories of 21 ballets, with several biographies of the artists and the company. Portraits of the three principals, some soloists and the baby ballerinas such as Sonia Woizikowska are included. The remainder of the content is theatre gossip, advertisements, etc. Two issues had the same cover of a ballerina wearing a green hat. Above the illustration are the words "Colonel W. de Basil's Monte Carlo Russian Ballet, Theatre Royal, Adelaide". Two contain programs of ballets to be performed in Programs 1-3 and 4-5 respectively. Another issue announced the exclusion of *Le spectre de la rose*.

The program of ballets changed twice weekly.

Cast lists: Cast lists were not usually included in the Adelaide magazine programs.

Advertising: 1 leaflet, 11 x 25 cm., crème paper. Name of the company in red, probably used as signage.

Season

- Tuesday, 13 (E), Wednesday, 14 (M&E) and Thursday, 15 (E) October 1936 **DIGITISED**
Overture: *Prince Igor* (Borodin)
Les sylphides (Australian premiere), *Scheherazade* (Australian premiere), *Le spectre de la rose* (Australian premiere), *La boutique fantasque* (Australian premiere)
"Program 1" as advertised in the first magazine program.
NLA does not hold a separate cast list.
- 16 (E), 17 (M&E) and 19 (E) October 1936
Overture: *Prince Igor* (Borodin)
Carnaval (Australian premiere), *Scheherazade* (Australian premiere), *Le beau Danube* (Australian premiere), *Le spectre de la rose*
"Program 2" as advertised together with Program 1 in the first magazine program.
NLA does not hold a separate cast list.

- Saturday, 17 (E) October 1936
Overture: *Prince Igor* (Borodin)
Carnaval, Scheherazade, Le beau Danube, Le spectre de la rose
- Tuesday, 20 (E), Wednesday, 21 (M&E) and Thursday, 22 (E) October 1936 **DIGITISED**
Overture: *Merry wives of Windsor* (Nicolai)
Le lac des cygnes (Australian premiere), *La boutique fantasque, L'apres midi d'un faun* (Australian premiere), *Prince Igor* (Australian premiere)
"Program 3" as advertised together with programs 1 and 2 in the first magazine program.
NLA does not hold a separate cast list.
- Thursday, 22 (E) October 1936
Overture: *Merry wives of Windsor* (Nicolai)
Le lac des cygnes, La boutique fantasque, L'apres-midi d'un faune, Prince Igor
- Friday, [23 \(E\)](#), [Saturday, 24 \(M&E\)](#) and [Monday, 26 \(E\) October 1936](#) **DIGITISED**
Les sylphides, Les presages (Australian premiere), *Le beau Danube*
"Program 4" as advertised in the second magazine program.
NLA does not hold a separate cast list.
- Tuesday, [27 \(E\) October 1936](#) **DIGITISED**
Carnaval, Le mariage d'Aurore (Australian premiere), *Le beau Danube*
"Program 5" as advertised with program 4 in the second magazine program.
NLA does not hold a separate cast list.
- Wednesday, [28 \(M&E\) October 1936](#) - gala farewell **DIGITISED**
Les presages, Le beau Danube, Le mariage d'Aurore
Program as advertised in the second magazine program.
NLA does not hold a separate cast list.

Tour 1: Melbourne

His Majesty's Theatre, 31 October – 22 December 1936

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

DIGITISED

Magazine program: Two covers issued for the Melbourne season. The [first cover](#) for the earlier part of the season has a Baroque couple with a hovering cupid. This issue has 34 pages. It includes page length portraits of Woizikowsky, Blinova, Kirsova as well as smaller portraits of other soloists. There are illustrations of scenes from five ballets and articles on the Company's history, and the history of the Russian ballet. The [second cover](#) features a ballerina with a green hat. This larger issue has 46 pages. Title page lists the company of 46 members and two conductors. Stories of the ballets are included with several

biographies of the artists, company with portraits. Additional ballets such as *Fantasia chinois*, *Casse noisette*, *La concurrence* were advertised but there is little evidence of them being performed.

Ballet programs changed weekly on Saturday; however, they were not printed in the magazine program.

Cast lists:

Provide a statement of the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances usually over various periods, from one to six nights, beginning on Saturday, evening.

A complete set of cast lists is held for this season, with annotations by hand indicating the changing program (JCW/BS, Volume 24).

Season

Weeks commencing:

- [Saturday, 31 October 1936](#) DIGITISED – and [second copy with cast changes](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les sylphides, *Scheherazade*, *Le mariage d'Aurore*
- [Saturday, 7 November 1936](#) DIGITISED – and [second copy](#) with cast changes DIGITISED
Overture: *Merry wives of Windsor* (Nicolai)
Carnaval, *Les presages*, *La boutique fantasque*
- [Saturday, 14 \(E\) November 1936](#) DIGITISED
Le lac des cygnes, *Petrouchka* (Australian premiere), *L'apres-midi d'un faune*, *Prince Igor*
- [Wednesday, 18 \(E\) November 1936](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Merry wives of Windsor* (Nicolai)
Le lac des cygnes, *Petrouchka*
- [Saturday, evening, 21 November 1936](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Oberon* (Weber)
Scuola di ballo, *Le spectre de la rose*, *L'amour sorcier*, *Le beau Danube*
- [Saturday, 21 \(E\) November 1936](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Oberon* (Weber)
L'amour sorcier (Australian premiere), *Le spectre de la rose*, *Scuola di ballo* (Australian premiere), *Le beau Danube*
Order changed for remainder of week commencing Monday, evening, 23rd November.
- [Saturday, 28 \(E\) November 1936](#) DIGITISED - and [second copy](#) with cast changes DIGITISED
Overture: *Ruslan and Ludmilla* (Glinka)

Cotillon (Australian premiere), *L'oiseau de feu* (Australian premiere), *Le mariage d'Aurore*

- [Saturday, 5 December 1936](#) DIGITISED – and [second copy](#) with cast changes DIGITISED
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les sylphides, *Contes russes* (Australian premiere), *Les cent baisers* (Australian premiere), *Prince Igor*
- [Tuesday, 8 \(E\) December 1936](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les sylphides, *Contes russes*, *Les cent baisers*, *Prince Igor*
- [Wednesday, 9 \(M\) December 1936](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les sylphides, *Contes russes*, *Les cent baisers*, *Prince Igor*
- [Wednesday, 9 \(E\) December 1936](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les sylphides, *Contes russes*, *Scheherazade*
Program change.
- [Thursday, 10 \(E\) December 1936](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les sylphides, *Scheherazade*, *Contes russes*
Same as for Wednesday, evening except different order of program.
- [Friday, 11 \(E\) December 1936](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les sylphides, *Scheherazade*, *Contes russes*
Same as for Thursday, evening except for cast changes.
- [Saturday, 12 \(M\) December 1936](#) DIGITISED
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les sylphides, *Contes russes*, *La boutique fantasque*
Program change.
- [Saturday, 12 \(E\) December 1936](#) DIGITISED
Thamar (Australian premiere), *Carnaval*, *Port Said* (Australian premiere), *Petroushka*

And the [“Gala program for the last four performances”](#): DIGITISED

- Saturday, 19 (E) December 1936
- Monday, 21 (E) December 1936
- Tuesday, 22 (M&E) December 1936
- *Le lac des cygnes*, *Les presages*, *Soleil de nuit* (Australian premiere), *Le beau Danube*

Tour 1: Sydney

DIGITISED

Magazine program for [Theatre Royal, 26 December 1936 – 26 February 1937](#)
[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Magazine program: One cover was used for the Sydney season containing a design by Norman Lindsay of a scene from *Scheherazade*. Some of the issues include the artist's name on the cover. Many magazine programs were issued, each varying slightly regarding articles and advertisements. All issues contain 40 pages. A title page featured the members of the company [between 43-44] and the two conductors. Stories of all ballets performed in Sydney were included as well as biographies and portraits of the principals, some soloists, the baby ballerinas, and the company.

Programs of ballets performed were not printed in the magazine program.

Issues of the Magazine program released prior to the season had a cover of a ballerina *en pointe* with an orchestra at her feet. They contained 40 pages and approximately 30% of it was given to the forthcoming JCW attractions, notably the ballet company. They included portraits of Woizikowsky, Blinova and Kirsova and others, introductions to the art of the ballet, biographies of some of the artists and baby ballerinas. Advertised repertoire included *The good humoured ladies* which was not performed in this season.

Cast lists: Cast lists provide a statement of the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances over various periods, from 1-6 nights, beginning on Saturday, evening.

A complete set is held for this season, each annotated by hand or typed indicating daily changes (JCW/BS, Volume 24).

Season

Weeks commencing:

- Saturday, 26 December 1936
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les sylphides, Scheherazade, Le mariage d'Aurore
- Saturday, 2 January 1937
Overture: *Merry wives of Windsor* (Nicolai)
Carnaval, Les presages, La boutique fantasque

- Saturday, 9 (E) January 1937
Le lac des cygnes, Port Said, Le spectre de la rose, Petrouchka
- Saturday 16 January 1937
Overture: *Oberon* (Weber)
Les sylphides, Le beau Danube, L'apres-midi d'un faune, Prince Igor
- Wednesday, 20 (M) January 1937
Overture: *Oberon* (Weber)
Les sylphides, Le beau Danube, L'apres-midi d'un faune, Prince Igor
- [Wednesday, 20 (E) January 1937]
Overture: *Oberon* (Weber)
Les sylphides, Le beau Danube, L'apres-midi d'un faune, Prince Igor
Matinee deleted with autograph of date change to evening.
- [Friday, 22 (E) January 1937]
Same program as Wednesday, evening, 20 January 1937. Matinee deleted with autograph of date change to evening.
- Saturday, 23 (E) January 1937
Overture: *Ruslan and Ludmilla* (Glinka)
Cotillon, L'oiseau de feu, Le mariage d'Aurore
- Saturday, 30 January 1937
Le lac des cygnes, L'amour sorcier, Les cent baisers, La boutique fantasque
- Saturday, 6 (M) February 1937
Le lac des cygnes, L'amour sorcier, Les cent baisers, La boutique fantasque
- Saturday 6 February 1937
Carnaval, Soleil de nuit, Scuola di ballo, Scheherazade
- Saturday 13 (M) February 1937
Carnaval, Soleil de nuit, Scuola di ballo, Scheherazade
- Saturday 13 (M), Monday-Wednesday, 15-17 (M) February 1937
Les sylphides, Port Said, Les presages, Prince Igor
- Wednesday-Saturday, 17-20 (M) February 1937
Le lac des cygnes, Port Said, Petrouchka, Prince Igor
- Saturday, (M), 20 (M) February 1937
Le lac des cygnes, Port Said, Petrouchka, Prince Igor
- Saturday 20 February 1937
Thamar, Le spectre de la rose, L'oiseau de feu, Le beau Danube
- Friday 26 February 1937 - gala farewell performance
Carnaval, Port Said, Les presages, La boutique fantasque

Tour 1: New Zealand

February-April 1937

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Souvenir program: Colonel W. de Basil's Monte Carlo Russian Ballet, New Zealand, 1937. [Sydney : J.C. Williamson, 1937]. 36 p. : ill., ports. ;28 cm.

Issued on glossy paper for the New Zealand tour featuring the Sydney cover by Norman Lindsay as well as a "Behind scenes" design by his brother Daryl Lindsay. The title page lists the 42 members of the company, and the conductors. Four programs of ballets to be performed were printed in the souvenir book. Also included are a brief history of company, page length portraits of de Basil, Woizikowsky, Blinova, Kirsova, Horenstein as well as smaller portraits of others, and biographies of artists. A centrefold montage of photos is entitled "Scenes and personalities. Colonel W. de Basil's Monte Carlo Russian Ballet". Brief summaries of the ballets included.

Wanganui Opera House Saturday, 20 March 1937

Publications

Advertising: Cover title "The greatest ballet tour in history! J.C. Williamson Ltd's huge attraction : Colonel W. de Basil's Monte Carlo Russian Ballet". 1 folded sheet [5 pages] ; 29 cm.

"Behind scenes" design by Daryl Lindsay. A second sketch by him included as no. 3.

Centrefold taken from the souvenir program with some changes. Includes 15 illustrations of rehearsal, portraits, and performances. Advertisement includes a repertoire of *Les sylphides*, *Scheherazade*, *Le mariage d'Aurore*.

Tour 1: Brisbane

His Majesty's Theatre, 8-27 May 1937

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Magazine program: Cover for the Brisbane season contains a design by Norman Lindsay of a scene from *Scheherazade*. Some of the issues include the artist's name on the cover. A title page featured the members of the company [between 43-44] and the two conductors. Stories of all ballets performed in Brisbane were included as well as biographies

and portraits of the principals, some soloists, the baby ballerinas and the company.

Programs of ballets performed were not printed in the magazine program.

Earlier issues held include publicity about the company, stories of the ballets, biographies and portraits of the dancers.

Season

Note: Season and dates taken from [Potter](#).

- 8, 10-12 (M&E) May 1937
Les sylphides, Scheherazade, Le mariage d'Aurore
NLA does not hold magazine program or cast lists.
- 13-15 (M&E) and 17-18 May 1937
Les cent baisers, Les presages, La boutique fantasque
NLA does not hold magazine program or cast lists.
- 19 (M&E) and 20-22 (M&E) May 1937
Le Lac des cygnes, Soleil de nuit, Port Said, Prince Igor
NLA does not hold magazine program or cast lists.
- 24-26 (M&E) May 1937
Carnaval, Le spectre de la rose, Scuola di ballo, Le beau Danube
NLA does not hold magazine program or cast lists.
- Thursday, 27 May 1937 - Gala farewell
Scheherazade, La boutique fantasque, Les cent baisers
NLA does not hold magazine program or cast lists.

Tour 1: Sydney

Theatre Royal, 29 May – 18 June 1937 – return season

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Magazine program: Same in style, format, cover, content and advertisements as for the first Sydney season.

Only one cover of the magazine program was used for the return Sydney season containing a design by Norman Lindsay of a scene from *Scheherazade*. Some of the issues include the artist's name. Many magazine programs were issued, each varying slightly regarding articles and advertisements. Issues contain 40 pages. A title page lists the members of the company [between 43-44] and the two

conductors. Stories of all ballets performed in Sydney included. Biographies and portraits of the principals, some soloists, the baby ballerinas and the Company.

Programs of ballets performed were not printed in the magazine program.

Issues released prior to the season have a cover of a ballerina *en pointe* with an orchestra. They contain 36 pages and approximately 30% devoted to forthcoming JCW attractions, notably the ballet season. They include portraits of Woizikowsky, Blinova and Kirsova and others, introductions to the art of the ballet, biographies of some of the artists including the baby ballerinas.

Cast lists:

Provide a statement of the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances usually over four nights, commencing Saturday, and Thursday, evenings.

Some cast lists advertise Max Dupain's photographic exhibition of the artists and the Company:- "*The magnificent collection of photographs of members of the Monte Carlo Russian Ballet, at present being displayed in the foyer of the Theatre Royal, are from the studio of Max Dupain.*"

Season

- Saturday, 29 May 1937 - also Monday, 31 May; Tuesday, 1 June; and Wednesday, 2 (M) June
Le lac des cygnes, Les presages, Le spectre de la rose, Prince Igor
- Wednesday 2 June 1937 - also Thursday 3 June; Friday 4 June; and Saturday, 5 (M) June
Overture: *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Nicolai)
Les cent baisers, L'oiseau de feu, La boutique fantasque
- Saturday, 5 (E) June 1937 - also Monday, 7 June; Tuesday, 8 June; and Wednesday, 9 (M) June
Overture: *Merry wives of Windsor* (Nicolai)
Les sylphides, Contes russes, Le beau Danube
- Saturday, 5 (E) June 1937 - also Monday, 7 June; Tuesday, 8 June; and Wednesday 9 (M) June
Changes to dance order for *Contes russes*.
Overture: *Merry wives of Windsor* (Nicolai)
Les sylphides, Contes russes, Le beau Danube
- Wednesday, 9 (E) June; Thursday, 10 (E) June; Friday, 11 (E) June; and Saturday, 12 (M) June 1937

Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)

Cotillon, Scheherazade, Le mariage d'Aurore

- 12, 14-16 (M) June 1937
Carnaval, Scuola di ballo, Le spectre de la rose, Petrouchka
NLA does not hold cast list.
- Tuesday, 15 (M) June 1937
Carnaval, Scuola di ballo, Spectre de la rose, Prince Igor
- 16-18 (M) June 1937
Les sylphides, Thamar, Port Said, Le beau Danube
NLA does not hold cast list.

Tour 1: Melbourne

His Majesty's Theatre, 19 June – 6 July 1937 – return season

[See also Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Souvenir book: J.C. Williamson re-used the ballerina with the green hat as the cover for the souvenir book for the return Melbourne season. It contains 42 pages with page length portraits of de Basil, Woizikowsky, Blinova, Kirsova and Horenstein. There are smaller portraits of de Basil's representatives, Clayton, the soloists and the baby ballerinas. A title page lists the company of 43 members and two conductors. It includes articles, biographies of some of the artists and stories of the ballets included.

Magazine program: The same two covers used for the first season were re-issued for this season. The first of a Baroque couple with a hovering cupid and the second of a ballerina with a green hat. Contents are the same as for the first season.

Programs of ballets performed are not printed in magazine program.

Cast lists: Provide a statement of the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances usually over a period of four days, with changes on Saturday, and Wednesday, evenings.

Some Cast lists held.

Season

Note: Season and dates taken from [Potter](#).

- 19 and 21-23 (M) June 1937
Le lac des cygnes, Les presages, Le spectre de la rose, Prince Igor
NLA does not hold separate cast list.
- 23 (E) and 24 June 1937
Les cent baisers, L'oiseau bleu, Le beau Danube
NLA does not hold separate cast list.
- 25-26 (M&E) June 1937
Les sylphides, Port Said, Le spectre de la rose, La boutique fantasque
NLA does not hold separate cast list.
- 28-30 (M) June 1937
Carnaval, Scuola di ballo, Petrouchka
NLA does not hold separate cast list.
- Wednesday, 30 (E) June and Thursday, 1 (E) July 1937
Les sylphides, Thamar, Port Said, Le mariage d'Aurore
- Friday, 2 (E) July 1937
Overture: *Merry wives of Windsor* (Nicolai)
Carnaval, Soleil de nuit, Les presages, Le beau Danube
- Saturday, 3 July (M&E) 1937
Carnaval, Soleil de nuit, Contes russes, Le beau Danube
NLA does not hold separate cast list.
- Monday, 5 (E) July and Tuesday, 6 (M&E) July 1937
Le lac des cygnes, Scheherazade, Le mariage d'Aurore

Tour 1: Adelaide

Royal Theatre, 7-14 July 1937 – return season

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Souvenir book: J.C. Williamson re-issued the cover from the Sydney seasons featuring Norman Lindsay's scene from *Scheherazade* for this return season with the title:- "Souvenir program 6d Colonel W. de Basil's Monte Carlo Russian Ballet".

Contains 32 pages and includes page length portraits of Woizikowsky, Blinova, Kirsova and smaller portraits of the other soloists, and Ivan Clayton. Biographies of them are also included as well as an article on de Basil by Arnold Haskell and stories of the ballets.

One copy includes Irena Bondireva's signature adjacent to her portrait.

Magazine program: None held and it is not known whether magazine programs were issued for this season in addition to the souvenir program.

Cast lists: Provide a statement of the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances usually over various periods, from one to six nights.

Some held.

Season

Note: Season and dates taken from [Potter](#).

- 7-8 July 1937
Les sylphides, Port Said, Contes russes, La boutique fantasque
NLA does not hold separate cast list.
- 9-10 (M) July 1937
Thamar, Le spectre de la rose, Scuola di ballo, Prince Igor
NLA does not hold separate cast list.
- Saturday, 10 (E) July and Monday, 12 (E) July 1937
Overture: *Rosamunde* (Schubert)
Les cent baisers, Les presages, Le mariage d'Aurore
Includes single sheet insert of de Basil's portrait.
- Tuesday, 13 (E) July 1937
Carnaval, Soleil de nuit, L'amour sorcier, Le beau Danube
- Wednesday, 14 (M) July 1937
Carnaval, Soleil de nuit, L'amour sorcier, Le beau Danube
- Wednesday, 14 (E) July 1937
Le lac des cygnes, Scheherazade, Le mariage d'Aurore
NLA does not hold separate cast list.

SECOND TOUR: September 1938 – April 1939

Covent Garden Russian Ballet toured Melbourne-Sydney-New Zealand-Melbourne-Adelaide.

Note: (E) denotes an evening performance, (M) denotes a matinee.

Personnel

Dancers as listed in cast lists

Ballerinas: Kira Abricossova, Irina Baronova, Irina Bondireva, Alexandra Denisova, Tamara Grigorieva, Vanda Grossen, Irina Kosmovska, Raissa Kouznetsova, Lina Lerina, Ludmila Lvova, June Mackay, Vera Nelidova, Lara Obidenna, Sono Osato, Galina Razoumova, Tatiana Riabouchinska, Lelia Roussova, Maria Sanina, Lisa Serova, Nadia Smirnova, Natasha Sobinova, Kira Strakhova, Tamara Tchinarova, Edna Tresahar, Anna Volkova, Irina Wassilieva and Helene Wolska.

Male dancers: Gregory Alexandroff, H Algeranoff, Alberto Alonso, Lorand Andahazy, Boris Belsky, Edouard Borovansky, Serge Bousloff, Anton Dolin, Edouard Dzikovsky, Jan Hoyer, Serge Ismailoff, ?Ivanoff, Roman Jasinsky, Marian Ladre, Yura Lazofsky, Narcisse Matouchak, Paul Petroff, Dimitri Rostoff, Borislav Runanine, Simon Semenoff, Yurek Shabelevsky, Valeri Shaivesky, Edouard Sobichevsky, Oleg Tupine and Valentin Zeglovsky.

Dance staff

“Ballets by Michel Fokine under his personal supervision”

Choreographer: David Lichine
Regisseur-General: Serge Grigorieff
Assistant Regisseur: Jan Hoyer

Music staff

Principal conductor: Antal Dorati
Assistant conductor: Vladimir Launitz
Leader of orchestra: Haydn Beck

Management

Educational Ballets Limited, Chairman and Director of Company: Victor Dandre
Managing Director: G. Sevastianov
Assistant Manager: V. Grigorieff

Tour 2: Melbourne

His Majesty's Theatre, 28 September – 21 November 1938

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Magazine program: The Magazine program for the Melbourne season varies from 50 to 54 pages. A sepia photograph cover of a scene from the ballet *Francesca da Rimini* is used for the season. The contents include “Stories of the ballets”, short biographies of “Stars of the ballet” plus conductor Antal Dorati and small publicity paragraphs on the company. Photograph portraits of Irina Baronova, Tatiana Riabouchinska, Anton Dolin, David Lichine, Yurek Shabelevsky,

Paul Petroff, Antal Dorati, Tamara Grigorieva, Roman Jasinsky and some group photos of other members of the company.

Cast lists: Cover programs of ballets with casts for periods of three nights, occasionally four. The program of ballets changed once a week.

Advertising: Large advertising brochure for season. 4 page folder. Sepia tone photographs of stars and scenes from the ballets with listing of repertoire, stars, prices and ticket sales.

Small advertising brochure for part of season, October 6–27, includes ticket prices, repertoire.

Publisher's advertising flyer with scene from *Les Sylphides* with principal ballerinas Anna Volkova, Tatiana Riabouchinska and Vera Nelidova. One reproduced image from publisher's flyer advertising the book *Ballet in Australia : from Pavlova to Rambert* by Hugh P. Hall (1948).

Season

- 28-29 September (M&E) and Sunday, 30 (M) October 1938
Overture: *Capriccio Espagnol* (Rimsky-Korsakoff)
Les sylphides, *Cendrillon* (Australian premiere), *Le mariage d'Aurore*
- 1, 3-4 (E) and Wednesday, 5 (M&E) October 1938
Overture: *The Impresario* (Mozart)
Le lac des cygnes, *Symphonie fantastique* (Australian premiere), *Prince Igor*
- 6-7 (E) and Saturday, 8 (M&E) October 1938
Overture: *The Impresario* (Mozart)
Les dieux mendians (Australian premiere), *Petrouchka*, *La concurrence* (Australian premiere)
- 10-11 (E) and Wednesday, 12 October 1938
Overture: *Fete Poloniase* (Chabrier)
Jeux d'enfants (Australian premiere), *Choreartium* (Australian premiere), *Scuola di ballo*
- 13-14 and Saturday, 15 (M&E) October 1938
Overture: *La Cenerentola* (Rossini)
Les femmes de bonne humeur (Australian premiere), *Scheherazade*, *La spectre de la rose*, *Soleil de nuit*
- Tuesday, 18 (M) October 1938
Scheherazade replaced by *Cendrillon* (see [Potter](#) listing and advertisement in previous cast list).
No separate cast list held for this matinee

- 17, 18 (E) and Wednesday, 19 October 1938
Overture: *The Impresario* (Mozart)
Jeux d'enfants, Le coq d'or (Australian premiere), *Prince Igor*
- 20-21 (E) and Saturday, 22 (M&E) October 1938
Overture: *Capriccio Espagnol* (Rimsky-Korsakoff)
Le lac des cygnes, Cendrillon, Protee (Australian premiere), *Danses slaves et tziganes* (Australian premiere)
- 24-25 (E) and Thursday, 26 (M&E) October 1938
Overture: *Capriccio Italien* (Tchaikowsky)
Cotillon, Les presages, Protee
Orchestral interlude: *Kamarinskaya* (Glinka)
Danses slaves et tziganes
- 27-28 (E) and Saturday, 29 (M&E) October 1938
Overture: *La Cenerentola* (Rossini)
Les dieux mendians, Le coq d'or, Bolero, La concurrence
- Saturday, 29 October 1938
Bolero included in performances according to [Potter](#) listing and advertisements in program
No separate cast list held
- Monday, 31 October; Tuesday, 1 (E) November and Wednesday, 2 (M&E) November 1938
Overture: *The Impresario* (Mozart)
Les sylphides, Bolero, Scheherazade, Le mariage d'Aurore
- 3-4 November (E) and Saturday, 5 (M&E) 1938
Overture: *Hungarian folk dances* (Weiner)
Le lac des cygnes, Petrouchka
Orchestra: *Danze ed aria antiche* (Respighi)
Union Pacific (Australian premiere)
- 7-8 (E) and Saturday, 9 (M&E) November 1938
Overture: *Fete Polonaise* (Chabrier)
Symphonie fantastique, La spectre de la rose
Orchestral interlude: *Kamarinskaya* (Glinka)
Danses slaves et tziganes
- 7-8 (E) and Wednesday, 9 (M&E) November 1938
Overture: *Fete Polonaise* (Chabrier)
Les Cent Baisers, Symphonie fantastique, La spectre de la rose
Orchestral interlude: *Kamarinskaya* (Glinka)
Danses slaves et tziganes

- 10-11 (E) and Saturday, 12 (M&E) November 1938
Overture: *Midsummer night's dream* (Mendelssohn)
Papillons (Australian premiere), *Le coq d'or*, *Le mariage d'Aurore*
- 14-15 (E) and Wednesday, 16 (M&E) November 1938
Overture: *La Cenerentola* (Rossini)
Les sylphides, *Les presages*, *Protee*, *Union Pacific*
- 17-18 (E), Saturday, 19 (M&E) and Monday, 21 (E) November 1938
Overture: *Capriccio Espagnol* (Rimsky-Korsakoff)
Le lac des cygnes, *Cendrillon*, *Le mariage d'Aurore*

Tour 2: Sydney

Theatre Royal, 25 November 1938 – 26 January 1939

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Magazine program: Magazine program for the Sydney season is consistently 48 pages. Two covers were used: one is a colour reproduction of a pastel/crayon drawing by Daryl Lindsay of a ballet dancer on stage. The other cover appears briefly towards the end of the ballet season, from 20 January onwards. It is plain white with brown lettering with the name of the company.

The contents include stories of the ballets, and biographies of leading dancers. Photographs of members of the company are more numerous than in the Melbourne magazine program and include Irina Baronova (a different portrait to the one used in the Melbourne season), Tatiana Riabouchinska, Antal Dorati, Anton Dolin, David Lichine, Tamara Grigorieva, Michel Fokine, Yura Lavovsky, Lisa Serova, Paul Petroff, Roman Jaskinsky, Vladimir Launitz, Anna Volkova, and Sono Osato.

Cast lists: Cover programs of ballets and casts for 6 night seasons. In mid January they change to 3 night seasons, with the program changing once a week.

The most complete set of cast lists are held in the bound volumes at JCW/BS as indicated below.

Advertising: Four fold large brochure for season in red and yellow. Illustrated with photos of stars and scenes from ballets. Full repertoire listed with ticket prices.

Season

- 25-26, 28, 30 (E) and 26 November, 1 December (M&E) 1938
Les sylphides, Le coq d'or, Le mariage d'Aurore
- 2, 5-6, 8 (E) and 3, 7 (M&E) December 1938
Papillons, Symphonie fantastique, Protee, Prince Igor
- 9, 12-13, 15, (E) and 10, 14 (M&E) December 1938
Les femmes de bonne humeur, Le spectre de la rose, Union Pacific
- 16, 19-20, 22 (E) and 17, 21 (M&E) December 1938
Overture: *Capriccio Espagnol* (Rimsky-Korsakoff)
La concurrence, Le lac des cygnes, Petrouchka
- 23, 27, 29 (E) and 24, 26, 28 (M&E) December 1938
Jeux d'enfants, Les presages, Cendrillon
- 30 December 1938; 2, 3, 5 January 1939 (E) and 31 December 1938, 4 January 1939 (M&E)
Les sylphides, Le fils prodigue (world premiere), *Cendrillon*
- 6, 9-10, 12, (E) and 7, 11 (M&E) January 1939
Les dieux mendians, Choreartium, Le mariage d'Aurore
- 13, 16 (E) and 14 (M&E) January 1939
Carnaval, Symphonie fantastique, Scuola di ballo
- 17, 19 (E) and 18 (M&E) January 1939
Les cent baisers, Le fils prodigue, Scheherazade
- 20, 23 (E), and 21 (M&E) January 1939
Les sylphides, Le coq d'or, Le spectre de la rose, Danses slaves et tziganes
- 24, 26 (E) and 25 (M&E) January 1939
Le lac des cygnes, Petrouchka, Protee, Le mariage d'Aurore

Tour 2: New Zealand

February – March 1939

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Souvenir book: “New Zealand season 1939. The Covent Garden Russian Ballet.” 32 page ‘Program.’ Cover illustration in red and brown, drawing of the interior of a theatre including tiered boxes and curtain. Contents include same biographies, and photos of principal dancers as used in Australian magazine programs. Also included is a photo montage of 17 portraits and scenes from performances and rehearsal under title “Come back stage and meet the famous Covent Garden Russian

Ballet". Page 32 includes a reproduction of the Christmas card designed by Daryl Lindsay used by members of the company. It depicts koalas as dancers taking a bow on stage with a lizard as the conductor.

Repertoire for the New Zealand season is listed as comprising three programs:

- Program No. 1. *Carnaval, Le lac des cygnes, Cendrillon*
- Program No. 2. *Les dieux mendians, Scheherazade, Le mariage d'Aurore*
- Program No. 3. *Les sylphides, Les presages, Union Pacific*

Cast lists are included under each ballet. Itinerary of the New Zealand tour with dates and venues not given.

Program:

Cover title – "Maurice Ralph presents a Group of the Covent Garden Russian Ballet late of the J C Williamson Theatres Ltd and Royal Opera, Covent Garden, London". 4 fold with insert of program (ie the repertoire). Photos of Valeri Shaievsky, Petruche Orlova, Raissa Kousnetzova and Eduard Sobichewsky, plus pianist Feodor Pellack. Two statements in the brochure record that this company toured to "the provincial towns" and the "the smaller centres" but the exact itinerary is not given. The program in the insert lists solos, and pas de deux from *Les sylphides, Les matelots, Tarantella, Blue bird, Carnaval, Spectre de la rose, Sleeping beauty*, as well as 8 other special dances and instrumental solos.

Advertising:

3-fold advertising brochure printed on both sides. Issued for the Grand Opera House, Wellington season commencing Saturday, 18 February 1939 for "...eleven nights and special matinees". Same cover and art work as the souvenir book described above, including the same photo montage but with one additional photo. One fold has three large photographs of scenes from *Aurora's wedding, Les sylphides, and Scheherazade*. Brochure includes ticket prices and booking information.

Single sheet colour reproduction "Daryl Lindsay's impression of a dancer". Dated "New Zealand 1939". Same image as used on cover of Sydney magazine program.

Single sheet on yellow paper announcement the presentation at the 25 February matinee, of "*Le spectre de la rose*" due to "...hundreds of requests". Starring Paul Petroff and Tatiana Ribouchinska.

Tour 2: Melbourne

His Majesty's Theatre, 29 March – 12 April 1939 – return season

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Magazine program: Magazine programs for the return Melbourne season vary between 34 and 38 pages. Text and photos of the company are variations on those already used earlier in programs on the tour. Two covers are used. One is a sepia photograph of a scene from the ballet *Francesca da Rimini*. The other is a colour cover with the head of a blonde woman, an orchid and string of pearls. This latter cover was used widely for other J.C. Williamson magazine programs at the time. In some issues there is an additional eight page insert advertising the London Casino Revue appearing at the King's Theatre from 8 April 1939.

Cast lists: Cover programs of ballets for three or four night seasons.

Advertising: Single sheet, "Academy of Russian Ballet opening soon in Melbourne by Edward Borovansky Member of Covent Garden Russian Ballet. Details will be announced later...". Loose insert into magazine program with season 3-5 April 1939.

Invitation: Small slip of paper addressed "Dear Balletomane" inviting patrons to the "first entertainment sponsored by the Ballet Club of Victoria" at the Comedy Theatre on a Sunday, night (date not given). Dancers Dolin and Algeranoff "...have promised to attend ..." and to give lectures on ballet and Japanese dancing respectively. Loose insert in magazine program with season of 29 March – 1 April 1939.

Exhibition flyer: *Ballet photographs* / by Hugh P. Hall at the Sedon Galleries, Melbourne, Monday, March 27- Saturday, April 1, 1939. Photographs of performances in Melbourne by the Covent Garden Ballet Company. 1 folded sheet (3 pages ; 20 cm.) + single notice.

Season

- 25, 27-28 (E) March 1939
Carnaval, Choreartium, Le mariage d'Aurore
Conductor Launitz for *Le mariage d'Aurore*
- 29 March, April (M&E) and 30-31 March (E) 1939
Le lac des cygnes, Le fils prodigue, Cendrillon
- 3-4 (E) and 5 (M&E) April 1939
Les dieux mendians, Symphonie fantastique, Le spectre de la rose, Les femmes de bonne humeur

- 6 (E) and 8, 10 (M&E) April 1939
Les sylphides, Les presages, Protee, Cendrillon
- 11 April (M&E) 1939
The Gods go a-begging, The prodigal son, Le spectre de la rose, Le mariage d'Aurore
Listed in [Potter](#) and in advertisements in the cast list of the previous program as "Farewell performances".
- 12 April (M) 1939
Dieux mendiants, The prodigal son, La spectre de la rose, Le mariage d'Aurore
- 12 April (E) 1939
Le lac des cygnes, Symphonie fantastique, Le spectre de la rose, Le mariage d'Aurore
Cast list is headed "Farewell performance".

Tour 2: Adelaide

Theatre Royal, 13-26 April 1939

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Souvenir program: For the Adelaide season a 32 page souvenir program was issued. The cover was a reproduction in red and brown of an interior of a theatre seen from the stage with draped curtains and boxes (the same as the New Zealand cover). The contents included details of the company, photographs and biographies of dancers, conductors and key management personnel which had appeared in earlier programs.

Repertoire of the Adelaide season is listed as four programs which have been matched with the repertoire listed in [Potter](#) (based on advertisements in the newspaper *The Advertiser* (Adelaide)).

NB. Cast lists appear for each ballet in the Souvenir program.

Season

- 13-14 (E) and 15 (M&E) April 1939
Program No. 1. listed in souvenir program
Carnaval, Le lac des cygnes, Cendrillon
- 17-18 (E) and 19 (M&E) April 1939
Program No.2. listed in souvenir program
Les sylphides, Les presages, Le coq d'or

- 20-21 (M&E) April 1939
Program No. 3. listed in souvenir program
Les dieux mendians, Union Pacific, Protee, Le mariage d'Aurore
- 24-25 (E) and 26 (M&E) April 1939
Program No.4. listed in souvenir program
Les femmes de bonne humeur, Scheherazade, La spectre de la rose
The souvenir program announces that "*The final ballet on this farewell program to be selected by popular request*". [Potter](#) lists the ballet selected and performed as *Les presages*.
- 27 April 1939
Separate program issued - midnight performance. Farewell performance of principal artists.
Overture: *The impresario* (Mozart)
Les sylphides (with Baronova, Riabouchinska, Dolin), *L'apres-midi d'un faune* (with Lichine), *Bolero* (with Dolin), *Le lac des cygnes* (with Baronova, Dolin, Ismailoff, Pierce)
Jeux d'enfants (with Riabouchinska, Lichine), *Le mariage d'Aurore* (with Baronova, Riabouchinska, Dolin, Belsky)
NLA holds two versions: one on blue paper, one on cream.

THIRD TOUR: December 1939 – August 1940

Colonel W. de Basil's Covent Garden Ballet (also known as Colonel W. de Basil's Ballet Company and The Original Ballet Russe) toured to Sydney-Melbourne-Adelaide-Brisbane-Sydney. The latter title was used until the company closed in 1952.

Note: (E) denotes an evening performance; (M) denotes a matinee.

Personnel

Dancers as listed in cast lists

Ballerinas: Maria Azrova, Tatiana Bechenova, Kira Bounina , Lydia Couprina Alexandra Denisova, Nina Golovina , Marguerite Gontcharova, Tamara Grigorieva, Irina Lavrova, Anna Leontieva, Tatiana Leskova, Helena Lineva, Ludmila Lvova , Natasha Melnikova, Olga Morisova, Genevieve Moulin, Vera Nelidova, Vera Nemtchinova , Lara Obidenna, Sonia Orlova , Sono Osato, Nina Popova ,Galina Razoumova, Tatiana Riabouchinska, Nadia Smirnova, Natasha Sobinova, Tatiana Stepanova, Marina Svetlova, Lubov Tchernicheva, Tamara Toumanova, Nina Verchinina, Anna Volkova , Irina Zarova and Lubov Zlatina.

Male dancers: Gregory Alexandroff, H Algeranoff, Alberto Alonso, Lorand Andahazy, Boris Belsky, Edouard Borovansky, Nicolas Ivangine, Vladimir Irman, Serge Ismailoff , Roman Jasinsky, Marian Ladre, Yura Lazofsky, David Lichine, Serge Lifar Narcisse

Matouchak, Vassily Nicolaieff, Nicolas Orloff, Michel Panaieff, Paul Petroff, Dimitri Rostoff, Borislav Runanine, Igor Schwezoff, Georges Skibine, Sviatslov Toumine, Oleg Tupine, Serge Unguer, Kiril Vassilkovsky and Anton Vlasoff.

Dance staff

Choreographer: David Lichne

Regisseur-General: Serge Grigorieff

Music staff

Conductor: Antal Dorati

Assistant conductors: Max Goberman and Gabriel Joffe (for Sydney return season July-August 1940)

Management

O.B.R. Limited: Chairman T.H. Bischoff

Director: R.B. Popkiss

Colonel de Basil's Ballet Company, Founder and Director General: Col. W. de Basil

Tour 3: Sydney

Theatre Royal, 30 December 1939 – 13 March 1940

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage in 1939 and 1940](#)

Publications

Souvenir books: 'Souvenir completed by Claude Kingston'. Cover title "Souvenir Col.W.de Basil's Ballet. Australia-New Zealand 1939-40". Cover illustration in light brown of corps de ballet by Norman Lindsay. Printed by Peerless Press, Sydney? 38 pages. Inserted as the first page is a one page colour advertisement for the exhibition "Art for theatre and ballet" at David Jones. Design for advertisement by Loudon Sainthill. Page three has an etching by Harold Byrne of crowds arriving at a theatre – the name 'Theatre Royal' has been over-printed at the top of the page. Contains one page "Introduction" by Arnold Haskell on de Basil. No other text. Portrait photographs (63) of dancers and management. Photos of ballets in performance: *Les sylphides*, *Paganini*, *Good humoured ladies*, *Protee*, *Symphonie fantastique*, *Aurora's wedding*, *Swan lake*, *Francesca da Rimini*, *Les presages*, *Choreartium*. Centre spread contains a large montage of photos of the company on tour. A map of the Americas titled "The tour of 1932-1936" shows tours to locations in Canada and USA. A map of the rest of the world titled "The tour of 1936-1940" shows the companies' tours in Europe and to Australia and New Zealand, although the tour route and locations shown are not complete accounts of the antipodean tours. One other copy includes the words "Theatre

Royal" on the back cover.

Three copies held including one signed by several members of the company

A copy of the Russian ballet program for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, June-September 1938 was signed in Sydney in 1939 by members of the company who toured to Australia. 46 signatures are included. The program includes colour reproductions of designs for the following ballets which were all subsequently performed in Australia - *Coq d'or*, *Francesca da Rimini*, *Symphonie fantastique*, *Choreartium*, *Cimarosiana*, *Jeux d'enfants*, *Les cent baisers*.

"Art for Theatre & Ballet" souvenir season program for the Theatre Royal, Sydney. This program features "Many designs, Marquettes, and Costumes lent by Colonel W. de Basil" to the Exhibition "Art for Theatre and Ballet". The program includes a repertoire listing, portraits of all the principles and scenes from several performances. 38 pages [1940].

Magazine program: Two covers were issued in Sydney. One featuring a brown photo of the corps de ballet in a scene (from *Les sylphides*?) credited to photographer Lionel Lunn. This cover bears the name "Colonel W. De Basil's Covent Garden Ballet". A copy of this Magazine program has a cast list for the opening program stapled in, and pages numbered in sequence. This was presumably issued for opening night, 30 December 1940. A second and more commonly used cover is a reproduction of a red painting of the interior of a theatre seen from the stage, with tiers of boxes framed by draped curtains. This cover bears the name "Colonel W. de Basil's Ballet Company from Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Australia-New Zealand 1939-40". Both magazine programs are 32 pages. Photographs include: portraits of Colonel de Basil, Antal Dorati, Serge Lifar, David Lichine, Tatiana Riabouchinska, Tamara Toumanova, Tatiana Stepanova, Tamara Grigorieva, Anna Volkova, Alexandra Denisova, Roman Jasinsky, Paul Petroff, Yura Lazovsky, Michel Panaieff, Dimitri Rostoff, H. Algernoff.

Cast lists: Provide the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances over various periods, from one to six nights. Some cast lists have individual dates printed at the top of the first page – these dates have been noted.

Most complete set of Cast lists are held in the bound volumes at JCW/BS as indicated below.

Advertising: One small sheet announcing the ballet *Francesca da Rimini* "For the first time in Sydney". Photo of Lubov Tchernicheva in costume,

“Guest artist performing the role she created in this ballet”. Loose insert in magazine program for 3 January.

Small brochure headed “The greatest ballet tour in history” which includes list of leading dancers, ticket prices, etc. Three copies with slightly variant texts and repertoires for different periods in the Sydney season held. Note: These advertised repertoires do not necessarily tally with the repertoire in the final cast lists.

Single sheet headed “Colonel W. De Basil’s Ballet Company”, comprising black and white portrait photos of Nina Verchinina, Olga Morosova, and Sono Osato. Loose insert into Magazine program for 5 January 1940.

One sheet advertisement/invitation for an ‘Exhibition of art for theatre and ballet’ at David Jones, George Street, 5 February “for one month”. It consisted of “500 original decor, costume, setting and backcloth designs” from productions of de Basil, Vic Wells Ballet, C.B. Cochran etc... Artists represented include Benois, Beaton, Messel, Fedorovitch, Goncharova and the Australian Loudon Sainthill.

Single sheet headed “Memories of the ballet by Lionel Lunn”, advertising the pictures of the ballet company by Lionel Lunn for sale in the foyer of the theatre. Inserted in JCW/BS vol. 28 as 7 March 1940.

Season

- 30 December 1939, 2-5 January (E) and 3 (M&E) January 1940
Les sylphides, Paganini, Le mariage d’Aurore
Piano solo in *Paganini*, Eric Landerer
Cast list covering all dates listed above included in magazine program, pages 15-18.
- 5, 8-9, 11 (E) and 6, 10 (M&E) January 1940
Carnaval or Les sylphides, Paganini, Le spectre de la rose, Les femmes de bonne humeur
Piano solo in *Paganini*, Eric Landerer
NLA holds cast lists dated January 5-6 (E), 8-10 (M&E) JCW/BS vol. 28.
Note: Cast list dated 6 January (M) has *Les sylphides* as first ballet.
- 12, 15-16, 18 (E) and 13, 17 (M&E) January 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Cimarosiana, Protee, Cendrillon
Harp solo in *Protee*, Joyce Lang
Cast lists dated for all performances as listed above held in JCW/BS vol. 28.

- 19, 22-23, 25 (E) and 20, 24 (M&E) January 1940
Les sylphides, L'oiseau de feu, L'après-midi d'un faune, Prince Igor
Flute solo for *L'après-midi d'un faune*, Americo Gagliardi
Cast lists dated for all performances as listed above held in JCW/BS vol. 28.
- 26, 29-30 January, 1 (E) February and 27, 31 (M&E) January 1940
*Les dieux mendians, Francesca da Rimini **, Le spectre de la rose, Les femmes de bonne humeur or Le mariage d'Aurore or Cendrillon*
Cast lists dated 26, 29-31 January (M&E) in JCW/BS vol. 28 have *Les femmes de bonne humeur* as last ballet; 27 January held in JCW/BS Vol.28 has *Cendrillon* as last ballet; 31 January and 1 February held in JCW/BS Vol.28 have *Le mariage d'Aurore* as last ballet.
- 2 (E) and 3 (M&E) February 1940
Jeux d'enfants, Choreartium, Cimarosiana
Cast lists dated Friday, 2 February held in JCW/BS vol. 28; cast lists for Saturday, February 3 (M&E) held as separates.
- 5-6, 8 (E) and 7 (M&E) February 1940
Paganini, Jeux d'enfants, Choreartium
Cast lists held for dates listed above in JCW/BS vol. 28.
- 9, 12-13, 15 (E) and 10, 14 (M&E) February 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Les presages, Protee, Le Danube bleu
Harp solo in *Protee*, Joyce Lang
Cast lists held for dates listed above in JCW/BS vol. 28.
- 16, 19-22 February 1940
Papillons, Le coq d'or, Icare (word premiere) and *Prince Igor*
Cast lists held for dates listed above in JCW/BS vol. 28.
- 17 (M&E) February 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Le coq d'or, Protee, Le Danube bleu
Special performances in aid of Red Cross, cast lists held in JCW/BS vol. 28.
- 23, 26-27, 29 (E) and 24, 28 (M&E) February 1940
Les cent baisers, Symphonie fantastique, Pavane (world premiere), *Le Danube bleu*
Cast lists for dates listed above held in JCW/BS vol. 28.
- 1, 4-5, 7 (E) and 2, 6 (M&E) March 1940
Les sylphides, Graduation ball (world premiere), *Petrouchka*.
Cast lists for dates listed above held in JCW/BS vol. 28.
- 8 and 9 March 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Scheherazade, Le spectre de la rose, Le Danube bleu
Cast lists for dates listed above held in JCW/BS vol. 28.

- 11 March 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Scheherazade, Le spectre de la rose, Graduation ball
Cast list held dated 11 March at JCW/BS Vol.28 and as separate.
- 12 March 1940
Le mariage d'Aurore, Les presages, Protee, Graduation ball
Note: Program decided as a "Result of plebiscite" with cast list held in JCW/BS vol. 28.
- 12 March 1940
"Midnight performance for Polish Relief organised by Col. W.de Basil and Polish members of the Company". Seventeen Divertissements performed including world premiere of Etude choreographique, Choreography by Verchinina to music of Handel.
Program held as one folded sheet (4 pages), with line drawing on cover by Y.Lazowsky. Back cover lists members of the Committee for Midnight Concert.
- 13 March 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Le mariage d'Aurore, Protee, Le Danube bleu
Note: Program decided by "Result of plebiscite" with cast list held in JCW/BS vol. 28.

Tour 3: Melbourne

His Majesty's Theatre, 14 March – 4 June 1940

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications.

Souvenir program: Cover title "Souvenir. Col. W. de Basil's Ballet. Australia-New Zealand 1939-40". Cover illustration in light brown of corps de ballet by Norman Lindsay. Printed by Speciality Press, Sydney? 50 pages. Back cover - Souvenir 'completed by Claude Kingston'. 11 pages of Melbourne based advertising. Inserted at page 8 is a one page colour advertisement for the exhibition "Art for theatre and ballet", "...to be held in Melbourne during the season". Design by Loudon Sainthill. Page three has one photo of the audience at the Theatre Royal, Sydney attending a performance of the company and another of the dancers taking curtain calls with de Basil. Contains one page "Introduction" by Arnold Haskell on de Basil. Inserted at page 34 is a half page, blue photograph of corps de ballet from "Les sylphides". Portrait photographs (63) of dancers and management.

Photos of ballets in performance: *Les sylphides, Paganini, Good humoured ladies, Protee, Symphonie fantastique, Aurora's wedding, Swan*

lake, Francesca da Rimini, Les presages, Choreartium. Same photographs as in Sydney edition but presented in different order.

Centre spread contains large montage of photos of the company on tour. A map of the Americas titled "The tour of 1932-1936" shows tours to locations in Canada and USA. A map of the rest of the world titled "The tour of 1936-1940" shows the companies' tours in Europe and to Australia and New Zealand, although the tour route and locations shown are not complete accounts of the antipodean tours.

Magazine program: 42 pages with cover of blonde woman, orchid and pearls. Contains stories of ballets and portraits of leading dancers and personnel.

Cast lists: Provide the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances over various periods, from one to seven nights. Some cast lists have *individual dates* printed at the top of the first page – these dates have been noted.

Advertising: One sheet advertisement/invitation for an 'Exhibition of art for theatre and ballet' at the Exhibition Gallery, Mural Hall, The Myer Emporium, Melbourne, April 18 –May 16. It consisted of "500 original décor, costume, setting and backcloth designs from productions of de Basil, Vic Wells Ballet, C.B.Cochran etc... Artists represented include Benois, Beaton, Messel, Fedorovitch, Goncharova and the Australian Loudon Sainthill". NLA holds several copies, loosely inserted into magazine programs, eg. 29 April 1940.

Exhibition flyer: *Ballet photographs* / by Hugh P. Hall at the Sedon Galleries, Melbourne, 13-24 May 1940. Photographs of performances in Melbourne by Colonel W. de Basil's Ballet Company taken during the 1937 and 1939 ballet seasons in Melbourne. 1 folded sheet ([2] p. ; 24 cm.)

Season

- 14-15, 18-19, 21-22, (E) and 16, 20,23 (M&E) March 1940
Les sylphides, Paganini, Le mariage d'Aurore
NLA- Cast list for 20 March.
- 25-26, 28-29 (E) and 27, 30 (M&E) March 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Francesca da Rimini, Pavane, Le Danube bleu
- 1-2, 4-5 (E) and 3, 6 (M&E) April 1940
Cimarosiana, Les presages, Protee, Prince Igor
Harp solo in *Protee*, Adrian Bendall
- 8-9, 11-12 (E) and 10, 13 (M&E) April 1940
Les sylphides, Le coq d'or, Graduation ball

- 15-16, 18-19, (E) and 17, 20 (M&E) April 1940
Les femmes de bonne humeur, Symphonie fantastique, Le mariage d'Aurore
Note: Cf. [Potter](#)'s listing which substitutes *Graduation ball* for *Le mariage d'Aurore* on 19-20 April.
- 22-23, 25-26 (E) and 24, 27 (M&E) April 1940
Les dieux mendians, L'oiseau de feu, Graduation ball
- 29-30 April and 1 May (M&E) 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Francesca da Rimini, L'apres-midi d'un faune, Le Danube bleu
- 2-3 (E) and 4 (M&E) May 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Paganini, L'apres-midi d'un faune, Le Danube bleu
Flute solo for *L' apres-midi d'un faune*, Americo Gagliardi
- 6-7, 9-10 (E) and 8,11 (M&E) May 1940
Papillons, Petrouchka, Le spectre de la rose, Graduation ball
- 9 May 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Divertissements, Graduation ball
Special charity matinee in aid of Royal Melbourne Hospital and Children's Hospital. NLA holds photocopy of original program held in National Gallery of Australia Research Library.
- 13-14, 16-17 (E) and 15, 18 (M&E) May 1940
Carnaval, Thamar, Icare, Cendrillon/Le coq d'or
NLA holds two cast lists issued for the period 13-18 May 1940
One cast list announces season "For six nights...13-18 May" with *Cendrillon* as final ballet; another announces season "For three nights ..16-18 May" has *Le coq d'or*" as final ballet. Both cast lists direct patrons to "See dailies for Matinees".
NB. [Potter](#) also notes that *Le coq d'or* replaced *Cendrillon* for some performances.
- 20-21, 23-24 (E) and 22, 25 (M&E) May 1940
Le pavillon (Australian premiere), Scheherazade, Choreartium
- 27-28 May 1940
Le lac des cygnes, L'oiseau de feu, Scuola di ballo
- 29 (M&E) and 30 (E) May 1940
Les sylphides, Paganini, Scuola di ballo
Piano solo in *Paganini*, Erich Landerer
- 31 May (E) and 1 June (M&E) 1940
Les sylphides, Icare, Les presages, Le Danube bleu
- June 3,4 (E)
Graduation ball, Le coq d'or, Le mariage d'Aurore

NLA holds two cast lists issued for 3 and 4 June. One has order of ballets as *Le mariage d'Aurore, Le coq d'or, Graduation ball*; other is headed "Final performance" has order of ballets as *Graduation ball, Le coq d'or, Le mariage d'Aurore*.

Tour 3: Adelaide

Theatre Royal, 5-22 June 1940

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Magazine program: 24 pages. Cover has red scene of theatre auditorium from a stage as per Sydney and Melbourne Magazine programs. Includes stories of the ballets plus 30 portrait photographs of dancers and members of the music staff.

Cast lists: Cast lists provide the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances over various periods, from three to four nights. Some Cast lists have individual dates printed at the top of the first page – these dates have been noted in the list which follows.

Advertising: One sheet advertisement/invitation for an 'Exhibition of art for theatre and ballet' at the Australian Art Gallery, 97 Rundle St, Adelaide, June 18-July 2 – inserted into cast list for 22 June. It consisted of "500 original décor, costume, setting and backcloth designs from productions of de Basil, Vic Wells Ballet, C.B.Cochran etc... Artists represented include Benois, Beaton, Messel, Fedorovitch, Goncharova and the Australian Loudon Sainthill".

Season

- 5-8 June 1940
Les sylphides, Paganini, Le Danube bleu
- 10-11 (E) and Wednesday, 12 June 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Francesca da Rimini, Le spectre de la rose, Graduation ball
- 13-14 (E) and Saturday, 15 (M&E) June 1940
Le pavillon, Petrouchka, Graduation ball
Piano solo for Petrouchka – Dorothy Mendoza
- 17-18 June 1940
Les femmes de bonne humeur, Les presages, Pavane, Le mariage d'Aurore
NLA does not hold cast list. Program taken from [Potter](#).
- 20-21 June 1940
Les sylphides, Le coq d'or, Protee, Le Danube bleu
NLA does not hold cast list. Program taken from [Potter](#).

- 22 (M&E) June 1940
Le mariage d'Aurore, Le coq d'or, Graduation ball

Tour 3: Brisbane

His Majesty's Theatre, 26 June – 11 July 1940

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Magazine program: 24 p. Brown-sepia cover photo of corps de ballet [from *Les sylphides?*], photo credited to Lionel Lunn. Cover title "*Colonel W. de Basil's Covent Garden Ballet.*" Cf. Title page reads "*Colonel W. de Basil's Ballet Company from Royal Opera Covent Garden*". Included stories of ballets and 31 photo portraits of dancers and musical staff.

NLA holds 2 versions of the Magazine programs. Contents of the stories of the ballets vary and advertisements differ.

Cast lists: Provide the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances over various periods, from three to four nights. Some cast lists have individual dates printed at the top of the first page – these dates have been noted.

Season

- 26-27 (E) and Monday, 29 (M&E) July 1940
Les sylphides, Cendrillon, Graduation ball
- 1-3 July 1940
Paganini, Carnaval, Le Danube bleu, Le spectre de la rose
NLA does not hold cast list. Program taken from [Potter](#).
- 4-5 (E) and Saturday, 6 (M&E) July 1940
Francesca da Rimini, Le lac des cygnes, Protee, Le mariage d'Aurore
- 8-10 July 1940
Les femmes de bonne humeur, Les presages, Graduation ball
NLA does not hold cast list. Program taken from [Potter](#).
- Thursday, 11 July 1940
Le mariage d'Aurore, Les presages, Graduation ball
NLA does not hold cast list. Program taken from [Potter](#).

Tour 3: Sydney

Theatre Royal, 13 July – 21 August 1940

[See also contemporary Australian newspaper reportage](#)

Publications

Magazine programs: 24 p. Red cover of reproduction of painting of a view of a theatre auditorium from the stage with ballerina peeking around corner of curtain signed 'Bernie Bragg'. Cover and title page reads: "Original Ballet Russe, Director General Col. W. de Basil".

One edition of the Magazine program has stories of the ballets and photo portraits of the company. Another edition has stories of the ballets on one and half pages with the remainder taken up with advertising for forthcoming attraction "Ice Follies 1940".

Cast lists¹: Provide the 'Program' of ballets and casts covering performances over various short periods. Some cast lists have individual dates printed at the top of the first page – these dates have been noted.

Season

- 13-17 July 1940
Les sylphides, Icare, Les presages, Graduation ball
Cast lists held for 13 (E), 15, 17 (M&E) in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- 18-20 July 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Le fils prodigue, Le spectre de la rose, Scuola di ballo
Cast lists held for 18, 19, 20 (E) in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- 22-24 July 1940
Cotillon, Paganini, Le Danube bleu
Cast lists held for 22, 23, 24 (M&E) in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- 25-27 July 1940
Le pavillon, Paganini, Etude, Jeux d'enfants
Cast lists held for 25, 26, 27 (M&E) in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- 29 July – 3 August 1940
Le mariage d'Aurore, Lutte éternelle, Graduation ball
Cast lists held for 29, 30, August 1, 2, 3 (M&E) in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- 5-7 August 1940
Les sylphides, Symphonie fantastique, L'après-midi d'un faune, Les cent baisers
Cast lists held for 5, 6, 7 (M&E) in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- 8-10 August 1940
Le lac des cygnes, Thamar, Protee, Les dieux mendiants
Cast lists for 8, 9, 10 (M&E) in JCW/BS vol. 29.

¹ Cast lists have "Original Ballet Russe" as company name. The most complete set of cast lists are held in the bound volumes at JCW/BS.

- 12-14 August 1940
Francesca da Rimini, Pavane, Coppelia
Cast lists held for 12, 13, 14 (M&E) in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- 15-17 August 1940
Carnaval, Les presages, Coppelia
Cast list held for 15, 16, 17 (M&E) in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- Monday, 19 August 1940
Paganini, Coppelia, Le Danube bleu
NLA does not hold cast list. Program taken from [Potter](#) and advertisement in previous cast lists.
- Tuesday, 20 August 1940
Paganini, Coppelia, Etude, Graduation ball
Cast list held in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- Wednesday, 21 August 1940
Paganini, Coppelia, Le mariage d'Aurore
Cast lists dated Wednesday, matinee August 21 held as separate and in JCW/BS vol. 29.
- Thursday, 19 September 1940
Theatre Royal, "Farewell Original Ballet Russe. Midnight performance"
Carnaval, Divertissements (10), Le mariage d'Aurore
Program held in JCW/BS vol. 29. 4 sheets folded, cream parchment with blue printed text.

Australian dancers performing in overseas tours

Valrene Tweedie was the only Australian-born dancer to perform with the Original Ballet Russe who would have appeared in the United States and Cuba. Anna Volkova, who settled in Australia in 1946, also performed in some of these tours. Information about American seasons and all information for the following tours from this period is taken from Tweedie's personal collection of programs in within the [Papers of Valrene Tweedie, 1938-2008 papers](#).

Tour: United States, (1940)

51st St. Theatre, Broadway, 21 November – 17 December 1940

Publications

Advertising Material:

Small booklet containing the dates of performances, and the ballets to be performed. The title is "Ballet Russe"; there is no cover image.

Held in MS Acc 09.027 Box 1B. The NLA does not hold separate programs from these performances.

Season

- Thursday, 21 (E) November 1940
Cotillon, Petrouchka, Protee, Prince Igor
- Friday, 22 (E) November 1940
Les Sylphides, Coq D'Or, Graduation Ball
- Saturday, 23 (M) November 1940
Swan Lake, Petrouchka, Protee, Prince Igor
- Saturday, 23 (E) November 1940
Cotillon, Fantastic Symphony, Graduation Ball
- Sunday, 24 (M) November 1940
Les Sylphides, Cinderella, Graduation Ball
- Sunday, 24 (E) November 1940
Swan Lake, Paganini, Scheherezade
- Monday, 25 (E) November 1940
Les Sylphides, The Eternal Struggle, Pavane, Graduation Ball
- Tuesday, 26 (E) November 1940
Les Sylphides, The Prodigal Son, Aurora's Wedding
- Wednesday, 27 (E) November 1940
Swan Lake, Afternoon of a Faun, Paganini, Cimarosiana
- Thursday, 28 (E) November 1940
Carnaval, Choreartium, Coq D'Or
- Friday, 29 (E) November 1940
Carnaval, Choreartium, Coq D'Or
- Saturday, 30 (M) November 1940
Les Sylphides, Cinderella, Cimarosiana
- Saturday, 30 (E) November 1940
Swan Lake, Destiny, Scheherezade
- Sunday, 1 (M) December 1940
Les Sylphides, Cinderella, Graduation Ball
- Sunday, 1 (E) December 1940
Les Sylphides, The Eternal Struggle, Afternoon of a Faun, Graduation Ball

- Monday, 2 (E) December 1940
Les Sylphides, Fantastic Symphony, Graduation Ball
- Tuesday, 3 (E) December 1940
Swan Lake, Paganini, Aurora's Wedding
- Wednesday, 4 (E) December 1940
Swan Lake, Destiny, Aurora's Wedding
- Thursday, 5 (E) December 1940
Swan Lake, Coq D'Or, Aurora's Wedding
- Friday, 6 (E) December 1940
Carnaval, The Firebird, Spectre de la Rose, Prince Igor
- Saturday, 7 (M) December 1940
Carnaval, The Firebird, Spectre de la Rose, Prince Igor
- Saturday, 7 (E) December
Carnaval, Paganini, Graduation Ball
- Sunday, 8 (M) December 1940
Cotillon, Cinderella, Graduation Ball
- Sunday, 8 (E) December 1940
Cotillon, The Prodigal Son, Graduation Ball
- Monday, 9 (E) December 1940
Good-Humoured Ladies, Paganini, Aurora's Wedding
- Tuesday, 10 (E) December 1940
Swan Lake, The Eternal Struggle, Aurora's Wedding
- Wednesday, 11 (E) December 1940
Les Sylphides, Coq D'Or, Graduation Ball
- Thursday, 12 (E) December 1940
Les Sylphides, Coq D'Or, Graduation Ball
- Friday, 13 (E) December 1940
Good-Humoured Ladies, The Prodigal Son, Graduation Ball
- Saturday, 14 (M) December 1940
Swan Lake, Cinderella, Graduation Ball
- Saturday, 14 (E) December 1940
Swan Lake, Destiny, Scheherezade
- Sunday, 15 (M) December 1940
Carnaval, Cinderella, Spectre de la Rose, Prince Igor

- Sunday, 15 (E) December 1940
Swan Lake, Etude, Paganini, Graduation Ball
- Monday, 16 (E) December 1940
Good-Humoured Ladies, Coq D'Or, Pavane, Prince Igor
- Tuesday, 17 (E) December 1940
Les Sylphides, Paganini, Graduation Ball

Tour: United States, 1941

The Pickwick Theatre, Connecticut, 14 January 1941

Publications

Program: 4p. (1 folded A4 page) with no cover image; the cover title is "Original Ballet Russe". The program gives a partial cast list for each of the ballets performed.

Souvenir Book: 56p. souvenir book for the "Original Ballet Russe 7th American Tour 1941-1942", containing pictures, photographs of the ballets and the dancers, as well as synopses of each of the ballets performed on the tour.

Season

- Tuesday, 14 January 1941
The Swan Lake, Paganini, Graduation Ball
14E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B

Tour: United States, 1941

The Boston Opera House, Boston, 18 February – 22 February 1941

Publications

Magazine Program: 16p. magazine program with no cover image; the cover title is "Original Ballet Russe". The program gives a cast list for each of the ballets performed, brief synopses, and contains other articles and advertising.

Souvenir Book: 56p. souvenir book for the "Original Ballet Russe 7th American Tour 1941-1942", containing pictures, photographs of the ballets and the dancers, as well as detailed synopses of each of the ballets performed on the tour.

Season

- 18-22 February 1941
Les Sylphides, Paganini, Le Spectre de la Rose, Graduation Ball
18E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B

Tour: United States, 1941

Academy of Music, New York, 28 February 1941

Publications

Program: 4p. (1 folded A4 page) with no cover image; the cover title is "Original Ballet Russe". The program gives a partial cast list for each of the ballets performed.

Souvenir Book: 56p. souvenir book for the "Original Ballet Russe 7th American Tour 1941-1942", containing pictures, photographs of the ballets and the dancers, as well as detailed synopses of each of the ballets performed on the tour

Season

- Friday, 28 February 1941
The Swan Lake, Paganini, Graduation Ball
28E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B

Tour: Cuba, 1941

No holdings or further information.

Tour: Cuba, 1942

Teatro Auditorium, Havana, 25 March 1942

Publications

Program: 4p. (1 folded A4 page) with no cover image; the cover title is "Ballet Russo Original". The program gives a partial cast list for each of the ballets performed.

Season

- Wednesday, 25 March 1942
Los Cien Besos, Presagios, Baile de Graduacion (Graduation Ball)
25E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B

Tour: Cuba, 1944

Teatro Terry, Cienfuegos, 9 July 1944

Publications

Invitation: Flyer; 1 folded A4 page. The cover title is "Pro Artes y Ciencias presenta La Escuela de Ballet de Pro Arte Musica de la Habana". The invitation includes partial cast lists for each of the ballets to be performed.

Season

- Sunday, 9 July 1944
Divertissements, Rascacielos, Las Silfides
No program held. Invitation held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1A

Tour: Cuba, 1945-1946

Sociedad Pro Arte Musical, Habana, 8 May – 8 June 1945

Publications

Program: 4p. (1 folded A4 page) with no cover image; the cover title is "Sociedad Pro Arte Musical". The cover also gives the date of the next performance. The program gives a partial cast list for each of the ballets performed; the program for 8 May 1945 has an insert slip which gives synopses of the ballets.

Season

- Tuesday, 8 May 1945
Casse-Noisette, Divertissements
8E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1A
- Friday, 8 June 1945
Carnaval, Pas de Deux del Principe y la Princesa Azul, Giselle
8E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1A
- Tuesday, 10 September 1946
Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo (NB Serge Denham company)
Valrene Tweedie

Tour: United States, 1948

Metropolitan Opera House (39th and Broadway), New York, 18 September – 24 September 1948

Publications

Magazine Program: 36p. magazine program with an unattributed photograph of a ballerina on the cover; the cover title is "Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo". The program gives a cast list and brief synopsis for each of

the ballets performed, some information about the company, and other articles and advertising.

Season

- Saturday, 18 (E) September 1948
Les Sylphides, The Seventh Symphony, The Creation, Pas de Quatre, Gaité Parisienne
18E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Sunday, 19 (M) September 1948
Les Sylphides, Night Shadow, Gaité Parisienne
19M held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Sunday, 19 (E) September 1948
Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Scheherezade
19E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Tuesday, 21 (E) September 1948
Giselle, Pas de Quatre, Le Beau Danube
21E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Wednesday, 22 (E) September 1948
Concerto Barocco, Pas de Deux Classique, The Seventh Symphony
22E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Thursday, 23 (E) September 1948
Ballet Imperial, Pas de Quatre, Cirque de Deux, Le Beau Danube
23E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Friday, 24 (E) September 1948
Coppelia, The Blue Bird, Scheherezade
24E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B

Tour: United States, 1948

War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco, 29 November – 8 December 1948

Publications

Magazine Program: 12p. magazine program with an unattributed drawing of two ballet dancers on the cover; the cover title is “The One and Only Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo”. The program gives a cast list and brief synopsis for each of the ballets performed over the period from 29 November to 8 December, and contains some other articles and advertising. Only one program is held, from the performance on 6 December.

Season

- Monday, 29 (E) November 1948
Les Sylphides, The Seventh Symphony, Pas de Quatre, Gaité Parisienne
Not held.
- Tuesday, 30 (E) November 1948
Ballet Imperial, Cirque de Deux, Pas de Quatre, Le Beau Danube
Not held.
- Wednesday, 1 (E) December 1948
Swan Lake, Pas de Deux, Quelques Fleurs, Scheherazade
Not held.
- Thursday, 2 (E) December 1948
Concerto Barocco, Giselle, Madronos
Not held.
- Friday³ (E) December 1948
Seventh Symphony, Rouge et Noir, Gaité Parisienne
Not held.
- Saturday, 4 (M) December 1948
Cirque de Deux, The Nutcracker, Rodeo
Not held.
- Sunday, 5 (M) December 1948
Les Sylphides, Pas de Quatre, Madronos, Raymonda Divertissements
Not held.
- Sunday, 5 (E) December 1948
Mozartiana, Pas de Deux, Rouge et Noir, Quelques Fleur
Not held.
- Monday, 6 (E) December 1948
Concerto Barocco, Pas de Quatre, Coppelia
6E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Tuesday, 7 (E) December 1948
Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Scheherazade
Not held.
- Tuesday, 7 (E) December 1948
Giselle, Pas de Deux Classique, Quelques Fleurs
Not held.

Tour: United States, 1948

Music Hall, Houston, 23 December 1948

Publications

Program: 4p. (1 folded A4 page) with no cover image; the cover title is "The One and Only Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo". The program gives a partial cast list for the ballets performed.

Season

- 23 December 1948
Cirque de Deux, Quelques Fleurs, Divertissements from Raymonda
23E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B

Tour: United States, 1949

Page Auditorium, Durham (North Carolina), Thursday, 27 January 1949

Publications

Magazine Program: 12p. with an unattributed photograph of a ballet dancer on the cover; the cover title is "The One and Only Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo". The program gives a cast list and brief synopsis for the ballets performed, and contains some other articles and advertising.

Season

- Thursday, 27 January 1949
Raymonda Divertissements, Quelques Fleurs, Gaité Parisienne
27E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B

Tour: United States, 1949

Metropolitan Opera House (39th and Broadway), New York, 16 September – 23 September 1949

Publications

Magazine Program: 36p. magazine program with an unattributed photograph of a ballerina on the cover; the cover title is "Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo". The program gives a cast list and brief synopsis for each of the ballets performed, some information about the company, and other articles and advertising.

Season

- Friday, 16 (E) September 1949
Swan Lake, The Mute Wife, Pas de Deux Classique, Gaité Parisienne
16E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Saturday, 17 (E) September 1949
Les Sylphides, Pas de Deux Classique, The Mute Wife, Gaité Parisienne
17E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B

- Sunday, 18 (morning) September 1949
Swan Lake, Scheherezade, The Nutcracker
18M held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Sunday, 18 (E) September 1949
Concerto Barocco, Rodeo, Quelques Fleurs, Le Beau Danube
18E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Tuesday, 20 (E) September 1949
Coppelia, Paquita, Rodeo
20E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Wednesday, 21 (E) September 1949
Swan Lake, Graduation Ball, The Nutcracker
21E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Thursday, 22 (E) September 1949
Giselle, Madronos, Graduation Ball
22E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B
- Friday, 23 (E) September 1949
Ballet Imperial, Pas de Deux Classique, Paquita, Gaité Parisienne
23E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1B

Tour: Cuba, 1950

Teatro Auditorium, Habana, 26 November – 21 December 1950

Publications

Magazine Program: 28p. An unattributed drawing of ballerinas is used as the cover image. The cover text is "Ballet Nacional". The programs include brief synopses and cast lists, some information about the company, and advertising.

Season

- Sunday, 26 November 1950
Las Silfides, Concierto Cubano, El Bello Danubo
26E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1A
- Thursday, 21 December 1950
Panoram, Concierto Cubano, Baile de Graduacion
21E held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1A

Tour: Cuba, Date Unknown

Teatro Manzanillo, Manzanillo

Publications

Program: 4p. (1 folded A4 page) with no cover image; the cover title is "Sociedad Pro-Arte de Manzanillo presenta: en su Programa Inaugural al Ballet de Pro-Arte Musical de la Habana". The program gives a partial cast list for each of the ballets performed, as well as a (very brief) synopsis for each.

Season

- Date Unknown
Divertissements, Rascacielos, Las Silfides
Held in MS Acc 09.027 (Papers of Valrene Tweedie), box 1A