

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

890 Broadway
New York, New York 10003
(212) 477-3030

GISELLE

A History of ABT Productions

Giselle is one of the oldest continually-performed ballet, having had its World Premiere on June 28, 1841 at the Theatre de l'Academie Royale de Musique in Paris, with choreography by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, danced by Carlotta Grisi as Giselle and Lucien Petipa as Albrecht. Since then, this ballet has entered the repertoire of almost all of the major ballet companies in the world.

Giselle was first presented by American Ballet Theatre (then Ballet Theatre) during the Company's inaugural season at the Center Theatre in New York City on January 12, 1940. The original ABT production had choreography by Anton Dolin after Jean Coralli and scenery and costumes by Lucinda Ballard and was danced by Annabelle Lyon as Giselle and Anton Dolin as Albrecht. The Company has since performed five additional productions of *Giselle*.

The premiere of ABT's second production was performed on October 15, 1946 at the Broadway Theatre in New York City. The production featured choreography by Dimitri Romanoff, with contributions by George Balanchine and Antony Tudor, and scenery and costumes by Eugene Berman. Alicia Alonso and Igor Youskevitch danced the leading roles.

The third production of *Giselle*, directed by David Blair, with choreography by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, received its first performance at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre in Washington, DC on July 4, 1968, danced by Lupe Serrano as Giselle and Royes Fernandez as Albrecht. Scenery was by Oliver Smith and costumes by Peter Hall. It premiered in New York City at the Metropolitan Opera House on July 10, 1968 with the same cast.

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Using the Smith/Hall scenery and costumes, Mikhail Baryshnikov staged both the fourth and fifth productions of *Giselle* for ABT after choreography by Jean Coralli, Jules Perrot and Marius Petipa. The first premiered at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC on December 16, 1980, with Marianna Tcherkassky as Giselle and Baryshnikov himself as Albrecht; while the second, which featured additional staging by John Taras and Elena Tchernichova, received its first performance at the Filene Theatre at Wolf Trap Farm in Vienna, Virginia on August 28, 1985, danced by Miss Tcherkassky and Fernando Bujones.

American Ballet Theatre's current production was created for the film *Dancers*, produced in 1987 by Cannon Films. The film incorporates *Giselle* into its storyline. This production's first public performance was given on March 20, 1987 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, with Miss Tcherkassky as Giselle and Kevin McKenzie as Albrecht. It was staged by Mikhail Baryshnikov after Jean Coralli, Jules Perrot and Marius Petipa, with additional staging by John Taras and Elena Tchernichova. This production features scenery by Gianni Quaranta and costumes by Anna Anni.