

IN CURRENT REPERTORY

TIMING: Act 1 – 37:00
Act 2 – 41:00

WHIPPED CREAM

Choreography by Alexei Ratmansky

Libretto and Score by Richard Strauss

Sets and Costumes by Mark Ryden

Scenery Supervisor: Camellia Koo

Costume Supervisor: Holly Hynes

Lighting by Brad Fields

ACT I

On a beautiful Sunday, a Boy and his friends receive their first communion. To celebrate the special occasion, they are taken to a confectioner's shop, where they are served their favorite sweets. The Boy, who particularly loves whipped cream, eats so much that he becomes ill and has to be taken away.

With the children gone, the shop comes alive. Marzipan archers, spear-wielding Sugarplums, and swashbuckling Gingerbread Men engage in military exercises. Princess Tea Flower appears and is captivated by Prince Coffee, whom she chooses as her mate. Prince Cocoa and Don Zuccherio attempt to win her favor, to no avail.

The Chef appears with his bowl and whisk, whisking cream, and the shop fades away into a world of the Boy's dreams – a world made entirely of whipped cream.

ACT II

The Boy, still sick from too much whipped cream, finds himself in a dark and sinister hospital room attended by a Doctor and an army of Nurses. They give him medicine and leave the room. In their absence, a fantastic procession, led by Princess Praline, arrives and helps

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the Boy escape.

The Doctor is suffering from a headache. He tries to relieve his pain with liquor. Then the liquor bottles come to life. The Nurses return and see that the Boy has disappeared. They find him and lead him back to his bed, but the liquor bottles intervene and intoxicate the Doctor and Nurses, allowing Princess Praline to free the Boy and whisk him away to her kingdom.

In the main square of Princess Praline's domain, creatures of all kinds are celebrating. The Boy meets Nicolò, the Master of Ceremonies, who welcomes him to this fantasy world that will now become reality.

Whipped Cream, based on the two-act ballet, originally created as *Schlagobers*, with choreography by Heinrich Kröllner, received its World Premiere at the Vienna State Opera on May 9, 1924.

This production of *Whipped Cream* was given its World Premiere on March 15, 2017 at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California, danced by Daniil Simkin (The Boy), Stella Abrera (Princess Tea Flower), David Hallberg (Prince Coffee), and Sarah Lane (Princess Praline).

It was given its New York Premiere on May 22, 2017 at the Metropolitan Opera House, danced by the same cast.