

JOBURG
BALLET



CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

BY
ROALD
DAHL



A BALLET BY MARIO GAGLIONE
MUSIC COMPOSED BY MARK CHEYNE



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Photograph: Ryoka Yagyu - Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,
Joburg Ballet 2024
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CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

BY
**ROALD
DAHL**

A Ballet
in a Prologue and Two Acts



Choreography and Production
Mario Gaglione
Music
Mark Cheyne
Conductor **Chad Hendricks**
Assistant to the Choreographer
Nicole Ferreira-Dill
Set Design Concept
Mario Gaglione
Design Consultant
Andrew Botha
Costume Design Concept
Mario Gaglione
Costume Design and Construction
**Glynnis Higgins, Tammy Higgins,
Kobus O'Callaghan, Mari Robinson,
Yolanda Roos**
Lighting Design
Simon King

Joburg Theatre
4, 5, 11, 12 October at 19h00
5, 6, 12, 13 October at 14h00
9, 10 October at 11h00
2024

Cover **Jayden Samuels**
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Programme photography
Lauge Sorensen

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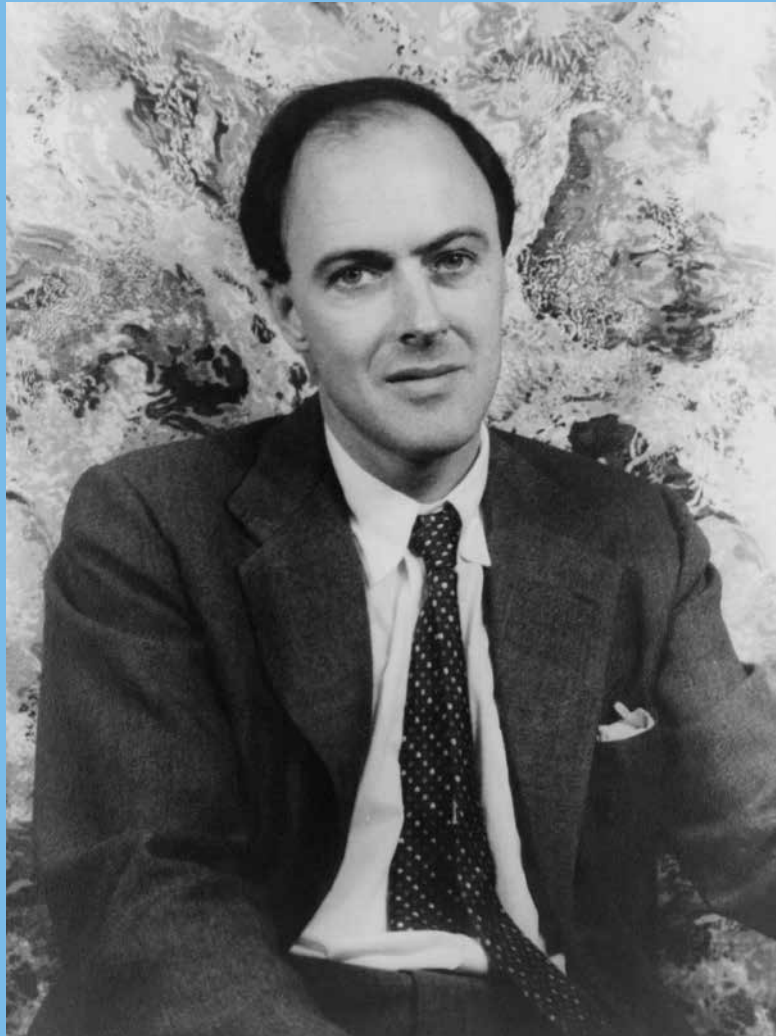
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We welcome any opportunity to discuss how we can best work together and find synergy in our work. Our interest is in building partnerships of shared value.

For more information or to arrange a meeting, please engage with our CEO, Elroy Fillis-Bell on elroy@joburgballet.com

ROALD DAHL

1916 – 1990



In buying your theatre ticket, you have directly benefitted the two Roald Dahl charities. 10% of all Roald Dahl author revenue goes to Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity - which helps seriously ill children to brave the unknown - and to the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre in Great Missenden - which aims to inspire excitement about reading, writing and creativity.

Find out more at www.roalddahlcharity.org and www.roalddahlmuseum.org.

Photograph by Carl Van Vechten





Elroy Fillis-Bell | CEO

As Willy Wonka says, "We are the dreamers of dreams." This project began with an idea from Mario Gaglione. I thank him for his dedication, work ethic and creativity, working with us to make this dream a reality. Welcome to Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, a world premiere ballet. I also extend a nod of appreciation to Joburg Ballet's previous executive for investing in Mario's choreographic talent over recent years and supporting the initial idea for this show. Thank you, Mark Cheyne for working closely with Mario and producing a magically delicious new musical score, performed by the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Chad Hendricks. We thank the South African Ballet Theatre Trust for their substantial grant towards all musical elements, music commissions and extra dancers for this work.

Our recently retired Principal, Nicole Ferreira-Dill, has supported Mario and our Artistic Team as Assistant to the Choreographer. I welcome our guest company, WGRUV, all our retired professional ballet dancers and extras, our Joburg Ballet Academy, and our Joburg Ballet School making up our 100 strong cast of performers. Thank you, Andrew Botha as Design Consultant, who made Mario's set ideas a reality and our Production Manager, Vanessa Nicolau, for making this stage design come to life. I thank the Friends of the Ballet for their contribution towards the manufacturing of sets. Thanks to our team of costume designers and manufacturers – Glynnis Higgins's unique chocolate and gold tutus, Mari Robinson's Oompa Loompas and Flakes, the male principal tailoring by Kobus O'Callaghan, the various pieces made by our own Yolanda Roos and a special thanks to our own Tammy Higgins for the various headdresses.

Thank you to our Principal Partners, the City of Joburg and the Joburg City Theatres. Further thanks to Air France, Lift and our chocolate partner, Beacon. Finally, I wish to extend gratitude to the Roald Dahl Story Company for taking a chance on the dream. As Grandpa Joe says, "I've heard tell that what you imagine sometimes comes true."



Mario Gaglione | Choreographer

I believe in hard work, opportunities, and a touch of magic. Occasionally, these three elements align perfectly, creating once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Isn't that what happened to Charlie? Perhaps the golden ticket I've found is just what I needed to share with you, my audience, what I've been dreaming of for years. I now understand what Charlie felt when he saw his golden ticket and marvelled at the wonders of the factory. There's a bit of Charlie in all of us, and our own golden tickets appear when we least expect them.

I am overwhelmed with gratitude and joy, and I can't fully express how much this means to me as a creator. My heartfelt thanks go to every special person who has supported this dream, in any capacity. My deepest gratitude goes to my family, who, despite the distance, have been patient and believing in me, and to my dear friends and loved ones who have been with me throughout this incredible journey.

I aimed to create something for everyone – children, adults, and everyone in between – and I hope you all find a piece of yourselves in this story. And as for the whimsy of Mr. Wonka, well, I'm already lost in that wonderland!

"However small the chance might be of striking lucky, the chance is there. The chance had to be there." R. Dahl



Mark Cheyne | Composer

From the moment Mario Gaglione told me he was intending to choreograph Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* as a ballet, I was excited at the prospect! I am honoured to have received the commission from Joburg Ballet to compose the score. The story is iconic and universally loved by so many people, and I knew it would attract a diverse audience.

Since this is a direct adaptation of the famous book by Roald Dahl, all the music is entirely original, orchestrated in the style of a traditional ballet. Creating the score and working with Mario has been fun and also a great challenge. Fantasy is an integral part of traditional ballet, and this a fantastical story, with larger-than-life characters and a plot full of marvels, mystery, magic and, of course, copious amounts of chocolate. I have aspired to capture all these elements in the music which will be performed by the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra. I'm looking forward to seeing it all come together, as well as the audience's reactions.

Mario Gaglione | Choreographer

Mario Gaglione was born in Torre del Greco, Italy, and studied at the ballet school of the Teatro Reale of San Carlo, Naples. He continued his training at the English National Ballet School in London and took part in the International Masterclass by Daria Kilmentova in Prague. While in the UK he performed with ENB2 and English National Ballet. On graduating in 2015, he joined Tulsa Ballet's second company, USA, under the direction of Marcello Angelini, where he danced works by a wide array of international choreographers, such as John Cranko, Edwaard Liang, Derek Deane, Ben Stevenson, Ma Cong, Jennifer Archibald, Josua L. Peugh, Paolo Mohovich, Young Soon Hue and Helen Pickett. In 2018 he danced at the contemporary festival of the Biennale of Venice directed by Marie Chouinard and later joined Ballet Ireland, dancing Albrecht in Ludovic Ondiviela's contemporary *Giselle* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Prince in *The Nutcracker* on Ballet Ireland's National Tour, and *Minus 16* by Ohad Naharin. In 2019 he danced with New English Ballet Theatre in works by Daniela Cardim, Morgann Runacre Temple and Peter Leung, and later joined the Grand Theatre of Łódź in Poland where he took part in ballet and opera productions. Mario joined Joburg Ballet as a soloist in 2020 and has danced Basilio in *Don Quixote*, *Flower Festival* at Genzano and all company productions. He has created for Joburg Ballet *The Silent Wanderer*, *One Last Note*, *The Game* and his first full-length ballet, Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. In association with the Embassy of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute in South Africa he has created *Piazze Invisibili*, *Inferno*, *Pasolini 100* and *A Ballet Tribute to Puccini*; for WGRUV he has created *Listen*; for Joburg Ballet Academy *Silver Lining*; for Jozi Youth Dance *The Sunflower's Tale* and *Cinderella*; and for The Royal Ballet's 2023 International Draft Works in London he created *Resilio*.

Mark Cheyne | Composer

Over the last three decades, award-winning composer and musical director Mark Cheyne has enjoyed a career at the top of the South African classical music world. He began his career in 1996 with Michael Hankinson, former resident ballet conductor at the State Theatre Pretoria and PACT Ballet. Together they produced hit concerts and theatre shows, including *Queen at the Ballet*, *The Elvis Las Vegas Extravaganza*, *Girltalk*, *In Concert - The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*, *Joburg Pops* and many more. Working independently since 2005, he recently was the main composer of the full-length ballet, *The Gold Rhino of Mapungubwe*, which premiered at the South African State Theatre in Pretoria in April 2023, produced by Mzansi Ballet. He composed the musical, *Third World Express*, which premiered at the Joburg Theatre in September 2022, a collaboration with internationally celebrated choreographer Gregory Maqoma. He is one of the most prolific music arrangers in South Africa with over 400 arrangements scored for orchestra. He is a sought-after musical director and has worked with many local and international stars. Productions include *RMB Starlight Classics*, *Vodacom CEO Awards*, *Joy of Jazz* (Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra), *Skouspel Onder die Sterre*, *KKNK Huisgenoot Pops*, *The 12 Days of Christmas* (SABC 2), *Viva! Queen*, *Starlight Pop Opera* (KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra) and many others. Five albums produced by Mark have been nominated for South African music awards. Together with executive producer Dr Reuel J. Khoza, he produced eight albums of the music of the legendary Tsonga choral composer SJ Khosa featuring various choirs and orchestras from around South Africa. He also composes music soundtracks for TV and Radio commercials as well as corporate events and is the recipient of a Loerie Craft Award (Music Composition).

Nicole Ferreira-Dill | Assistant to the Choreographer

Nicole Ferreira-Dill began her ballet training at the age of five and qualified in the Cecchetti Method and the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus. In 2008 she was awarded the RAD Solo Seal. At Pro Arte Alphen Park School she also trained in jazz, Spanish and contemporary dance. During 2004 and 2005 she was a participant at the Prix de Lausanne, Switzerland, and attended the Bartholin Dance Workshop in Copenhagen. She completed her Graduate year at South African Ballet Theatre (later renamed Joburg Ballet) in 2007 and was appointed to the corps de ballet in 2008. During her 17-year career with Joburg Ballet she achieved the rank of principal dancer, retiring from the stage in August 2024. Over her distinguished career Nicole danced many roles in an extensive repertoire of ballets, among them *Cinderella*, *Coppélia*, *Carmen*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *La Bayadère*, *Snow White*, *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *La Traviata-The Ballet*. As a guest artist she danced with the Tivoli Ballet Theatre in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Story

Prologue: Loompaland

While searching the forest for secret ingredients for his chocolates, Mr. Willy Wonka finds himself surrounded by Oompa Loompas. The scary encounter becomes a friendly meeting and the Oompa Loompas tell Wonka a story about the magic of their cacao beans. As the story unfolds, Chocolate appears from the cacao bean. Wonka is the only one who can see, feel and taste her magic.

Some years later, Willy Wonka would become the most famous chocolatier in the world – some would even claim the most successful man on the planet – and the owner of a magical chocolate factory. But as competitors copy his recipes, he shuts his factory's doors but mysterious work continues inside. Could it be the Oompa Loompas?

Act I

Scene 1: The Bucket Family house

It's Charlie's birthday. The poor but happy Bucket family learns Wonka is reopening his factory and hiding five Golden Tickets in Wonka Bars, offering a factory tour to the lucky finders. Grandpa Joe surprises Charlie with a bar, as he does every year for his birthday, but no luck for poor Charlie. Charlie heads to town but just as he leaves, Grandpa Joe secretly gives him the last of his savings to buy a new chocolate bar and try his luck again.

Scene 2: On the Way to Town

Everyone is heading for the town square to buy as many Wonka Bars as they can in their quest to find a Golden Ticket.

Scene 3: The Town Square

In the bustling square the Chocolate Seller is doing brisk business. Charlie buys a Wonka Bar with the money Grandpa Joe had given him. He opens it but, once again, there is no Golden Ticket. Always generous, Charlie gives the Wonka Bar to children in the town. The Chocolate Seller opens a newspaper announcing four of the five Golden Tickets have been found. The winners parade through the town with their parents. First is gluttonous Augustus Gloop followed by rich, indulged Veruca Salt, spoilt, gum-chewing Violet Beauregarde, and the rude brat, Mike Teavee.

Scene 4: Charlie Returns Home

Charlie makes his way home, discouraged because of his unlucky fate. His greatest dream is to enter Wonka's factory. His generosity and kind heart, however, don't go unrewarded, and on his way home he comes across one last Wonka Bar!

Charlie runs home, overwhelmed but still full of hope. He unwraps the chocolate bar and this time, to the excitement of all, a Golden Ticket shines through. Charlie is filled with happiness and asks Grandpa Joe to be his companion on the visit to the factory.

INTERVAL

Act II

Scene 1: Outside Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory

The Golden Ticket winners and their parents, including Charlie and Grandpa Joe, meet the exuberant Willy Wonka.

Scene 2: Inside the Chocolate Factory

The winners are greeted by the Oompa Loompas as Wonka shows off the most beautiful part of the factory, the Chocolate Room. Augustus Gloop, always hungry, starts eating from the chocolate waterfall despite Wonka's warnings not to do so. Trouble begins and Augustus and his mother are sucked into the chocolate waterfall as the others run to safety. In the confusion, Charlie meets Chocolate. Just like Wonka, Charlie can also see, feel and taste her magic, and is fascinated by her mysterious presence. He hides as Wonka rushes back. The master chocolatier and Chocolate herself indulge in a beautiful dance where time stops and everything is under a magical, delicious enchantment. Charlie secretly witnesses this dance and starts to understand how much more there is to this factory.

The children and parents run back in, confused. Wonka distracts them with his newest creation, a bubble gum which tastes like a full meal but warns it is not quite ready for public consumption. Violet doesn't hesitate to ignore Wonka's words and starts to chew it. The spoiled child blows up into a massive blueberry and is escorted away with her desperate mom.

Wonka urges the group to his pink boat to sail onto the chocolate river, where Charlie magically finds Chocolate again. He is more and more confused about the mystery behind her and the factory. His fascination keeps growing.

They finally arrive at the Nut Room, where Veruca and her dad meet their unlucky fate. The squirrel workers, which she insists on wanting to buy, rebel against her spoiled nature. They only listen to Mr. Wonka.

Next in line are Mike and his father. As Wonka shows them his shrinking invention, things get messy and Mike's bratty nature leads him to shrink to microscopic size, before they are escorted out, leaving Wonka, Charlie and Grandpa Joe alone.

Scene 3: The Glass Elevator

Wonka finally gets a chance to show Charlie what the factory is really made of and feels in his heart that Charlie is just like him. Chocolate appears again and connects them in a dance of magic and wonder. Wonka decides to offer Charlie the key to the factory, but the boy is too intimidated by this offer.

Scene 4: The Golden Room

Wonka transports Charlie into the last room where flakes and pralines dance for him. To crown the occasion, Chocolate and Wonka dance together one last time and it escalates into a feast of magic, happiness and imagination.

Charlie is now ready, destined to follow in Wonka's steps. Before everything vanishes, Willy Wonka presents him with the key once more, and this time, with a heart full of love, Charlie says yes!

Mario Gaglione

The Cast

Charlie Bucket
Willy Wonka
Chocolate
Mr. Bucket
Mrs. Bucket
Grandpa Joe
Grandma Josephine
Grandpa George
Grandma Georgina
Augustus Gloop
Mrs. Gloop
Veruca Salt
Mr. Salt
Violet Beauregarde
Mrs. Beauregarde
Mike Teavee
Mr. Teavee
Chocolate Seller
King Oompa
Oompa Prima
Sweepers, Townspeople, Vendors,
Flakes, Pralines, Oompa Loompas

Jayden Samuels
Revil Yon / Ruan Galdino / Ivan Domiciano / Bruno Miranda
Monike Cristina / Tammy Higgins / Ryoko Yagyu / Cristina Nakos
Gabriel Fernandes / Revil Yon
Tayla De Bie / Savannah Jacobson / Darragh Hourrides
Albertus Dreyer
Ashleigh Dames
Lerato Letlape
Virginia Constance
Ivan Domiciano / Marlon Sales / Miguel Franco-Green
Fiona Budd
Darragh Hourrides / Savannah Jacobson / Alice Le Roux / Kayleigh Smith
Christopher Montague
Chloé Blair / Latoya Mokoena / Ryoko Yagyu
Anya Carstens
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SOLOIST Olga Kern, piano
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Concert 4: 14 November 2024

CONDUCTOR Rebecca Tong
SOLOISTS Daniel Rowland, violin
Maja Bogdanovic, cello
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Mendelssohn Symphony No. 3, Op. 56 in a minor, "Scottish"



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Production Manager: Vanessa Nicolau • **Stage Manager:** Helen Surgeson • **Props:** Philani Masoed, Riaan Dreyer • **Followspotters:** Gugu Xabu, Jo Sathegke, Donald Gololo, Puleng Matlala • **Stage Technicians:** Caiphus Motena, Simon Legodi, Mike Mokwena, Edwin Hadebe, Marlon Mothwa, Lawrence Leburu, Thabang Khoza • **Set Construction:** Verita Brand and Scene Visual • **Props and Furniture source and build:** Vanessa Nicolau Theatre and Events (Pty) Ltd • **Décor painting and dressing:** Vanessa Nicolau Theatre and Events (Pty) Ltd • **Printing:** Way out Media



JOBURG CITY THEATRES

Chief Executive Officer: Xoliswa Nduneni Ngema • **Chief Financial Officer:** Vukani Magubane • **Chief Operating Officer:** Bridget Mashika • **Company Secretary:** Nare Mokgobi • **Artistic Director:** James Ngcobo • **Senior Technical Manager:** Enos Ramoroko • **Resident Company Manager:** Timothy Le Roux • **General Manager: Catering and Hospitality:** Branden Karim • **General Manager: Building and Security:** Pierre Pretorius • **Occupational Health & Safety Manager:** Lieb Venter • **Senior Customer Services Manager:** Justine Lipson • **Theatre Manager:** Mogapi Mokgautsi • **General Manager: Financial Accounting & Reporting:** Phumlani Nkomo • **General Manager: Supply Chain Management:** Graham Momphe • **General Manager: Human Resources:** Thomas Sadiki • **General Manager: Strategic Support:** Wendy Adams • **General Manager: Strategic Relations and Projects:** Lindiwe Lekasapa

A Municipal Entity of the City of Joburg

Board of Directors: Godfrey Katsana (Chairperson), Bernice Dollie, Bonga Kweyama, Andile Ledwaba, Virginia Tselane Magale, Rabone Moripe, Pamela Ndlovu, Sherray Petersen, Orapeleng Ramagaga, Candice Patricia Savage, Sbusiso Francisco Xaba, Vukani Magubane (CFO), Xoliswa Nduneni-Ngema (CEO)

THANK YOU

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Join the Joburg Ballet Mailing List and be kept up to date with all the company's productions, news and activities.

Send an email requesting to be added to the Mailing List to: info@joburgballet.com

Programme compiled by Jonathan Hurwitz

Latecomers will not be seated until a suitable break in the performance. Please ensure your cellphone is on silent.

Smoking is not permitted on the theatre premises except in designated areas. No recording equipment may be used, including cellphones, without arrangement with the Management. At the end of the performance please remain seated until the house lights are on.



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