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BALLET



# LA TRAVIATA

## THE BALLET



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La Traviata - Joburg Ballet 2024  
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# LA TRAVIATA

## THE BALLET

A Ballet in Three Acts

Choreography and Production by **Veronica Paeper**  
Music from the opera *La Traviata* by **Giuseppe Verdi**  
Arranged and with additional music for the  
ballet by **Allan Stephenson**  
Costume and Scenic Design by **Peter Cazalet**  
Set Design co-ordinated by **Vanessa Nicolau**  
Lighting Design by **Simon King**  
Costumes on loan from Cape Town City Ballet

The Teatro, Montecasino  
2, 3 August at 20h00  
3, 4 August at 15h00  
4 August at 11h00  
2024

Cover: Shannon Glover and Marlon Sales  
This page: Nicole Ferreira-Dill  
Production photographs by Lauge Sorensen



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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](mailto:elroy@joburgballet.com)



## From Elroy Fillis-Bell | CEO

This is a short but emotionally charged season for Joburg Ballet, as we present *La Traviata-The Ballet*, a work already layered with complex emotional journeys for its characters. I have great respect and admiration for Veronica Paeper, the choreographer of this ballet adapted from the Verdi opera of the same name. The doyenne of South African ballet is now an octogenarian, though age has not slowed her as she still commands the rehearsal studio with the same vigour, attention to detail and technical eye for perfection that has defined her more than fifty years as a choreographer. Veronica has been assisted by Joburg Ballet's Ballet Mistress, Kim Vieira, and Rehearsal Coach, Thabang Mabaso in this staging of her production as it comes to Montecasino's Teatro for the first time.

This season is emotional for the Company as it marks the end of two momentous performing careers. Shannon Glover, longest serving Principal Dancer with Joburg Ballet, is retiring after a storied 20-year career. Shannon was promoted to Principal in 2011 and has performed many of the classical roles a dancer could dream of achieving in her career. She has inspired countless dancers over the decades with her precision and poise, building a fan base that will no doubt miss her on stage in the coming years. Shannon closes *La Traviata-The Ballet* with her final performance on Sunday 4 August at 15:00.

Nicole Ferreira-Dill was appointed Principal Dancer with Joburg Ballet in 2018 and has built a legacy at the company spanning 17 years. Nicole's statuesque presence and superb technical ability, showcased in many leading roles over the years, epitomise a principal dancer and inspired many young ballerinas. She leaves behind a career any ballet performer would be envious of achieving. Nicole's final bow will be on Saturday 3 August at 15:00.

This is a moment to celebrate the decades of dedication and excellence exhibited in Shannon and Nicole's careers. We look forward to finding new opportunities with them as they evolve in their careers. Change is the only constant we can rely on, offering us new doors of opportunity and we look forward to seeing those who will grow in the space provided as Joburg Ballet turns a new page.

Thank you to our principal partners, the City of Joburg and Joburg Theatre, for their continued support. Thank you to Bryan Hill and the Montecasino team for the invitation and your professionalism throughout this season.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Joburg Theatre in October as we invite you into Willy Wonka's extraordinary factory. We'll take you on a magical adventure with the world premiere of a ballet inspired by Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, choreographed by Joburg Ballet's own Mario Gaglione. Bookings are now open, exclusively on Webtickets. This will not be one to miss.



## From Veronica Paeper | Choreographer

Marie Duplessis, born Alphonsine Plessis, a Norman peasant, became one of the most notorious courtesans of Paris in the early 1840s. One of her lovers was the young Alexandre Dumas but the affair lasted only eleven months and on 3 February 1847 Marie died of consumption at the age of twenty-four.

On hearing of her death, Dumas wrote a novel fictionalizing their relationship, and in 1848 it was published. Because of its great success and because it was common to do so at the time, Dumas adapted the book into a play but owing to censorship the production was postponed and the premiere only took place on 3 February 1852, five years to the day after the death of Marie.

In this, the Romantic Age, literary and performing arts usually addressed the exotic and the supernatural: monsters in *Frankenstein* (1818), Sylphs in *La Sylphide* (1832), and Wilis in *Giselle* (1841) were the order of the day. *La Dame aux Camélias* was an extraordinary novel for its time, not only presenting a story of contemporary characters but having a courtesan as the heroine and treating her with compassion when the prostitute was seen as the ultimate fallen woman, spreading a "miasmatic mist of disease and corruption" in a society of strict moral standards.

Another aspect of the story which would have caught the imagination of Dumas' mid-19th century audience was the fact that the Romantics had a macabre fascination with sufferers of tuberculosis and to "wear a consumptive appearance" was extremely fashionable. Dumas' heroine suffered from this illness, so death was imminent and that, with the possible redemption of her sins by the sacrifice of her great love for the honour of her lover's family, made the story more socially acceptable and indeed extremely popular, as it has remained to this day.

Dumas renamed the heroine Marguerite Gautier in his literary works. In Verdi's *La Traviata* (1853) she became Violetta Valery and in the 1930s Greta Garbo immortalized her in the film *Camille* directed by George Cukor. Whichever name we use, the character of this courtesan continues to fascinate interpreters, directors, choreographers and audiences worldwide.

# The Story | Die Verhaal | Udaba

## The Story

The action takes places in Paris and in Provence

### ACT I

#### Scene 1: The Germont household in Provence

Armand takes leave of his family.

#### Scene 2: Madame Flora's Salon

The ladies of the house are entertaining their gentlemen visitors. Armand's friends, Pierre and Gaston, bring him to the house against his will. Camille returns from the opera with Baron Douphol. Armand and Camille meet and she gives him a camellia, inviting him to visit her when the flower has faded.

#### Scene 3: Camille's boudoir

### INTERVAL

### ACT II

#### A House in the Country

Camille and Armand are living happily together, but unbeknown to Armand, Camille is selling her jewellery to support them. Friends invite them to a picnic, but Camille is not well and remains at home. Armand's father, M. Germont, arrives and tells Camille that if she truly loves Armand she will leave him so as to maintain the honour and good name of the Germont family. In great distress she leaves the house in haste. She writes a letter to Armand and explains that as she must live with a man of means, she is leaving him. Unaware of his father's visit, Armand returns from the picnic and realizes that Camille has left him. His father tries to comfort him.

### INTERVAL

### ACT III

#### Scene 1: Madame Flora's Salon

A scene of jollity, mirth and gambling unfolds in the salon. Camille is back on the arm of Baron Douphol when Armand walks in and interrupts the party by insulting Camille.

#### Scene 2: Camille's boudoir, some months later

His father has told Armand the truth of Camille's leaving him, but it is too late as Camille is dying.

## Die Verhaal

Die gebeure vind plaas in Parys en in Provence

### BEDRYF I

#### Toneel 1: Die Germont-huishouding in Provence

Armand neem afskeid van sy familie.

#### Toneel 2: Madame Flora se Salon

Die dames van die huis onthaal hulle mansbesoekers. Armand se vriende, Pierre en Gaston, neem hom teen sy sin na die huis. Camille keer terug van die opera saam met Baron Douphol. Armand en Camille ontmoet en sy gee vir hom 'n kamelia en nooi hom uit om haar te besoek sodra die blom verlep het.

#### Toneel 3: Camille se slaapkamer

### POUSE

### BEDRYF II

#### 'n Huis op die Platteland

Camille en Armand woon gelukkig saam, maar onwetend aan Armand, verkoop Camille haar juwele om hulle te onderhou.

Vriende nooi hulle na 'n piekniek, maar Camille voel olik en bly tuis. Armand se pa, M. Germont, arriveer en sê vir Camille dat, indien sy werklik lief is vir Armand, sy hom sal verlaat om sodoende die eer en goeie naam van die Germont-familie te behou. Paniekbevange verlaat sy spoedig die huis. Sy skryf 'n brief aan Armand en verduidelik dat, omdat sy 'n welgestelde man soek, sy hom verlaat. Onbewus van sy pa se besoek, keer Armand terug van die piekniek en besef dat Camille hom verlaat het. Sy pa probeer hom troos.

### POUSE

### BEDRYF III

#### Toneel 1: Madame Flora se Salon

'n Toneel van joligheid, vrolikheid en dobbelary ontvou in die salon. Camille is terug aan die arm van Baron Douphol wanneer Armand inloop en die partytjie onderbreek deur Camille te beledig.

#### Toneel 2: Camille se slaapkamer, enkele maande later

Armand se pa vertel hom die waarheid waarom Camille hom verlaat het, maar dit is egter te laat aangesien sy besig is om te sterf.

## Udaba

Isenzo senzeka eParis naseProvence

### INKUNDLA I

#### Isigcawu 1: Umndeni wakwaGermont eProvence

U-Armand uhamba nomndeni wakhe.

#### Isigcawu 2: Isaluni kaMam Flora

Izintokazi zasendlini zijabulisa abavakashi bazo besilisa. Abangani baka-Armand, uPierre noGaston, bamletha endlini engafuni. U-Camille ubuya ku-opera beno-Baron Douphol. U-Armand noCamille bayahlangana futhi umnika i-camellia, emmema ukuthi amvakashele uma imbali isibunile.

#### Isigcawu 3: Ilawu lika-Camille

### ISIKHAWU

### INKUNDLA II

#### Indlu Ezweni

U-Camille no-Armand bahlala ndawonye ngokujabula, kodwa u-Armand engazi, u-Camille uthengisa ubucwebe bakhe ukuze abasekele. Abangane babamemela epikinikini, kodwa u-Camille akaphilile futhi usala ekhaya. Ubaba ka-Armand, uM. Germont, uyafika futhi atshele u-Camille ukuthi uma emthanda ngempela u-Armand, uzomshiya ukuze alondolozwe udumo negama elihle lomndeni wakwa-Germont. Ngosizi olukhulu uphuma endlini ngokuphangisa. Ubhalela u-Armand incwadi amchazele ukuthi njengoba kufanele ahlale nendoda ecebile, uyamshiya. Engazi ngokuvakasha kukayise, u-Armand ubuya epikinikini futhi uyabona ukuthi u-Camille umshiyile. Uyise uzama ukumduzuza.

### ISIKHAWU

### INKUNDLA III

#### Isigcawu 1: Isaluni kaMamu Flora

Kwembuleka isigcawu sentokozo, injabulo nokugembula esaluni. U-Camille ubuyele engalweni kaBaron Douphol lapho u-Armand engena futhi ephazamisa umcimbi ngokuthuka u-Camille.

#### Isigcawu 2: Ilawu lika-Camille, emva kwezinyanga ezithile

Uyise utshele u-Armand iqiniso lokuthi u-Camille uyamshiya, kodwa isikhathi sesihambile njengoba u-Camille efa.

## The Cast

Camille  
Armand  
M. Germont, his father  
Baron Douphol  
Madame Flora  
Gaston, friend of Armand  
Pierre, friend of Armand  
Dominique  
Gabrielle  
Marquis D'Obigny  
M. Le Comte  
M. d'Argent  
Annina, Camille's maid  
Gypsies

Ladies, Gentlemen,  
Courtesans, Visitors,  
Servants, Friends

Shannon Glover / Nicole Ferreira-Dill / Monike Cristina / Tammy Higgins  
Marlon Sales / Bruno Miranda / Ruan Galdino / Revil Yon  
Christopher Montague  
Gabriel Fernandes / Revil Yon  
Natasha Ireland  
Ivan Domiciano / Gabriel Fernandes / Marlon Sales / Luhle Mtati  
Ruan Galdino / Mario Gaglione / Tumelo Lekana  
Cristina Nakos / Tammy Higgins  
Nicole Ferreira-Dill / Savannah Ireland  
Miguel Franco-Green / Ruan Galdino  
Bruno Miranda / Miguel Franco-Green / Gabriel Fernandes  
Thando Mgobhozi / Einon Doubell  
Alice le Roux  
Tammy Higgins / Ryoko Yagy / Monike Cristina  
Revil Yon / Ivan Domiciano / Bruno Miranda  
Artists of Joburg Ballet





Shannon Glover | Marlon Sales





Nicole Ferreira-Dill | Bruno Miranda



Monike Cristina | Ruan Galdino



Tammy Higgins | Revil Yon



Shannon Glove | Camille



Marlon Sales | Armand



Nicole Ferreira-Dill | Camille



Bruno Miranda | Armand



Monike Cristina | Camille



Ruan Galdino | Armand



Tammy Higgins | Camille



Revil Yon | Armand

PRINCIPALS



Monike Cristina



Nicole Ferreira-Fill



Ruan Galdino



Shannon Glover



Tammy Higgins



Revil Yon

SENIOR SOLOISTS



Ivan Domiciano



Bruno Miranda



Gabriel Fernandes



Mario Gaglione



Darragh Hourrides



Savannah Ireland

SOLOISTS

CORYPHÉE



Cristina Nakos



Marlon Sales



Chloé Blair



Tumelo Lekana



Alice Le Roux



Luhle Mtati

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## **JOBURG BALLET**

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Programme compiled by Jonathan Hurwitz

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