

THE
NATIONAL
Ballet
OF CANADA

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Ballet Notes

Swan Lake

March 11 – 21, 2010

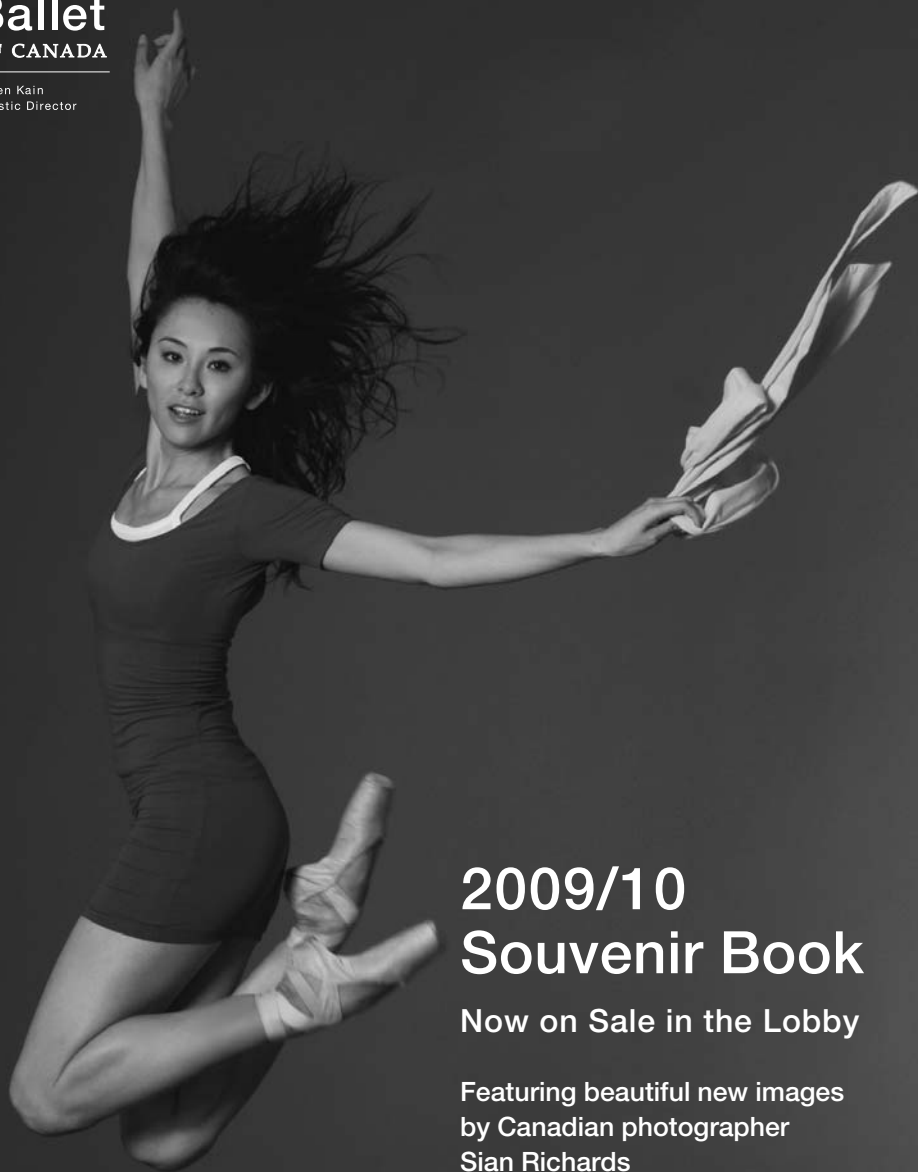


Heather Ogden as Odette/Odile and Guillaume Côté as Siegfried.

Photo by David Cooper.

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2009/10
Souvenir Book

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by Canadian photographer
Sian Richards

Juri Hiraoka
Photo by Sian Richards.

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THE
NATIONAL
Ballet
OF CANADA

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Celia Franca, C.C., Founder

George Crum, Music Director Emeritus

Karen Kain, C.C.
Artistic Director

Kevin Garland
Executive Director

David Briskin
Music Director and
Principal Conductor

Rex Harrington, O.C.
Artist-in-Residence

Magdalena Popa
Principal Artistic Coach

Lindsay Fischer
Artistic Director,
YOU dance / Ballet Master

Peter Ottmann
Senior Ballet Master

**Mandy-Jayne
Richardson**
Senior Ballet Mistress

Aleksandar Antonijevic, Guillaume Côté,
Greta Hodgkinson*, Jiří Jelinek,
Zdenek Konvalina, Heather Ogden,
Sonia Rodriguez, Piotr Stanczyk, Xiao Nan Yu,
Bridgett Zehr

Victoria Bertram, Kevin D. Bowles,
Lorna Geddes, Tomas Schramek,
Hazaros Surmeyan*

Keiichi Hirano, Tanya Howard, Stephanie Hutchison,
Richard Landry, Etienne Lavigne, Patrick Lavoie,
Stacey Shiori Minagawa, Tina Pereira,
Jonathan Renna, Rebekah Rimsay, Jillian Vanstone

Alexandra Golden, Elena Lobsanova, Noah Long,
Alejandra Perez-Gomez*, Lisa Robinson, Jenna Savella,
Robert Stephen, Brett van Sickle

Ryan Booth, Wei Chen, Jordana Daumec, Krista Dowson,
Nadine Drouin, Naoya Ebe, Selene Guerrero-Trujillo,
Grace Hanley, Juri Hiraoka, Kathryn Hosier, Klara HouDET,
Tamara Jones, Lise-Marie Jourdain, James Leja,
Alexandra MacDonald, McGee Maddox, Catherine Maitland,
Elizabeth Marrable, Antonella Martinelli, Chelsy Meiss,
Shino Mori, Tiffany Mosher, Amber Munro, Andreea Olteanu,
Marissa Parzei, Brendan Saye, James Shee, Christopher Stalzer,
Nan Wang, Aarik Wells, Sarah Elena Wolf

RBC Apprentice Programme / YOU dance: Jessica Burrows,
Skylar Campbell, Jackson Carroll, Esabelle Chen, Shaila D'Onofrio,
Giorgio Galli, Alexandra Incullet, Jaclyn Oakley, Julia Sedwick,
Thomas Snee, Dylan Tedaldi

Lorna Geddes
Pointe Shoe Manager /
Assistant Ballet Mistress

Tomas Schramek
Assistant Ballet Master

Joysanne Sidimus
Guest Répétiteur

Ernest Abugov
Jeff Morris
Stage Managers

Gillian Lewis
Stage Manager, YOU dance

*On maternity leave
*Guest Artist-in-Residence

Orchestra

Violins

Lynn Kuo,
Acting Concertmaster
Csaba Koczó, Acting
Assistant Concertmaster
Dominique Laplante,
Principal Second Violin
James Aylesworth
Jennie Baccante
• Sheldon Grabke
Xiao Grabke
Nancy Kershaw
Sonia Klimasko-Leheniuk
Yakov Lerner
Jayne Maddison
Ron Mah
Aya Miyagawa
Wendy Rogers
Filip Tomov
Joanna Zabrowarna
Paul Zevenhuizen

Violas

Angela Rudden, Principal
Theresa Rudolph Koczó,
Assistant Principal
Valerie Kuinka
Johann Lotter
Beverley Spotton
• Larry Toman

Cellos

Maurizio Baccante,
Principal
Olga Laktionova
Andrew McIntosh
Marianne Pack
Elaine Thompson
Paul Widner

Basses

Hans J.F. Preuss, Principal
Paul Langley
Robert Speer
Cary Takagaki

Flutes

Leslie J. Allt, Principal
Maria Pelletier
Shelley Brown, Piccolo

Oboes

Mark Rogers, Principal
Karen Rotenberg
Lesley Young,
English Horn

Clarinets

Max Christie, Principal
Emily Marlow
Gary Kidd, Bass Clarinet

Bassoons

Stephen Mosher, Principal
Jerry Robinson
Elizabeth Gowen,
Contra Bassoon

Horns

Gary Pattison, Principal
Vincent Barbee
Derek Conrad
Scott Wevers

Trumpets

Richard Sandals, Principal
• Mark Dharmaratnam
Raymond Tizzard

Trombones

David Archer, Principal
Robert Ferguson
David Pell,
Bass Trombone

Tuba

Sasha Johnson

Harp

Lucie Parent, Principal

Timpany

Michael Perry, Principal

Percussion

Robert Comber, Principal
Mark Mazur

Orchestra Personnel Manager and Music Administrator

Jean Verch

Assistant Orchestra Personnel Manager

Raymond Tizzard

Library Assistant

Lucie Parent

Extra Players

Anne Armstrong, *Violin*
Mia King, *Violin*
Renee London, *Violin*
Sonia Vizante, *Violin*
Rebekah Wolkstein, *Violin*
Josh Greenlaw, *Viola*
Nicholaos Papadakis,
Viola
Jill Vitols, *Cello*
Kevin O'Donnell, *Piccolo*
Colleen Cook, *Clarinet*
Diane Doig, *Horn*
Brendan Cassin, *Trumpet*
Anita McAlister, *Trumpet*
Kris Maddigan, *Percussion*
John Wong, *Percussion*
Janis Neilson, *Keyboards*

• On Leave of Absence



TORONTO
MUSICIANS'
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1827 • HARBOR • 1827

The 2009/10 season is presented by: **CTV** **THE GLOBE AND MAIL** 

Thursday, March 11 at 7:30 pm

Friday, March 12 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 13 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 14 at 2:00 pm

Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 pm

Wednesday, March 17 at 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 18 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Friday, March 19 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 20 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 pm

Conductor: **David Briskin**, Music Director and Principal Conductor (March 11, 13 eve, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20 mat)

Ormsby Wilkins, Guest Conductor (March 12, 13 mat, 18, 20 eve, 21)

Swan Lake

Choreography: **James Kudelka, O.C.**

Music: **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

Set and Costume Design: **Santo Loquasto**

Lighting Design: **Robert Thomson**

Repetiteurs: **Magdalena Popa, Peter Ottmann, Mandy-Jayne Richardson, Rex Harrington, Lindsay Fischer**

Premiere: The National Ballet of Canada, May 5, 1999

Swan Lake is made possible by generous financial support from production underwriters Sandra & Jim Pitblado and Margaret & Jim Fleck.

Siegfried

Guillaume Côté (March 11, 14, 17, 19)

Jiří Jelinek* (March 12, 18 eve, 21)

Zdenek Konvalina* (March 13 mat, 18 mat, 20 eve)

Aleksandar Antonijevic (March 13 eve, 16, 20 mat)

Odette / Odile

Heather Ogden (March 11, 14, 17, 19)

Xiao Nan Yu (March 12, 18 eve, 21)

Bridgett Zehr* (March 13 mat, 18 mat, 20 eve)

Sonia Rodriguez (March 13 eve, 16, 20 mat)

Rothbart

Noah Long (March 11, 14, 17, 19)

Patrick Lavoie (March 12, 18 eve, 21)

Kevin D. Bowles (March 13 mat, 18 mat, 20 eve)

Etienne Lavigne (March 13 eve, 16, 20 mat)

Act I

The Fool

Keiichi Hirano (March 11, 13 eve, 16, 17, 20 mat)

Naoya Ebe (March 12, 18 eve, 21)

Robert Stephen (March 13 mat, 18 mat, 20 eve)

Christoher Stalzer (March 14, 19)



Heather Ogden and Guillaume Côté with Artists of the Ballet.
 Photo by David Cooper.

Servants	Giorgio Galli, or Thomas Snee or Jackson Carroll, Wei Chen or Dylan Tedaldi or Skylar Campbell
A Wench	Rebekah Rimsay (March 11, 13 eve, 16, 17, 20 mat) Stephanie Hutchison (March 12, 18 eve, 21) Tanya Howard (March 13 mat, 18 mat, 20 eve) Jenna Savella (March 14, 19)
Benno	Brett van Sickle (March 11, 13 eve, 16, 17, 20 mat) McGee Maddox (March 12, 18 eve, 21) Keiichi Hirano (March 13 mat, 18 mat, 20 eve) Nan Wang (March 14, 19)
Knights	Patrick Lavoie or Etienne Lavigne or Richard Landry, Christopher Stalzer or James Leja, James Shee or Giorgio Galli or McGee Maddox, James Leja or Ryan Booth or Wei Chen, Nan Wang or Noah Long or Brett van Sickle, Robert Stephen or Aarik Wells or Dylan Tedaldi, Jonathan Renna or Brendan Saye, Naoya Ebe or James Shee
The Queen	Victoria Bertram
The Tutor	Tomas Schramek or Hazaros Surmeyan
Lady in Waiting	Lorna Geddes



Artists of the Ballet.
Photo by David Cooper.

Act II

Four Little Swans Tina Pereira or Andreea Olteanu, Jillian Vanstone or Jordana Daumec, Marissa Parzei or Tiffany Mosher, Klara Houdet or Lise-Marie Jourdain

Two Swans Stephanie Hutchison or Juri Hiraoka or Chelsy Meiss, Alexandra Golden or Krista Dowson or Tiffany Mosher

Swans Artists of the Ballet

Intermission

Act III

Hungarian Princess Stephanie Hutchison (March 11, 13 eve, 14, 17, 19)
Lise-Marie Jourdain (March 12, 18 eve, 20 mat, 21)
Tina Pereira (March 13 mat, 16, 18 mat, 20 eve)

Hungarian Ambassador Hazaros Surmeyan

Russian Princess Stacey Shiori Minagawa (March 11)
Rebekah Rimsay (March 12, 14, 18 eve, 19, 21)
Elena Lobsanova (March 13 mat, 16, 17, 18 mat, 20 eve)
Chelsy Meiss (March 13 eve, 20 mat)

Russian Ambassador Jonathan Renna or Noah Long



Artists of the Ballet.
Photo by David Cooper.

Spanish Princess	Tanya Howard (March 11, 13 eve, 14, 17, 19) Lisa Robinson (March 12, 18 eve, 20 mat, 21) Chelsy Meiss (March 13 mat, 16, 18 mat, 20 eve)
Spanish Ambassador	Tomas Schramek
Italian Princess	Jillian Vanstone (March 11, 13 eve, 14, 17, 19) Jordana Daumec (March 12, 18 eve, 20 mat, 21) Jenna Savella (March 13 mat, 16, 18 mat, 20 eve)
Italian Ambassador	Kevin D. Bowles or James Leja
Knights	Artists of the Ballet
Ladies	Artists of the Ballet
Act IV	
Four Swans	Juri Hiraoka or Tiffany Mosher, Alexandra Golden or Grace Hanley, Krista Dowson or Nadine Drouin, Alexandra MacDonald or Chelsy Meiss
Swans	Artists of the Ballet

* Debut

All casting is subject to change.

Swan Lake

Since its premiere in Moscow in 1877, *Swan Lake* has remained one of the most enduring, moving and irreplaceable works in the ballet repertoire. Crystallized for many by the iconic, seemingly innocent fairy tale image of the young Siegfried's love for the white swan, Odette, the work traverses worlds both mythic and real. The extraordinary range of emotional and psychological possibilities are bound together in Tchaikovsky's rapturous, ethereal score.

James Kudelka's version of *Swan Lake* restates the ballet's essentially fable-like character but in doing so also unearths a wealth of provocative, passionate ideas and thematic implications. With a fresh and dynamic choreographic palette that heightens the ballet's mingling of sensuality and lyricism and its tension between the natural and supernatural, Kudelka both renews the work for a contemporary audience and restores it to its full mythic power. Santo Loquasto's wonderfully dramatic sets and costumes provide the ideal setting for a work of astonishing, singular beauty.

Synopsis

Prologue

An ominous mood blankets a desolate landscape. In the distance an approaching storm threatens to disturb the calm. The full moon rises, gradually silhouetting an imposing winged figure who, wielding a terrible sword, stands like a harbinger of ruin above the stricken land. In an emphatic, menacing gesture, the figure plunges the sword into the earth. Then, as though having announced his arrival, he descends from his post to assume his new place amid a broken and unsuspecting world.

Act I: The Royal Hunting Ground

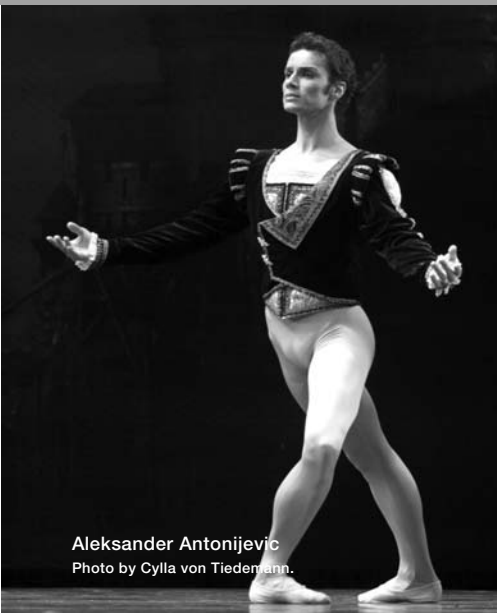
It is Siegfried's birthday. A buoyant, carefree air prevails, as the Prince's Knights return from a successful hunt and are greeted by the Court Fool, accompanied by a serving Wench. With Siegfried's arrival, the Knights perform a swaggering, boisterous dance intended to honour their Prince. Siegfried's mood, however, is less than receptive to their antics and, although he tries to conceal his indifference, it is clear the Prince does not feel wholly at ease in this world.

The Queen enters in a ceremonial procession and expresses to Siegfried her wish that he marry. Her insistence, however, only serves to deepen the Prince's melancholy and reinforce the sense of estrangement he feels from court society. His friend, Benno, attempts to raise his spirits in a series of lighthearted dances with the Fool and the Wench but they have little effect. Benno's efforts are followed by more dances involving the Knights and the Wench, which begin as mere diversions but grow increasingly unsettling and violent.

When Benno sees a flight of Swans, he urges Siegfried to follow him so that they might hunt the birds. Eager to escape the brutality and unpleasantness of the court, the Prince leaves with Benno.



Xiao Nan Yu
Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.



Aleksander Antonijevic
Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

Act II: The Marsh

Pursuing the Swans, Siegfried is separated from Benno and finds himself alone in a mist-laden marsh. He encounters Rothbart, the menacing figure from the prologue, now in an earthly guise. Rothbart initially threatens Siegfried but suddenly changes his demeanour by tempting him with a beautiful Swan, Odette. Siegfried is captivated by the Swan's radiant and unearthly beauty and, as other Swans join them in a series of dances amid the marsh's twilight landscape, he and Odette fall in love. As they profess their love, however, Rothbart intervenes and they must part.

Intermission

Act III: The Ballroom

Amid the regal opulence of the court, Siegfried awaits the presentation of four foreign princesses, one of whom he must choose as his bride. One after another, the Princesses are brought forward and unveiled by their respective ambassadors before Siegfried. The Princesses, Hungarian, Russian, Spanish and Italian, all dance for the Prince, hoping to win his approval and love but none is successful.

Suddenly Rothbart appears. With him is another Princess, a mysterious figure in black named Odile. Siegfried believes Odile to be none other than his beloved Odette and after she dances for him, he chooses her to be his wife. This unwitting betrayal of Odette brings catastrophe upon the court, which is engulfed in a flood. Siegfried is the only one to survive.

Act IV: The Lakeside

Having fled the destruction of the court, Siegfried seeks refuge by the lakeside. There, Odette appears to him in the company of other swans. Odette forgives Siegfried for his betrayal and the promise of reconciliation shines momentarily but Rothbart appears once again to separate the lovers. He summons forth a violent storm that scatters all in its path. Rothbart and Siegfried struggle. When the storm subsides, Odette is left alone to mourn the dead Siegfried.

A Brief History of *Swan Lake*

1875 – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky is commissioned by his friend Vladimir Petrovich Begichev, the intendant of the Russian Imperial Theatres in Moscow, to compose a score for a ballet. The ballet, based on a libretto by Begichev derived in part from German folk tale material, is to be called *Swan Lake*.

1877 – After an unusually long 11-month rehearsal period, *Swan Lake*, with choreography by Julius Wentzel Resinger, premieres on March 4 at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. It is generally considered a failure, a verdict largely attributed to the ballet's lacklustre choreography.

1888 – The second act of *Swan Lake*, newly choreographed by Augustin Berger, is presented in Prague at a concert in Tchaikovsky's honour. The composer is pleased by the performance but it does little to rescue the ballet's reputation.

1893 – Tchaikovsky dies never having seen the success *Swan Lake* will eventually achieve.

1895 – The Maryinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg mounts a new production of *Swan Lake* with a revised story and libretto by Tchaikovsky's brother, Modeste, and new choreography by Marius Petipa and his assistant, Lev Ivanov. Petipa, who had earlier collaborated with Tchaikovsky on *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*, choreographs Acts I and III and Ivanov, Acts II and IV. The production premieres on January 27 with the Italian ballerina Pierina Legnani in the lead roles of Odette/Odile and Pavel Gerdt dancing Siegfried. A highlight of the production is Legnani's introduction of the now famous 32 fouettés, a step that was her personal specialty, into the Black Swan pas de deux. The new production is greeted more warmly but still not enthusiastically. Nevertheless, it comes to be considered the "standard version" of the ballet, largely because of the perfection of Ivanov's Act II.

1911 – What is generally held to be the first important non-Russian version of *Swan Lake* is performed by Diaghilev's Ballet Russes in London. The ballet, shortened drastically to accommodate a revised two act structure and incorporating new music, features choreography by Michel Fokine and boasts Vaslav Nijinsky in the role of Siegfried.

1933 – A landmark production of the ballet in Leningrad by Agrippina Vaganova makes significant alterations to the standard Petipa/Ivanov version by restoring previously omitted music, shifting the setting from the Middle Ages to the early 19th century and by having the roles of Odette and Odile performed by separate dancers. The legendary Russian ballerina Galina Ulanova's performance of Odette in this production comes to be considered the definitive interpretation of the role.



Sonia Rodríguez and Guillaume Côté.
Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

1940 – The first full length American production of *Swan Lake* is staged for San Francisco Ballet by William Christensen, with Jacqueline Martin as Odette, Janet Reed as Odile and Lew Christensen as Siegfried.

1951 – George Balanchine creates an expanded version of Act II of *Swan Lake* for New York City Ballet, featuring Maria Tallchief as Odette. It is the first traditional ballet to enter the company's repertoire.

1963 – John Cranko creates a new *Swan Lake* for Stuttgart Ballet, premiering on November 14 and featuring Marcia Haydée as Odette/Odile and Rudolf Nureyev as Siegfried. The work initiates a new interest in and focus on the character of Siegfried within the ballet's thematic context.



Artists of the Ballet.
Photo by David Cooper.

1964 – Rudolf Nureyev's version of *Swan Lake* for the Vienna State Opera Ballet, with the choreographer taking the role of Siegfried and the great Margot Fonteyn dancing Odette/Odile, premieres on October 15. Like Cranko's version, Nureyev's interpretation places greater emphasis on the character of Siegfried, deepening and adding a new centrality to the role.

1981 – A new production of *Swan Lake* for American Ballet Theatre, choreographed by Mikhail Baryshnikov, premieres in Washington, D.C. on March 27. Martine van Hamel dances Odette/Odile and Kevin Mackenzie takes the role of Siegfried.

1995 – Matthew Bourne's provocative and radically re-imagined all male version of *Swan Lake*, using a contemporary setting and employing references to the British royal family, is staged at Sadler's Wells Theatre on November 9. It causes a sensation and attracts considerable attention both in Europe and the USA.

Swan Lake and The National Ballet of Canada

1953 – The recently formed National Ballet premieres Act II of *Swan Lake* at St. Peter's High School in Peterborough, Ontario on November 17.

1955 – National Ballet founder Celia Franca stages a full-length production of *Swan Lake* after Petipa and Ivanov. The production premieres at the Palace Theatre in Hamilton on January 19 with Lois Smith and David Adams in the lead roles. Set and costume design is by Kay Ambrose.

1967 – The National Ballet presents the world premiere of Erik Bruhn's production of *Swan Lake* in Toronto on March 27. Lois Smith and Earl Kraul dance the lead roles. Set and costume design is by Desmond Heeley. Bruhn's version offers a singular and groundbreaking – and controversial – interpretation of the ballet, most notably in the psychological complexity with which he imbues the character of Siegfried. Bruhn recasts Rothbart as a woman in the character of the Black Queen, reconfiguring the ballet as not simply a struggle between good and evil but as a riveting family psychodrama in which Siegfried's relationship with his mother is highlighted.

1971 – Karen Kain, replacing an injured Veronica Tennant, makes her debut as the Swan Queen, a role that becomes one of her most renowned.

1979 – The National Ballet premieres a new production of Erik Bruhn's *Swan Lake*, redesigned by Desmond Heeley.

1999 – A much-anticipated and rapturously received new version of *Swan Lake* by James Kudelka is premiered by the National Ballet on May 5 at the Hummingbird Centre (now the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts) in Toronto. The lavish production features Greta Hodgkinson as Odette/Odile, Aleksandar Antonijevic as Siegfried and Rex Harrington as Rothbart. Set and costume design is by Santo Loquasto.