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SEASON

NOVEMBER 7-10, 2024
CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

RWB



Giselle

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Tableau

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Artists **Stephan Azulay, Elizabeth Lamont, Alanna McAdie**

Jaimi Deleau, Peter Lancksweerd, Michel Lavoie, Katie Bonnell, Joshua Hidson,

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Jenna Burns, Cleighden Butler, Julianna Generoux, Tymn Keown, Emilie Lewis,

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Land and Water Acknowledgment

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet teaches, creates, and performs on the lands of the Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), Anisininew, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Our water originates in Shoal Lake 40 First Nation territory. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Le Royal Winnipeg Ballet exerce ses activités d'enseignement, de création et de prestation de spectacles sur les terres des peuples Anishinaabeg (Ojibwé), Ininew (Cri), Anisininew, Dakota, and Déné peoples, et sur le territoire de la patrie nationale des Métis de la rivière Rouge. Notre eau provient du territoire de la Première Nation de Shoal Lake, no 40. Nous reconnaissons les préjudices causés et les erreurs du passé, et nous nous emploierons à aller de l'avant en partenariat avec les communautés autochtones dans un esprit de réconciliation et de collaboration.

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Cover: Former RWB Dancer Sophia Lee (2009-2011) with Company; Photo by Réjean Brandt (2015)

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About Giselle

Length 115 minutes

World Premiere June 28, 1841 **RWB Premiere** December 26, 1982

Credits

Choreography

Peter Wright,
after Jules Perrot,
Jean Coralli &
Marius Petipa

Music

Adolphe Adam

Scenario

Théophile Gautier
& Henri Vernoy de
Saint-Georges

Produced by

Peter Wright

Set & Costume Design

Peter Farmer

Lighting Design

Nicholas
Cernovitch

Scenery Design

Michael Hagen
Inc.

Synopsis

Act 1 – A Rhineland Village

Count Albrecht loves Giselle, a peasant girl, though she knows him only as a villager named Loys. Giselle's mother, Berthe, hopes that her daughter will marry Hilarion, a forester devoted to Giselle, and warns her against Loys. But Giselle disregards Hilarion, and joins with her beloved in the celebrations that mark the end of the grape-harvest.

When Albrecht's squire secretly warns his master of the approach of a hunting party, Hilarion observes them and manages to break into Loys' cottage, seeking to learn the secret of Loys' identity.

The hunting party arrives, led by the Duke of Courland and his daughter Bathilde, Albrecht's future bride, who are staying at Albrecht's castle. They seek rest in Berthe's cottage and Bathilde, charmed by Giselle, gives her a necklace. The Duke orders a hunting horn to be left so that his courtiers may be summoned in due course and this provides Hilarion with proof of Loys' identity as he

Synopsis

CONTINUED

compares the crests on the horn and on a sword he has found in Loys' cottage. Just as Giselle is crowned Queen of the Village, Hilarion reveals the truth about Loys. When Bathilde returns and claims Albrecht as her fiancé, the shock unseats Giselle's reason. In her madness she relives her love for Loys and, seizing his sword, and takes her own life.

Act 2 – Giselle's Grave in the Forest

As midnight sounds, Hilarion keeps vigil by Giselle's grave, which lies in unhallowed grounds by a forest lake. This is the time when the Wilis materialize; ghosts of young girls who have been jilted and have died before their wedding day. Now they avenge themselves by dancing to death any man whom they happen upon during the hours of darkness. Myrtha, their Queen, summons her Wilis and Giselle is called from her grave to be initiated into their rites. When Albrecht enters, bringing flowers for Giselle's tomb, Giselle appears to him. The Wilis pursue Hilarion, whom they drive to his death, and then fall vengefully upon Count Albrecht.

Myrtha condemns him to dance until he dies, and though Giselle urges him to the safety of the cross on her grave, Myrtha commands Giselle to dance and lure Albrecht from the cross. Giselle tries to sustain him, but as the night wears on, his dancing becomes more and more exhausted. Just as his death seems imminent, dawn breaks. Daylight destroys the Wilis' power and the ghostly dancers fade away; Giselle, too, melts away, leaving Albrecht sorrowing and alone.

Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Biographies



André Lewis, C.M., O.M., M.S.M. Artistic Director

A native of Gatineau, Québec, Lewis joined the RWB in 1979 where he enjoyed an accomplished career as an artist for over ten years. In 1996, Lewis was appointed artistic director of Royal Winnipeg Ballet and since then, has been the driving force behind the new works that have rejuvenated the Company's repertoire. Lewis has commissioned numerous blockbuster ballets such as Mark Godden's *Dracula*, Jordan Morris' critically acclaimed *Peter Pan* and *Moulin Rouge® – The Ballet*, along with *The Handmaid's Tale*, a bold adaptation of the novel by award-winning author, Margaret Atwood. Lewis was also instrumental in the 1999 creation of a new *Nutcracker* for the Company.

In 2017, the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada honoured Lewis with the Meritorious Award, in recognition of his leadership for initiating *Going Home Star-Truth and Reconciliation*, alongside Tina Keeper and the late Elder Mary Richard. In 2022, Lewis was appointed the Order of Manitoba and in 2023 the Order of Canada; both of these honours are in recognition to his contributions to the art of dance in Manitoba and Canada.



Elena Tupyseva Executive Director

Elena Tupyseva is a visionary leader with more than 20 years of experience in the performing arts. Born in Moscow, she has been an influential producer, curator, and manager in contemporary dance and ballet since 1999. After co-founding Moscow's Contemporary Dance Centre TsEKh, she became Artistic Director and CEO of Theatre Ballet Moscow in 2012, commissioning more than 30 ballets by Russian and international choreographers. Now as Executive Director of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Elena enriches Canada's dance landscape with her extensive expertise.



Geneviève Leclair Guest Conductor

Geneviève Leclair is an active guest conductor with organizations across Canada, the United States and the U.K., in symphony, ballet and opera, as well as Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music where she has been teaching conducting since 2016. Highlights of the 2024–25 season include debuts with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Houston Ballet and Regina Symphony Orchestra. She also maintains an extensive schedule as guest conductor with orchestras such as Orchestre Métropolitain, The National Ballet of Canada, Calgary Philharmonic, Saskatoon Symphony, Spartanburg Philharmonic, Northern Ballet, Orchestre Symphonique de Sherbrooke, Jeunesses musicales Canada, Symphony New Hampshire, Symphony New Brunswick.

Her performances have been hailed as “impeccable” (Boston Phoenix), “ravishing” and of “exemplary pacing and reading” (Hugh Fraser) while her conducting style is praised for its “verve and precision”, “confident dynamics and tempos, crisp rhythms, and crystalline phrasing creat[ing] powerful forward momentum” (Carla DeFord).



Peter Wright, CBE Choreographer & Producer

Sir Peter Wright made his debut as a professional dancer with the Ballets Jooss during World War II, and in the 1950's worked with several dance companies including Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet. It was for this company that he created his first ballet *A Blue Rose*, in 1957.

In 1959, he was appointed as Ballet Master to the Sadler's Wells Opera and teacher at the Royal Ballet School. In 1961, he went to Stuttgart as teacher and ballet master to the company being formed there by John Cranko.

Wright's production of *Giselle* has been produced all over the world, including by the Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada. Wright says his version is “*about love, betrayal and suicide.*” On the critical issue of how *Giselle* dies at the end of Act I, Wright has this to say. “*If she didn't stab herself, why else would they bury her in unhallowed ground?*” Wright's *Giselle* entered the repertoire of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in 1981 and has become an audience favourite since then.

Giselle

Casting

Act 1

Giselle

Alanna McAdie (7, 9) /
Elizabeth Lamont (8e, 10) /
Kyra Soo (8m)

Albrecht

Peter Lancksweerd (7, 9) /
Michel Lavoie (8e, 10) /
Logan Savard (8m)

Hilarion, a Forester

Stephan Azulay (7, 9) /
Marco Lo Presti (8e, 10) /
Joshua Hidson (8m)

Wilfred, Albrecht's Squire

Michel Lavoie (7, 9) /
Peter Lancksweerd (8, 10)

Berthe, Giselle's Mother

Vanessa Léonard

The Duke, Bathilde's Father

Jaime Vargas

Bathilde, Albrecht's Fiancée

Jaimi Deleau

Leader of the Hunt

Ryan Bjornson

Peasant Pas de Six

Katie Saito

Liam Saito (7, 8m, 9) /
Logan Savard (8e, 10)

Amanda Solheim (7, 8m, 9) /
Katie Bonnell (8e, 10)

Marco Lo Presti (7, 8m, 9) /
Cleighden Butler (8e, 10)

Julianna Generoux (7, 8m, 9) /
Kyra Soo (8e, 10)

Joshua Hidson (7, 9) /
Tymin Keown (8, 10)

Peasants

Katie Bonnell (7, 8m, 9) /
Bianca Aceves Jeffrey (8e, 10)

Paige Irwin (7, 8m, 9) /
Amanda Solheim (8e, 10)

Charlie Ankersen (7, 8m, 9) /
Julianna Generoux (8e, 10)

Sofia Cuevas

Maggie Weatherdon (7, 9) /
Courtney Yun (8, 10)

Taisi Tollasepp, Jenna Burns,
Brooke Thomas, Olivia Koppanyi,
Katrina Ouellette, Aylin Contreras-
Diaz, Avalon Craske (7, 8m, 9) /
Belle Shier (8e, 10)

Tymin Keown (7, 9) / Joshua Hidson
(8e, 10) / Timothy Gaulke (8m)

Logan Savard (7, 9) /
Aidan Vaudreuil (8, 10)

Cleighden Butler (7, 8m, 9) /
Liam Saito (8e, 10)

Felix Jinga, Rafe Perry, Myles Mackesy
(7, 8m, 9) / Park Long (8e, 10)

The Hunt

Grace Frazer Sneddon, Belle Shier
(7, 8m, 9) / Avalon Craske (8e, 10),
Bianca Aceves Jeffrey (7, 8m, 9) /
Paige Irwin (8e, 10),

Courtney Yun (7, 8m, 9) /
Charlie Ankerson (8e, 10), Park Long
(7, 8m, 9) / Myles Mackesy (8e, 10),
Aidan Vaudreuil (7, 9) / Saneatsu Abe
(8, 10), Timothy Gaulke (7, 8e, 9, 10),
John Carlson, Carson Simair,
Jimmy Hampshire

Act 2

Myrtha, Queen of the Wilis

Jaimi Deleau (7, 8m, 9) /
Maggie Weatherdon (8e, 10)

Moyna

Julianna Generoux

Zulme

Amanda Solheim

Wilis

Katie Bonnell, Katie Saito,
Brooke Thomas, Jenna Burns,
Kyra Soo (7, 8e, 10) / 10) /
Maggie Weatherdon (8m, 9),
Taisi Tollasepp, Aylin Contreras-Diaz,
Paige Irwin, Olivia Koppanyi,
Katrina Ouellette, Avalon Craske,
Charlie Ankerson, Bianca Aceves
Jeffrey, Sofia Cuevas, Courtney Yun,
Belle Shier

Musician Roster

First Violins

Gwen Hoebig
Concertmaster
The Gwen Hoebig
Concertmaster Chair,
Karl Stobbe, Associate
Concertmaster

Jeremy Buzash**
Acting Assistant
Concertmaster

Mona Coarda

Tara Fensom

Hong Tian Jia

Mary Lawton

Sonia Lazar

Julie Savard

Jun Shao

Second Violins

Chris Anstey
Principal

Elation Pauls
Assistant Principal

Kristina Bauch

Elizabeth Dyer

Bokyung Hwang

Rodica Jeffrey

Susan McCallum*

Takayo Noguchi*

Jane Radomski

Erika Sloos**

Rebecca Weger**

Violas

Elise Lavallée
Acting Principal

Laszlo Baroczi

Greg Hay

Soren Lorentzen

Katherine Moran**

Michael Scholz*

Miguel Stamato**

John Sellick**

Cellos

Yuri Hooker*
Principal

Robyn Neidhold
Acting Principal

Ethan Allers

Arlene Dahl

Samuel Nadurak**

Alyssa Ramsay

Sean Taubner

Emma Quackenbush

Basses

Meredith Johnson
Principal

Daniel Perry
Assistant Principal

James McMillan

Eric Timperman

Emily Krajewski

Flutes

Jan Kocman
Principal
Supported by
Gordon & Audrey Fogg

Alex Conway

Piccolo Flute

Alex Conway
Principal

Oboes

Beverly Wang
Principal

Robin MacMillan

English Horn

Robin MacMillan
Principal

Clarinets

Micah Heilbrunn
Principal

Alex Whitehead

Bassoons

Kathryn Brooks
Principal

Elizabeth Mee

Horns

Patricia Evans
Principal

Ken MacDonald
Associate Principal
The Hilda Schelberger
Memorial Chair

Aiden Kleer

Caroline Oberheu

Michiko Singh

Trumpets

Chris Fensom
Principal

Isaac Pulford
The Patty Kirk
Memorial Chair

Paul Jeffrey
Associate Principal

Trombones

Steven Dyer
Principal

Keith Dyrda

Eric Prodger
Principal Bass Trombone

Tuba

Justin Hickmott**
Acting Principal

Percussion

Andrew Johnson*
Principal

Benjamin Reimer**
Acting Principal

Timpani

Justin Gingrich
Principal

Harp

Charlene Chin
Principal
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W.H. & S.E. Loewen

Personnel Manager

Isaac Pulford

Librarian

Michaela Kleer

Assistant Librarian

Aiden Kleer

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SEASON

ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET

380

RWB



Submit your Honour Roll Nomination!

Honour Roll recognizes and pays tribute to the artists and builders who have made a significant contribution to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and/or the world of dance.

As we enter our 85th season, we are re-opening nominations to celebrate a new batch of outstanding individuals.

Deadline to Submit is January 10, 2025



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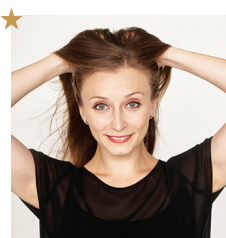
Company Artists



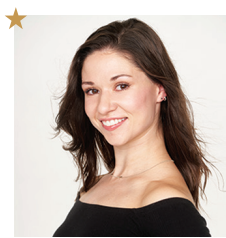
Stephan Azulay
Principal



Elizabeth Lamont
Principal



Alanna McAdie
Principal



Jaimi Deleau
Soloist



Peter Lanckswaerd
Soloist



Michel Lavoie
Soloist



Katie Bonnell
Second Soloist



Joshua Hidson
Second Soloist



Marco Io Presti
Second Soloist



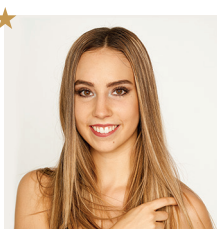
Katie Saito
Second Soloist



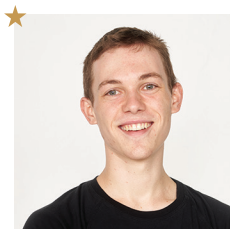
Liam Saito
Second Soloist



Amanda Solheim
Second Soloist



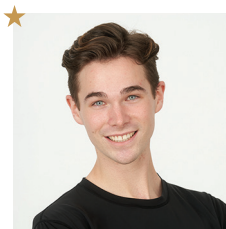
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Cleighden Butler
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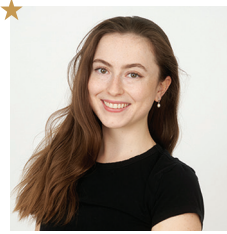


Tymin Keown
Corps de Ballet



Did you know that 81% of the RWB Company are alumni of the RWB School?

Look for the little gold star beside the artists & artistic staff who trained at the RWB School Professional Division.



Emilie Lewis
Corps de Ballet



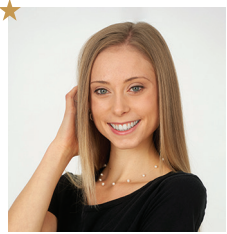
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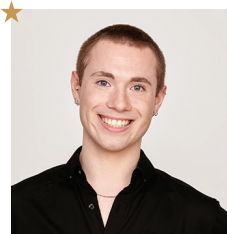
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Legacy Giving at the RWB

Named in honour of our founders, the Lloyd and Farrally Society was established to recognize those who have left a gift in their Will to the RWB. Each gift pledged ensures a future of dance excellence.

A legacy gift is one of the most significant and lasting contributions you can make. If you have included the RWB in your estate plans, please connect with **Briar Boyko**, Individual and Corporate Giving Officer, at bboyko@rwb.org. We would like to celebrate with you and ensure your gift is designated exactly how you wish.



DID YOU KNOW?

Gweneith Lloyd and Betty Farrally arrived in Winnipeg in 1938 and established The Canadian School of Ballet. The first class consisted of six students. In 1939, their performance group, The Winnipeg Ballet Club, presented its first performances. The determination of Gweneith and Betty laid the foundation for what is today the longest consecutively operating ballet in North America.

Learn More at rwb.org



We thank our donors for their support of the following funds and opportunities:

Donations made to the **Creations Endowment** are directed exclusively toward the creation of new ballets, as well as the revitalization and refurbishment of current repertoire, helping to leave a lasting legacy in dance for generations to come.

The David Moroni School Endowment supports initiatives that ensure the highest quality of dance education for young artists and dance teachers for years to come.

The RWB gratefully recognizes donors who have contributed to the many **scholarships and bursaries** that are awarded annually to students of the RWB School.

André Lewis Choreography Endowment was established in honour of RWB Artistic Director, André Lewis C.M., O.M., M.S.M.. The Choreography Endowment, when fully realized, will support choreography services and new works for the RWB Company & School. Thanks to an anonymous donor, all gifts are matched, doubling the impact in helping RWB reach its goal.

The Opportunity Fund was created to ensure that as many young people as possible have access to quality dance programming in the RWB School's Recreational Division.

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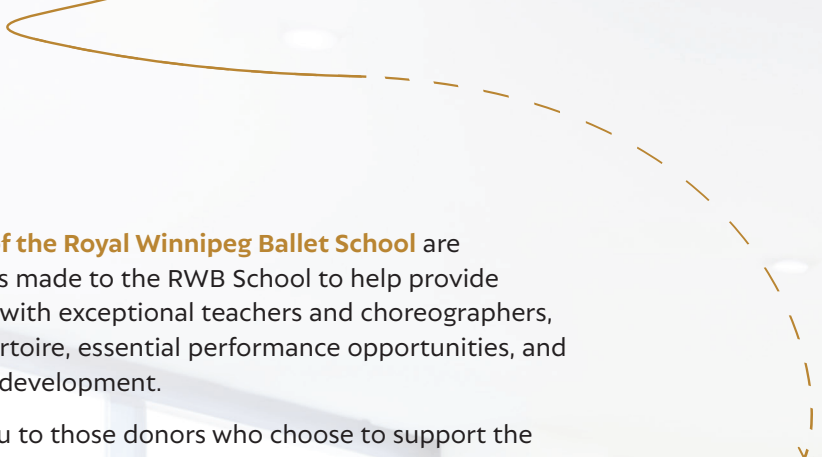
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Thank you to those donors who choose to support the RWB through **tributes**. The RWB is humbled to accept gifts in honour or memory of loved ones.

Named for the founders of the RWB, Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally, the **Lloyd and Farrally Society** recognizes donors whose planned and future gifts will help keep the vision of the RWB alive for the years to come. An **estate gift** is one of the most significant and lasting contributions one can make. Thank you to those donors for including the RWB in their estate plans, with the wish to help ensure a future of dance excellence.



Bravo Listings

Thank you to our incredible community of donors whose gifts support the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and our efforts to teach, create, and perform outstanding dance.

Donations to the RWB made during the period of August 1, 2023 to October 4, 2024

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Elizabeth Lamont - Photo by Kristina Sawatzky

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As of October 22, 2024

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Principals.....Stephan Azulay, Elizabeth Lamont, Alanna McAdie
Soloists.....Jaimi Deleau, Peter Lancksweerd, Michel Lavoie
Second Soloists.....Katie Bonnell, Marco Lo Presti, Joshua Hidson,
Katie Saito, Liam Saito, Amanda Solheim
Corps de Ballet.....Jenna Burns, Cleighden Butler,
Julianna Genoux, Tymin Keown, Emilie Lewis, Park Long,
Logan Savard, Kyra Soo, Brooke Thomas, Taisi Tollasepp,
Maggie Weatherdon
Apprentices.....Felix Jinga, Myles Mackesy, Rafe Perry,
Aidan Vaudreuil

COMPANY ARTISTIC

Artistic Director.....André Lewis, C.M., O.M., M.S.M.
Associate Artistic Director.....Tara Birtwhistle
Ballet Master.....Jaime Vargas
Assistant to the Artistic Staff.....Judy Arnason

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School Director.....Stéphane Léonard
Professional Division Principal.....Suzanne André
Teacher Training Program Director.....Johanne Gingras
Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program Director.....
.....Vanessa Léonard
Professional Division Vice Principal.....Kelly Bale
Recreational Division Principal.....Nicole Kepp
Recreational Division Vice Principal.....Katrín Benedictson
School Artistic & Schedule Coordinator.....Magdalena McGregor
Principal Pianist.....Donna Laube
School Production & Event Coordinator.....Tiffany Rozall

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Director of Finance & Administration.....Edward Esguerra
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Payroll Coordinator.....Deneen Swartz
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Company Manager.....Ryan Bjornson

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School Office Assistants.....Alyssa Penner
Denby Perez, Alex Rivera Lima
School Administrative Assistant.....Kayla Kocian

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Creative Strategist.....Nicole Regnier
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Archivist.....Gayle DeGagne

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Albert Caaya, Luz Caaya, Juanito Consul, Russel Payumo
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Production Stagehand.....Will Medwick
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Head Seamstress.....Angela Gaft
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Wardrobe Assistant.....Barry Malenko
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Tetiana Honcharova, Natalia Tkachenko
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Sous Chef.....Kristine Schneider
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Facility Staff.....Julie Prystupa

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Dr. Deborah Hill, MDCM FRCPc Dip Sport Med
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Massage Therapist.....Leanne Lawrie, R.M.T.
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