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Ballet Jörgen's
ANNE *of*
GREEN GABLES
The Ballet®



JULY 21 – 24, 2022
ST. LAWRENCE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
BLUMA APPEL THEATRE
TORONTO, ON

Hannah Mae Cruddas as Anne Shirley; photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Thank you for joining us for Anne of Green Gables – The Ballet®!

As a company dedicated to telling Canadian stories we are immensely proud to bring this most Canadian of all stories to life as a full-length ballet.

The ballet is based on Anne of Green Gables –The Musical® composed by Norman Campbell and is made possible through a partnership with Avonlea Productions Ltd. and Erinsharn Productions Ltd.

I want to acknowledge the critical support of the Heirs of the author for the story, Lucy Maud Montgomery, for helping steward this project to fruition.

Anne of Green Gables – The Ballet® is made possible by Margaret Fountain, C.M and David Fountain C.M. with additional major support from The Sobey Foundation and the Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, CC ONB. Creative media support is provided by the George Brown College Centre for Arts, Design and Information Technology. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many other individuals, foundations and corporations who have made it possible for Anne Shirley and the community of Avonlea to dance onto the stage for us.

I also want to acknowledge the incredible dedication of our artistic, technical, administrative and volunteer leadership team that have made this tour possible. My synopsis co-creators, Stage Director Heinar Piller and Set & Costume Designer Sue LePage, have been instrumental in shaping the ballet. Equally important, the beautiful orchestration by Alexander Levkovich has been an inspiration to work with. Of course, in the end it is all about the dancers — I am beholden to our professional members, Junior Company members, George Brown Dance graduates and young dance students who have helped created all of the parts in the ballet. Their energy, enthusiasm, suggestions, ideas and support are on display for you today.

Enjoy the performance!

Bengt Jörgen, C.M.

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In order of appearance, cast & program subject to change

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GILBERT BLYTHE.....	DANIEL DA SILVA
DIANA BARRY.....	AKARI FUJIWARA
MRS. RACHEL LYNDE	ESTHER ZIGNAIGO
MATTHEW CUTHBERT.....	HIROTO SAITO
ANNE SHIRLEY.....	HANNAH MAE CRUDDAS
MARILLA CUTHBERT.....	CLEA IVESON
SNOW QUEEN	TAISIHA ZAMULA
BIRD	AKARI FUJIWARA
MR. PHILLIPS	LEANDRO PRADO
MRS. BARRY.....	LYDIA-LAURE GERMAIN
MISS STACY.....	TAISIHA ZAMULA
MINNIE MAY BARRY.....	ESTELLE TANG

SATURDAY (EVE), & SUNDAY (MAT)

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GILBERT BLYTHE.....	DANIEL DA SILVA
DIANA BARRY.....	ANA ZAMORA
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MATTHEW CUTHBERT.....	HIROTO SAITO
ANNE SHIRLEY.....	MOMOKA MATSUI
MARILLA CUTHBERT.....	CLEA IVESON
SNOW QUEEN	TAISIHA ZAMULA
BIRD	AKARI FUJIWARA
MR. PHILLIPS	LEANDRO PRADO
MRS. BARRY.....	LYDIA-LAURE GERMAIN
MISS STACY.....	TAISIHA ZAMULA
MINNIE MAY BARRY.....	ESTELLE TANG

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SYNOPSIS

Setting: Prince Edward Island, 1900.

Act 1

Siblings Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert of Green Gables have decided to adopt an orphan boy to help old Matthew with the farm work. The people of Avonlea are astonished when he rides off midday in the buggy. Where is he going?

At the train station, instead of a boy, he finds Anne Shirley. Obviously, a mistake has been made, but Anne's enthusiasm overwhelms Matthew, and her wild imagination bedazzles him. At Green Gables, Marilla insists that Anne must return to the orphanage. When Anne tells them the terrible story of her past, Marilla allows her to stay the night.

Morning at Green Gables fires Anne's imagination. The cherry tree Snow Queen, the daffodils and all of nature join her in a joyous dance. Reality returns when Marilla arrives to take her away. They end up at slovenly Mrs. Blewett's, who is willing to take Anne and put her to work. Marilla has second thoughts, and Anne and Matthew are overjoyed when Marilla finally decides that Anne can stay.

Their formidable neighbour Mrs. Lynde comes to visit and mocks Anne for her homely looks and red hair. Anne flies into a temper and must apologize. With Matthew's encouragement, she devises a melodramatic apology and wins over the old lady. When Anne heads off to school and all the other children tease her, Diana Barry comes to her defense. They are kindred spirits.

Gilbert Blythe's efforts to befriend Anne are disastrous. When he calls her "carrots", she smashes her slate over his head and refuses to return to school. Marilla hears of Anne's disgrace and punishes her with household chores. Anne makes light of the work with the help of some mischievous wind sprites. Marilla is satisfied and allows Anne to go to the church picnic. At the picnic Gilbert tries again to be friends by offering Anne an ice cream cone, but is tripped by the jealous Josie Pye. When the cone lands in Anne's face, her first taste of ice cream is the highlight of a glorious day.

– Intermission –



L to R: Heather Lumsden-Ruegg as Marilla Cuthbert, Hannah Mae Cruddas as Anne Shirley & Hiroto Saito as Mathew Cuthbert; Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

Act 2

Summer is over and the children must return to school. Their new teacher Miss Stacy has modern ideas about education and leads them in a nature hunt; a new kindred spirit! Diana is invited to tea at Green Gables when the adults are away. Anne and Diana enjoy their tea party until Diana drinks glass after glass of wine instead of raspberry cordial. Diana's mother returns and blames Anne for Diana's drunkenness, forbidding them to see each other again.

Summer turns to fall and winter. A lonely Anne studies hard to beat Gilbert and win the Avery Scholarship. One evening Diana appears at the door desperate for help. Her little sister Minnie May is very sick. At the Barry farm Anne knows just what to do, and by the time the adults arrive with the doctor Minnie May has been saved. Mrs. Barry revisits her opinion of Anne and the friends are reunited.

Marilla measures Anne for a new dress but refuses to make it with puffed sleeves. Shy Matthew sneaks off to the store and manages to buy Anne the dress she has dreamed of. Miss Stacy organizes a concert to celebrate the end of school. A telegram arrives announcing that Anne has won the Avery Scholarship. Gilbert generously offers his congratulations and friendship.

When Anne arrives home after the concert Matthew is waiting for her. They are dancing tenderly when suddenly Matthew collapses. His heart has given out. After the funeral Marilla grieves for Matthew. An auctioneer arrives: Green Gables must be sold. Anne takes charge and makes an important decision.

When Gilbert arrives to offer his help, Anne insists that he take the Avery Scholarship. It is the beginning of a new understanding between them. Anne will not give up her dreams, but she will stay with Marilla at Green Gables.



Hannah Mae Cruddas as Anne Shirley & Daniel Da Silva as Gilbert Blythe; photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

Production Credits

Original Choreography by Bengt Jörgen, C.M.

Musical Credits Based on Anne of Green Gables –The Musical™

Music Composed by Norman Campbell

Ballet Score Arranged by Alexander Levkovich

Music Score Recorded by The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (Kyiv, July 2019).

Set, Prop & Costume Design Sue LePage

Lighting Design Rebecca Picherack

Associate Lighting Design Kaileigh Krysztofiak

Stage Direction Heinar Piller

Ballet Synopsis Adapted by Bengt Jörgen, C.M., Sue LePage & Heinar Piller

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2019 Summer Dance Academy Ballet

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Additional Youth Dancers: Paige Amiro, Mira Baergen, Owen Brown, Hailey Crawford, Julia Gravina, Grace Kuster, Claire Miron, Kiri Wilkie

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Cinderella

"From the opening to the final scene, I was enthralled. Your choreography as usual, is breathtaking."

- Audience member, Halifax, NS

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Momoka Matsui; photo by Kristie Jones



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