

Libretto

'A Night in Paris' – Christmas ballet

Length: 1 hour (60 minutes)

Style: story based

Libretto: Seraphima Bogomolova (copyright ©)

Music: selected compositions by Ezio Bosso, Claude Debussy, Yann Tiersen

Production: Seraphima Bogomolova (copyright ©)

Dancers:

The Banker – Paolo Giglio

The Doll – Estelle Roux

The Girl – Gabrielle Fairhead

The Story line:

An enchanting Christmas ballet set between New York City and Paris. The story is modern yet rooted in classics with its plot line fashioned from a variety of fairy tales, including *Nutcracker*, *Coppelia*, and *Sleeping Beauty*.

'A Night in Paris' ballet looks at human emotions and feelings trapped deep inside and asking to be freed.

Characters of the Story:

The Banker/ Paolo Giglio

The Banker is a young New Yorker 'bound' by the harsh corporate routine. He lives by the rules of 'real world', and long abandoned the 'kid' within him. He represents masculine energy and

materialism. He is attractive with a romantic strike, but appears cold, uptight, logical, and mind driven.

The Doll/ The Girl Estelle Roux/Gabrielle Fairhead

The Doll is a mechanical doll, given as a Christmas present to a young banker living in New York. The Doll represents the 'mechanisms' of love, femininity and magic, and the world of dreams and fantasy. She is beautiful, fragile, fun, and innocent.

The story by the scene:

Part 1, scene 1

It is a Christmas Eve in New York City. A young man, The Banker, comes home from a party and finds a stack of presents beautifully arranged under his Christmas tree. He sets to examine the gifts and soon enough a big box wrapped in golden paper catches his attention. Undoing the ribbon, he rips the paper off and finds a human size mechanical doll inside the box.

Part 1, scene 2

Amused by his discovery The Banker curiously examines the intricately designed toy. A Parisian doll with a delicate porcelain face attracts the young man by its fragile appearances. He finds a button and sets the doll in motion. The genteel music breaks out and the Doll begins to dance. Mesmerized by the moves of the beautiful toy The Banker watches The Doll dance.

Part 1, scene 3

As the mechanism runs out of the winding, The Doll stops, her porcelain face turned towards the young man, her arms stretched out as if calling for an embrace. Unnerved by the Doll's stare The Banker turns his back to her and moves to the window, focusing on the sky scrapers dotting the horizon of the City. The clock strikes midnight. Lulled by its chimes, The Banker falls asleep.

Part 2, scene 1

As the last chime of the clock dies, the genteel music of the Doll's dance breaks out. The Doll seems to have set in motion by itself. But after just couple of moves her mechanical dance halts. A quiver runs through The Doll's body. A smile lights her face, her stretched out arms flop

alongside her slender body. The Doll becomes alive and turns into The Girl. She looks around her Paris attic flat with a Christmas tree in it and steps out of the gift box.

Part 2, scene 2

Kneeling down The Girl picks the bits of the wrapping paper, curiously examining them, fascinated by the reflections of the Christmas lights on them. Her interest moves to the Christmas tree and the gifts under it. She admires the beautiful shiny boxes. A small round one catches her eye. She takes it and, lifting the lid, peers inside. Finding colourful rows of macaroons there, The Girl laughs and, taking one, bites into it.

Part 2, scene 3

Delighted at her present, The Girl dances across the room, playing with her macaroon box. In her excitement, she stumbles over an armchair and discovers The Banker who has fallen asleep in it. Intrigued, The Girl stares at him. Awaken, The Banker finds himself in an unknown attic flat. He looks at the girl, not comprehending where he is.

Part 2, scene 4

Having finally recognised in the girl the mechanical doll he unboxed in his New York flat, The Banker jumps to his feet. Startled, he eyes The Girl with wonder. She offers the young man a macaroon out of her gift box and invites him to play the 'Carousel' game with her.

Part 2, scene 5

As they play The Girl challenges The Banker, appealing to his inner kid. Their game progresses and The Banker finds himself falling for the *joe de vivre* spirit of The Girl. As he does so, his desire to kiss her grows. When the game is over and the young man is about to kiss The Girl, the clock strikes the hour and the lights go down.

Part 3, scene 1

Back to his New York flat The Banker finds himself in the same armchair he fell asleep. He looks around, searching for the girl he met in his dream, but only finds the mechanical doll standing in her box, her arms stretched out towards him. The Banker comes to The Doll and, lifting her out of the box, sets her in motion. The Doll begins to move. While she is dancing, the young man watches her with sadness, remembering the beautiful girl he played with in his dream.

Part 3, scene 2

As the winding runs out and The Doll stops, the young man is struck by an idea. He rushes towards the stack of presents and fetches a small box from the top of it. Opening it, he gets a ring out. Coming to The Doll, the young man kisses her and puts the ring onto her porcelain finger. As he does so, The Dolls comes to life, turning into The Girl from his dream.

Part 3, scene 3

Reunited in real life, The Young Man and The Girl waltz around the flat, celebrating Christmas.

The end