

# Swan Lake



Prince Siegfried celebrates his birthday in the village,



But his mother



interrupts the lively dancing.



She reminds him that he must choose a bride



at tomorrow's grand ball.

Seeking a last night of youthful fun, he sets out with Benno



And his other friends to hunt a flock of



swans winging over head.



Siegfried arrives alone on the shore of a moonlit lake



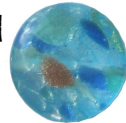
where the swans have alit.

He watches as



Swan Queen, Odette, transforms from a bird into a beautiful woman.

She explains the swans are maidens enchanted



by sorcerer,



Von Rothbart,



Who guards them in the form of an owl. They are human only at night.

The spell can only be broken by a vow of true love.



Von Rothbart appears, but Odette stops Siegfried from killing him -

If Von Rothbart dies before the spell breaks, they will be swans



forever.

Benno and the others arrive;

Siegfried prevents them from shooting the swans



and dismisses them

Alone, he and Odette fall in love



; he vows to love her eternally.



The maidens dance until the rising sun turns them into swans again.



Guests have come to the ball from



many lands

But no maiden there



interests Siegfried.

Von Rothbart arrives with his



daughter Odile (who is magically identical to Odette).

Siegfried assumes she is his Swan Queen!

Odette in her swan form futilely tries to warn him at the window,

But Siegfried vows to all he will marry



Odile! Von Rothbart shows him a vision

Of Odette



and Siegfried realizes too late he has been deceived.

Siegfried rushes to the



lake... where the swan maids comfort a distraught Odette.

He begs her forgiveness and they reaffirm their love



But Siegfried's broken vow to her cannot be repaired. Seeing no other choice,

The pair leap into



the lake, drowning in the stormy water.

Their love sacrifice



breaks the spell: Von Rothbart is defeated.

The swan maidens greet the sun in human form.

