

Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss, Jr.

An Operetta in 3 Acts.

English adaptation by Ruth and Thomas Martin.

February 8 & 10, 1989 at 8:00 p.m.

Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta

Die Fledermaus

After a fancy-dress ball in which Dr. Falke was dressed as a bat, his friend Baron Gabriel von Eisenstein left him asleep on a public bench to be awakened the next morning by a jeering crowd. Now Dr. Falke plots revenge.

Act 1 Eisenstein's villa

Eisenstein has been sentenced to eight days in prison for a minor offense. He is preparing for jail when Falke persuades him to postpone surrendering and go instead to a ball that Prince Orlofsky is giving. Elaborating on his plan for revenge, Falke also invites Rosalinda, Eisenstein's wife; Adele, her maid; and Frank, the prison warden; to the ball, where all are to appear under assumed identities.

After a touching farewell Eisenstein departs, and Alfred, a former admirer of Rosalinda's, sings and drinks with her as they reminisce about old times. Soon, however, Warden Frank appears in order to escort Eisenstein to jail. Alfred, in order to spare Rosalinda and himself the embarrassment of explaining the compromising circumstances, allows Frank to believe he is Eisenstein and goes to jail.

FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

Act 2 Prince Orlofsky's Palace

The party at Orlofsky's is in progress. The Prince, very rich and very bored, is the host. Dr. Falke quickly promises him an amusing evening: a comedy of errors. With the arrival of Eisenstein and Frank the comedy begins. Adele, dressed in one of Rosalinda's gowns, laughs at Eisenstein's suggestion that she resembles his chamber maid. Rosalinda arrives, masked and is introduced as a Hungarian countess. She is soon wooed by her own husband, whose watch she steals to hold as later proof of his misbehavior. The party breaks up at dawn.

FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

Act 3 The Jailhouse

Alfred has spent the night in a cell, supervised by Frosch, the merry drunken jailer. Frank, still tipsy, arrives to take over. Adele, who wants to be a real actress, comes to beg Frank (alias Chevalier Chagrin) to support her career. Eisenstein finally reports for jail, Rosalinda arrives to secure Alfred's release, and eventually everyone's true identity is revealed. Falke confesses to the evening's plot, all are reconciled, and everyone joins in a final toast to "Die Fledermaus" and "King Champagne."

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Alfred, a singer......Paul Conway

Adele, chambermaid to the Eisensteins.......... Darlene Schubert (Wed)
........... Sally McIntosh (Fri)

Eisenstein, a bankerJohn Murray

Blind, a lawyer Michael Meraw

Dr. Falke, friend of the Eisenstein's James Hendricksen

Ivan, Orlofsky's servant......Sarah Hoffmann

Frosch, a jailer Edwin Thornton

Chorus

(in alphabetical order)

Gerald Bara Kelly McPhillamey Krista Steed

Catherine Buchanan Michael Meraw So-Ling Tam

Bruce Cable Michael O'Byrne John Tessier

Patricia Dray Ricki Romito Edwin Thornton

Troy Janzen Judy Lynn Sawchuk Marla Zapach

Pauline Lim

Ballet

Crystal Allen Andrea Mills Annina Timoteo

Denise Jung Emma Ocol Maria Timoteo

Johann Strauss, Jr. (1825-1899)

In Vienna, during the nineteenth century, "Strauss" was definitely the byword. Following his father's footsteps as a famous composer, Johann Strauss, Jr. became internationally renowned for his ballroom music, especially his fine concert waltzes. Pieces like "The Blue Danube," "Tales from the Vienna Woods," and "The Emperor Waltz," have earned him the title of WALTZ KING. In 1874 he created *Die Fledermaus*, one of the most popular operettas and the pinnacle piece of its time. Its witty and sometimes absurd plot suited the type of music for which Strauss had become famous.



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