

□ MIAMI CITY BALLET Presents...



THE STORY OF
FIREBIRD



FIREBIRD

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FOREWORD

Once upon a time...

Thirteen princesses have gone missing. They went into the forest, and never returned. A group of brave knights ventured out to search for the lost princesses. Unknowingly they entered the forest where evil sorcerer Kastchei reigns. The knights were captured, overpowered by Kastchei and his gaggle of mythical monsters.

Kastchei subdued the knights by turning them into gnarly, bony trees. The knights and the princesses remain captive to this day...





SCENE 1

It's nighttime. Prince Ivan is out hunting. Deep in the forest, he has strayed into a mystical realm. He is always searching for adventure, but he senses an eerie feeling in the air – do the trees have eyes? Is he in danger?



Ivan sees a flash of light, something is flickering and glowing. He chases it. It's the Firebird, an enchanted creature with exceptional magical powers.





The Firebird comes here to eat from the golden apple tree. Distracted, she doesn't see Ivan approaching.



Ivan catches the Firebird, surprising them both!



Ivan is captivated by the Firebird's power and beauty. He realizes she is a creature that should never be caged. He releases her.



To thank him, Firebird offers him an extraordinary gift; one of her enchanted feathers that he can use to summon her should he be in dire need.



SCENE 2

In the domain of the evil sorcerer Kastchei, thirteen princesses gather. They dance, but they are prisoners, trapped under a spell.



Ivan has continued deeper into the forest. He watches the princesses dance, and is drawn to one of them. Is this love at first sight? As the Princess and Ivan dance together, they discover the feeling is mutual.

But the Princess knows they are powerless
against Kastchei's dark magic, and she cannot
be with her Prince unless the spell is broken.





Danger approaches... The princesses flee in fear. A monster appears and attacks Ivan, quickly followed by another, and another! Soon there is a gaggle of strange and fearsome monsters surrounding Ivan.



The ominous figure of Kastchei appears, and casts a dark and powerful spell that forces Ivan to dance the “infernal dance” to his death.



Ivan knows what he has to do. The only way to save himself and the princesses is to use the enchanted feather to summon the Firebird for help.



The Firebird appears, and gives Ivan a sword which he uses to fight.



Ivan overpowers Kastchei and defeats him. With Kastchei vanquished, his spells are broken. The monsters lose their power, falling to the ground. The knights emerge from their woody prison.



The Firebird sends Prince Ivan and his beloved Princess safely home while she restores peace to the mystical forest.



SCENE 3

It's daybreak. Finally free, the knights and the princesses attend the wedding of Prince Ivan and the Princess.



THE END





CREDITS

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Music by **Igor Stravinsky***

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Lighting Design by **James F. Ingalls**

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Miami City Ballet's production of *Firebird*. Choreography by George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins © The George Balanchine Trust. Photos © Alexander Iziliaev.

