

APRIL 2009

REVIEW

ballet.magazine

*Royal Ballet**'Swan Lake'**March 2009**London, Covent Garden**by Carmela*

© John Ross

[RB 'Swan Lake' reviews](#)['Swan Lake' reviews](#)[Osmolkina in reviews](#)[Putrov in reviews](#)[recent RB reviews](#)[more Carmela reviews](#)[Discuss this review](#)[\(Open for at least 6 months\)](#)[Gallery of Photographs](#)

We are quite spoiled for choice with Swan Lakes in London at the moment - so many different casts from both ABT and the Royal Ballet, at the same time, just down the road from each other! I was considering to go see ABT, but I was curious to see Osmolkina dance Odette-Odile, as it isn't so usual these days to see a Maryinsky dancer in such a role at the Royal Opera House.

Apart from the leads, the Company look to be in good shape and certainly had a very large and appreciative audience on Thursday night. All the character dances were taken beautifully, at a much higher standard than in October. I couldn't quite follow who was dancing what - there was

a very complicated last minute cast change announcement, but I think the general idea of it was that Laura McCulloch replaced Kristen McNally in the Spanish dance and Kristen replaced Laura Morera in the Czardas - I didn't even know that Laura does the Czardas but unfortunately it seems that she was the one who was injured - let's hope that it is not serious. Despite the last minute changes, the performances were great in terms of ensemble and vivacity; very enjoyable.

We also had a beautiful pas de trois from Bethany Keating, Iohna Loots and Brian Maloney in Act I. I don't know if they are new to the roles, but I have never seen this combination before and it was very enjoyable, stylish dancing. I always like Bethany Keating's work - she is not a technical virtuoso but her dancing is always very clean and stylish. Maloney was very dashing, and Iohna didn't put a foot wrong, as usual.

So, about Ivan Putrov and the much anticipated guest ballerina! The last few times I have seen Putrov, and what I have heard about many of his recent performances,



he has been not at his best, especially as a partner. But on Thursday he impressed me very much - especially his partnering. He looks very much like the little boy on stage, but his acting was good and the dancing superb, and he really seemed delighted with Osmolkina as a partner - his lifts etc were very very good. I also appreciated that he didn't slow the tempo so much at Sigfried's entrance on the coda, as most dancers do!



Swans and Cygnets in Act II of *Swan Lake*

© [John Ross](#)

Osmolkina is a very beautiful dancer and I enjoyed her performance without being overwhelmed. For my taste, she was a little stiff in Act II, and she was not so good with the mime. However, that is understandable, as I am fairly sure that in the Kirov version, the mime is quite reduced. Her Act III was much better, although she slipped early in the 32 fouettes and traveled halfway across the stage, finally ending up on number 30... but, she covered up very well, and it didn't seem to affect her confidence. In general, about her performance, I would say that she is a very stylish dancer, nice to watch and expressive. Her technique is solid without being outstanding, and she matches up very well with Putrov. They performed really well as a couple and you would not have guessed that it is not a regular partnership.

At the curtain calls, there was the most huge flower throw that I have ever seen live - Osmolkina was very sweet, going and curtsying especially to the orchestra to thank them after leading the conductor to the stage, and afterwards pulling flowers from her bouquet and handing them to Putrov, the conductor, Rothbart..! And then there was an absolute storm of flowers from the slips, which continued for about 5 minutes - it was nearly on the level of Darcey's farewell performance flower throw!



