NHK and Opéra national de Paris team up to give immersive experience of “Giselle” on Japan’s 8K channel

Tokyo, 9 May 2020 — NHK’s 8K channel (the first in the world) today premiered a star-studded ballet performance that was produced during Japan’s state of emergency.

The program (106 minutes) is a co-production with the Opéra national de Paris of the ultimate romantic ballet, Giselle. The executive producer for NHK is Kobayashi Yasuko, who has been making programs about musical performing arts for more than 20 years. An NHK crew used six 8K cameras and 22.2 multi-channel audio technology to capture the performance at the Palais Garnier on 4 February.

The star cast features Dorothée Gilbert as Giselle, Mathieu Ganio as Albrecht, Valentine Colasante as Myrtha, and Audric Bezard as Hilarion. The conductor is Koen Kessels.
Owing to the coronavirus pandemic, a state of emergency has been in place in Japan since 7 April. For Giselle, NHK devised an 8K HDR, 22.2ch postproduction workflow that involved the smallest possible number of staff members for the sake of safety. Channel controller Ochiai Jun said: “People can’t directly experience the performing arts right now, so I’m delighted that we can use television to bring viewers into one of the world’s finest centers of artistic excellence.”

Japan’s major TV broadcasters began broadcasting in ultra-high definition on satellite channels on 1 December 2018. The country’s only public broadcaster, NHK, launched 4K and 8K channels. NHK’s 8K channel operates for 12 hours (from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) every day. Its content encompasses drama, music, documentaries, culture, and travel.

**About NHK** - NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) is Japan’s sole public broadcaster. Funded by fees from Japanese households, it has a reputation for impartial, high-quality programming. Through its six nationwide TV channels and three radio channels, NHK reaches about 50 million households. Besides being a broadcaster, NHK produces a vast array of high-quality programs covering news, documentaries, children’s and educational programs, music, entertainment, culture, animation and drama. Known as the pioneer of HD, NHK now actively produces programs in 4K and 8K. [www.nhk.or.jp/corporateinfo/](http://www.nhk.or.jp/corporateinfo/)

**About Opéra national de Paris** –

The Paris Opera is the primary opera and ballet company of France. It was founded in 1669 by Louis XIV as the Académie d’Opéra, and shortly thereafter was placed under the leadership of Jean-Baptiste Lully and officially renamed the Académie Royale de Musique. Classical ballet as it is known today arose within the Paris Opera as the Paris Opera Ballet. Opéra national de Paris produces operas and ballets at its modern 2,723-seat theatre Opéra Bastille which opened in 1989, and also at the older 1,979-seat Palais Garnier which opened in 1875.

[https://www.operadeparis.fr/en](https://www.operadeparis.fr/en)