



bp

White Swan



A BALLET IN ONE SCENE

THE STORY

Life as a swan in the Canadian Tar Sands isn't just about swanning around on the local lakes and chilling out with all the other swan maidens. In fact things have been getting pretty tough lately, what with BP Rothbart making the decision to invest heavily in the desecration of the region for oil. We're sure this is a bad thing – particularly as Odette herself gets tangled up in Rothbart's oily plot. Luckily a prince is on hand to apply a bit of public pressure and help Odette's amazing recovery. It's a happy ending... this time, at least...

THE CHARACTERS

Rothbart, villain. A murky and sinister figure (the murky and sinister side of one of our favourite corporations?)

Odette, swan queen. An oily Albertan swan – or duck, or bear, or patch of swamp. Or local inhabitant, small land owner – perhaps even general global citizen. We're not fussy.

Finally, **Siegfried**, the prince: an initially confused, increasingly concerned, but happily eventually clued-up observer! He could be anyone... maybe you?

MUSIC

PYOTR ILYICH
TCHAIKOVSKY

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

THE PERFORMANCE LASTS
ABOUT 5 MINUTES

SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION

UK TAR SANDS NETWORK,
ART OF ACTIVISM,
LIBERATE TATE AND
LONDON RISING TIDE



www.bpwhiteswan.org

We're privileged tonight to be enjoying a wonderful broadcast of Massenet's *Cinderella*, thanks to BP – but let's not forget the Big Polluter's other interests...

BP – FAIRYTALE VILLAIN?

- Despite BP's self-styled 'Beyond Petroleum' green image, the company continues to focus its operations on fossil fuel industries, driving us towards catastrophic climate change.
- BP has recently invested in the Canadian Tar Sands, 'the most destructive project on Earth', which has devastated indigenous communities and thousands of square miles of wilderness.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Enjoy the performance(s) tonight!!
- Remain aware of the hidden agendas of companies like BP and Shell.
- Find out more. There are plenty of groups and individuals working hard against this sort of thing. A good place to start might be online – our website www.bpwhiteswan.org gives links to suggested reading, and to other similar projects.
- Get involved!

BP'S COVER-UP

- BP has been cultivating a more positive public image of late by rebranding itself through association with 'good things' (like art, and opera). This 'greenwashing' tactic distracts from its irresponsible business practices which remain out of the public eye (and often out of the mainstream media).
- Legislation already exists which restricts advertising the tobacco and firearm industries. The oil industry is arguably FAR more dangerous than either of these.
- Art doesn't HAVE to rely on dirty money! Without oil sponsorship we'll have to find ways to support our Royal Opera House (or the National Gallery, behind you) without taking money from destructive corporations: a difficult task, but by no means impossible. A nice start might be to transfer some of the money used by the government to subsidise the oil industry, to make up for the recent cuts in arts funding...

**For more information visit www.bpwhiteswan.org
Don't forget to Hijack the Hashtag! #bpbigscreens**