

THE MOST INCREDIBLE THING

Original Concept, Music & Lyrics by Tennant / Lowe

Direction & Choreography by Javier De Frutos

Set & Costume Design by Katrina Lindsay

Scenario by Matthew Dunster

Film & Animation by Tal Rosner

Lighting Design by Lucy Carter

Sound Design by Paul Arditti

Associate to Director & Choreographer Edd Mitton

Associate Scenic Design Robin Vest

Lighting Associate Sean Gleason

Lighting Assistant/Programmer Jenny Kershaw

“The Competition” and the “King’s Lament” were created in collaboration with Javier De Frutos and Renée Jaworski, co-Artistic Director of Pilobolus, with art direction by Gregory Laffey

**This performance of *The Most Incredible Thing* was underwritten
for Charlotte Ballet by Lise and Travis Hain,
with additional support provided by Sylvia and Tom Brydon,
Carol and Watts Hamrick and Renee and Hugh McColl.**

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

In a kingdom far away, life is a joyless existence of monotonous toil under the brutal supervision of the ambitious Karl.

Leonardo, a dreamer, escapes the oppressive routine while the king scolds his rebellious teenage daughter for listening to loud pop music.

The king announces he will award half the kingdom and his daughter’s hand in marriage to whoever can invent the country’s most incredible thing and present it in a competition at the palace.

As everyone excitedly plans their entry, Karl, hungry for even more power, plots how he might turn the competition to his advantage.

Alone in his room, Leo senses Princess’ distress, imagining her forced to comply with her father’s wishes.

He becomes determined to save her by winning the competition, but time is running out. Suddenly, the inspiration in his head takes the solid form of three muses representing concentration, love and courage, who help him to assemble his extraordinary invention.

Princess escapes from the palace but encounters Karl and his followers brawling in the street. The announcement that the competition is about to start allows her to escape Karl’s unwelcome attentions. Over seven grueling days, the royal family is obliged to watch thousands of attempts to demonstrate the most incredible thing, but nothing convinces the judges with their strict book of rules.

SYNOPSIS

In despair, Princess flees backstage and bumps into Leo. Impressed by his sincerity, she convinces her father to give the young inventor a chance to win the competition.

Leo presents an extraordinary tiny clock which expands to contain 12 amazing visions, reflecting the numbers on the time piece and awakening Princess to the wonders life has to show her.

20 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Leo is declared the winner and everyone rejoices but, fueled by envy, Karl steps forward and crushes the clock.

The shock of this destruction is declared the most incredible thing by the judges, and the king has no choice but to strip Leo of his victory and declare Karl the winner.

Karl claims his price of half the kingdom and Princess' hand in marriage, forcing her father to the ground.

Leo is dragged away by Karl's henchmen and the king is left alone to regret his actions, imagining the grim marriage his daughter must now endure.

The citizens return to the grind of their daily lives without hope, and there is a somber black wedding for Princess and Karl.

The imprisoned Leo is powerless to save her until he receives another visit from three muses who help him rebuild the incredible clock.

These spirits drive Karl to his death, proving that the power of creativity will always defeat the forces of destruction.

The darkness of the kingdom is filled with color and light as Leo and Princess are reunited.

There is a new, joyous ceremony for Leo and Princess' wedding.

And the most incredible thing is: no one is jealous...

