PAQUITA

Synopsis of the Original "Paquita" Ballet

"Set in Spain during the occupation of Napoleon's army, *Paquita* tells the story of the young gypsy girl, Paquita, who is unaware that she is really of noble birth and was abducted by gypsies when she was an infant after the assassination of her parents. Paquita wins the love of the young French officer, Lucien d'Hervilly when she saves his life from the gypsy chief, Iñigo, who is hired by a Spanish governor to kill Lucien. Through a medallion that she has had all her life, Paquita finally discovers her true birth right and identity; she is in fact the cousin of Lucien and can marry him."
- The Marius Petipa Society. "Paquita" https://petipasociety.com/paquita/

History of the Grand Pas Classique from "Paquita"

The original "Paquita" ballet was choreographed by Joseph Mazilier to music by Edouard Deldevez and was first performed in 1846 by the Paris Opera Ballet.

In 1881/2 Marius Petipa staged a revival of Mazilier's work for the Imperial Bolshoi Theatre, with new choreographic additions. Petipa added a Pas de Trois for Act 1 and a Children's Mazurka and a Grand Pas Classique for the wedding scene of Paquita and Lucien d'Hervilly in Act 3.

The Grand Pas was created as a showpiece for all the great dancers to present their favourite variations from a myriad of different ballets. For this reason, it became especially popular to perform the Paquita Grand Pas as a stand-alone piece at galas, a tradition which continues today.

Over the years, many different variations have been included as part of the Grand Pas, although they are never all included in one production. Most stagings of the Grand Pas include around six to nine variations. In Petipa's original staging, there were seven variations.

Some Notes on My List of Paquita Grand Pas Variations

I have discovered a total of twenty-four different variations that can be found in the Paquita Grand Pas and have included them in the list below, but there may still be more that I have missed!

I have included the variations from the Pas de Trois in my list of Grand Pas variations, as these can also be found in some productions of the Paquita Grand Pas today.

I have not numbered any of the variations as each production contains a different selection and number of variations. In fact, in some companies, each performance can contain a different selection of variations, as each soloist performs the variation that best suits her/him.

I have included web links to YouTube videos of each variation. Almost all of the videos are of dancers in Russian companies. This is due to looser copyright laws in Russia making them more readily available.

LIST OF FEMALE VARIATIONS USED IN THE "PAQUITA GRAND PAS CLASSIQUE"

Paquita's Wedding
Andante
Commonly known as Paquita's wedding variation in the grand pas de deux, although some stagings of the ballet choose to use a different variation (the Allegro Moderato variation created for Anna Johansson is the most common alternative). Music by Ludwig Minkus.

Professional Examples:
- Somova, Alina (Mariinsky – old production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lZ9xHmm31s
- Lopatkina, Ulyana (Mariinsky – old production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CK2Cf-4va6g
- Alexandrova, Maria (Bolshoi) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqfvbegOAhM

Student Examples:
- Lew, Ashley (16, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc5DbWatLLY
- Takahashi, Kirica (YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ut83wEBbl-E
- Taratorin, Alina (17, Bayer Academy) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqT-zAEpJ9M
- Taratorin, Alina (15, Bayer Academy) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdkXuvGJEVw

Allegro Moderato
Variation created for Anna Johansson for "Paquita" to music by Ludwig Minkus or Alexei Barmin.

Professional Examples:
- Khoreva, Maria (Mariinsky – current production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hE7PLZCKfw
- Zakharova, Svetlana (Bolshoi) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imvC-38lYs4
- Smirnova, Olga (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEylRCXW9-g
- Leonova, Anna https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQuXXyyBDH0
- Khiteyeva, Alexandra (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcThEeuhWYw

Student Examples:
- Denney, Nicole (14, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuwPJKIjS8U
- Riolo, Andrea (14, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNGd2uXw8fQ
- Squires, Sylvie (YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNvYZDjlaAs

Andante-Allegro Moderato / Tempo di Valse Moderato
Original choreogrpahy from "King Candaule" in 1868 by Marius Petipa to music by Riccardo Drigo. Variation created for the role of Nyssia in the bathing scene in which she dances to the music of her slaves harp. Originally created for Carlotta Brianza and first performed in

"Paquita" by Anna Pavlova. The variation was also used in an 1892 Marius Petipa revival for the Mariinsky of Filippo Taglioni's "La Sylphide". It was first performed as part of "La Sylphide" by Varvara Nikitina. The variation continues to be used in rare Vaganova productions of "La Sylphide". The variation also appeared in the 1891 ballet "Kalkabrino" by Marius Petipa and is sometimes referred to as the "Kalkabrino Variation".

Professional Examples:

- Kondaurova, Ekaterina (Mariinsky – old production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMP2kxeUh2g
- Lukina, Anastasia (Mariinsky – current production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxentrgeKrw
- Shipulina, Ekaterina (Bolshoi) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQuXXyyBDH0
- Savelieva, Svetlana (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKulTg0F25Q
- Nagahisa, May (Mariinsky – current production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87u_KmKy8NQ

Student Examples:

- Cipriano, Adriana (16, PALLCO) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zhg6QB7omQ
- Gieler, Karina (Petite Danse) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RbzwE64p0Y
- Park, Seon Mee (18, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49WNhaT4_yU
- Price, Elianna (YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUGD7ucjGaQ

Tempo di Valse

Original choreography from a staging by Achille Coppini for the Imperial Ballet's production of Arthur Saint-Leon's "La Source" in 1902. Music by Riccardo Drigo. The variation was possibly created for Olga Preobrajenska [alt. transcription Preobrazhenska]. The variation is also performed in Vaganova's "The Stream".

Professional Example:

- Krysanova, Ekaterina (Bolshoi) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38FVJXrUQXk

Student Example:

- Smith, Olivia (15, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdV97k_zb4A

Variation to Music from "Don Quixote"

Music by Ludwig Minkus. Music sometimes known as the Dryad Variation in Act 3 of Don Quixote.

Professional Example:

- Osipova, Natalia (Bolshoi). Unfortunately, in the middle of my research, the person who uploaded the video of this variation closed their YouTube account. I haven't been able to find another video of it, so if anyone else finds a copy, please let me know and I will add it here.

Moderato from "La Camargo"

Original choreography from Ivanov's revival of Marius Petipa's 1872 ballet "La Camargo". Created for Pierina Legnani's farewell performance in 1901. Music by Riccardo Drigo.

Professional Examples:

- Shirinkina, Maria (Mariinsky – current production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYemO8QWHyA
- Ryzhkina, Mariana (Bolshoi) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38FVJXrUQXk
- Kaptsova, Nina (Bolshoi) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCht2yraL9I

Student Examples:

- Lyman, Evelyn (YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_EA9hUpZJ5Y
- Taratorin, Alina (13, Bayer Academy) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSS8ivuBdew

Tempo di Valse Moderato from "King Candalue"

The origin of the chorepgraphy is disputed. Either from Marius Petipa's "King Candaule" for Maria Gorshenkova, according to Mariinsky and Bolshoi, OR from "Vestalka" [trans. "La Vestale"], according to Vaganova. Music known as "Valse Mignonne" by Riccardo Drigo.

Professional Examples:

- Ionova, Daria (Mariinsky – current production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKdGoWAWFEg
- Antonicheva, Anna (Bolshoi) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqfvbegOAhM

Student Examples:

- Luckute, Milda (14, International Baltic Ballet Competition) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzodDQGA9FY
- Shinn, Eva (11, YAGP) on flats https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PY_QoAfNX8Q

Tempo di Valse from "The Little Hunchbacked Horse"

Original choreogrpahy from from the underwater scene in "The Little Humpbacked Horse" to music by Cesare Pugni.

Professional Examples:

- Guillem, Sylvie (Paris Opera) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXlP-6Ip020
- Khoreva, Maria (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kg4JJLdi_8

Student Examples:

- Barroso, Ana Maria (15, PALLCO) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MA7hP9eQ5tk
- Koshkaryova, Maria (16, Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucvGzuSzq3Q
- Verhage, Yazmin (15, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHCKFI0uZtY

Allegro from "Trilby"

Original choreography from "Trilby" by Marius Petipa in 1870 to music by Yuli Gerber.

Professional Examples:

- Letestu, Agnes (Paris Opera) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DllsmqMRagk
- Tereshkina, Viktoria (Mariinsky – old production) starts at 08:24 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2q_zN1P0CLc

Student Example:

- Lapointe, Sarah (YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtcf89j06UM

Allegro

Variation created for Alexandra Shaposhnikova for "Paquita" or possibly originated from Jules Perrot's "Armida" in 1855. Music by Alexei Barmin.

Professional Example:

- Nuikina, Anastasia (Mariinsky – current production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwCcDy1mSxE

Waltz from "Don Quixote"

Original choreography from "Don Quixote" by Marius Petipa in 1869 to music by Cesare Pugni. Created for Anna Sobeshchanskaya for Kitri's wedding variation in the original production of the ballet, and later replaced by the fan variation that is used today. This alternative Kitri's Wedding variation was occasionally used throughout the 20th century, particularly in Russia. Today, the variation is typically performed as the 1st Bridesmaid's variation in act 3 of Don Quixote.

Professional Examples:

- Bulanova, Maria (Vaganova) starts at 22:55 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qp5g1ZJAPVU
- Gryova, Svetlana (Muse of Ballet Gala 2003) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MM8apNjUSI
- Terekhova, Tatiana (Mariinsky – as Kitri) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kgx5NhOy0QA
- Tikhomirova, Anna (Bolshoi – as Bridesmaid) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pT_ZEBkZCDA
- Vinogradova, Maria (Bolshoi – as Bridesmaid) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r935Zu4Hqbg
- Osipova, Natalia (Bolshoi – as Bridesmaid) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wx1uEVQcBng

Student Example:

- DePrince, Michaela (14, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXhR7QQymWs

Allegro non Troppo

Music by Nikolai Tcherepnin for the ballet "Le Pavillon d'Armide".

Professional Example:

- Obraztsova, Evgenia (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_c105kvsQE

Student Examples:

- Chen, Madeleine (13, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjiErc0JNrI
- Ishiyama, Mai (11, YAGP) on flats https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMl0BgMZNbg

Variation from "Le Corsaire"

Original choreography from Medora's variation in Act 3 of "Le Corsaire". Music by Adolphe Adam.

Professional Examples:

- Zakharova, Svetlana (Vaganova) starts 06:52 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95YabFVvtsU
- Krysanova, Ekaterina (Bolshoi – Le Corsaire) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AgeznA7LGo
- Shapran, Kristina (Mariinsky – Le Corsaire) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icSWEzgb834
- Zakharova, Svetlana (as Medora) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGkwch5BAbU

Student Examples:

- Lapointe, Sarah (YAGP – as Medora) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APczy2Boy8w
- Vigoren, Eliza (14, YAGP – as Medora) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zafoJl2iXW8

Allegro from "Don Quixote"

Original choreography from Cupid's (Amour's) variation in the Act 2 Dream Scene in "Don Quixote" by Marius Petipa to music by Ludwig Minkus.

Professional Examples:

- Obraztsova, Evgenia (Vaganova or Mariinsky) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAzPY-cOQhg
- Ustyuzhanina, Daria (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIs1qF9B5mI
- Martynyuk, Valeria (Mariinsky – old production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkgf3oGAc_g

Student Example:

- Newberry, Tara (YAGP – as Cupid) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4UzJKsdi4w

Moderato from "Le Corsaire"

Original choreography from Gulnara's variation in Act 3 of "Le Corsaire" by Marius Petipa. Created for Yevgenia Sokolova. Music by Albert Tsabel (alt. spelling Zabel).

Professional Examples:

- Gonchar, Nadezhda (Mariinsky – current production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQKzIHi2Yu0
- Kaptsova, Nina (Bolshoi – "Le Corsaire") https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTJY2UnyYqA

Variation from "Gretna Green" or "The Little Hunchbacked Horse"

The origin of the choreography is disputed. Either from "Gretna Green" by Louis Mérante and Charles Nuitter to music by Ernest Guiraud OR from "The Little Humpbacked Horse" by Arthur Saint-Leon to music by Riccardo Drigo. Also known as Natalia Dudinskaya's variation.

Professional Examples:

- Zhiganshina, Ksenia (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25HCIU1zMqk
- Avsajanashvili, Lizi (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsJk45LA32c
- Khoreva, Maria (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIp2-15m8-M

Student Example:

- Caprarulo, Michela (15, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=We2UP5DwnKw

Pas de Trois Variation to Music from "The Naiad and the Fisherman"
Original chorepgraphy from Marius Petipa's 1881/2 restaging of Joseph Mazilier's "Paquita". Created as part of Petipa's new Pas de Trois for act 1. Today, the Pas de Trois can also be found in the Grand Pas. Music from Cesare Pugni's "The Naiad and the Fisherman".

Professional Examples:

- Goryacheva, Anastasia (Bolshoi) starts at 01:31 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug0sFAoJKEU
- Kono, Mai (Bayerisches Staatsballett) starts at 01:02 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-Kimn7cKyY
- Chebykina, Ekaterina (Mariinsky – current production) starts at 01:26 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UamzIA9XWds
- Bespalova, Valeria (Vaganova) starts at 01:14 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmpfHVORMOE
- Gimadieva, Tamara (Vaganova) starts at 01:09 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONynlLBqNzM

Pas de Trois Variation to Music from "Paquita" Act 1
Moderato
Original choreography from Marius Petipa's 1881/2 restaging of Joseph Mazilier's "Paquita". Created as part of Petipa's new Pas de Trois for act 1. Today, the Pas de Trois can also be found in the Grand Pas. Music by Edouard Deldevez for an act 1 Pas de Deux in Mazilier's original "Paquita".

Professional Examples:

- Kolegova, Anastasia (Mariinsky – current production) starts at 04:37 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UamzIA9XWds
- Goryacheva, Anastasia (Bolshoi) starts at 04:25 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug0sFAoJKEU
- Smirnova, Anastasia (Vaganova) starts at 04:24 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmpfHVORMOE
- Kono, Mai (Bayerisches Staatsballett) starts at 03:21 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-Kimn7cKyY

Student Examples:

- Gelfer-Muendl, Aviva (16,) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CsqaaKjoqM
- Park, SeonMee (15, Sunhwa Arts High School) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLG0GzZVsqU

Pas de Trois Variation to Music from "Paquita" Act 2
Moderato
Original choreography from Marius Petipa's 1881/2 restaging of Joseph Mazilier's "Paquita". Created as part of Petipa's new Pas de Trois for act 1. Today, the Pas de Trois can also be found in the Grand Pas. Music by Edouard Deldevez for the act 2 Pas de Deux in Mazilier's original "Paquita".

Professional Examples:

- Chebykina, Ekaterina (Mariinsky – current production) starts at 02:42 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UamzIA9XWds
- Andrienko, Elena (Bolshoi) starts at 02:45 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug0sFAoJKEU
- Bespalova, Valeria (Vaganova) starts at 02:26 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmpfHVORMOE
- Dolmatova, Evgenia (Bayerisches Staatsballett) starts at 02:15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-Kimn7cKyY
- Gimadieva, Tamara (Vaganova) starts at 03:50 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONynlLBqNzM

Student Examples:

- Afonina, Nika (16, Kiev State Ballet School) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUaggnycX4Y
- Taylor, Natalie (15, Prix de Lausanne) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sBk-ZGDpxU

LIST OF MALE VARIATIONS USED IN THE "PAQUITA GRAND PAS CLASSIQUE"

Lucien's Wedding
Allegro
Music by Ludwig Minkus.

Professional Examples:

- Hernandez, Isaac (Het Nationale Ballet) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ATHTQCeZiI
- Martinez, Jose (Paris Opera) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7DaAW_on48

Student Examples:

- Abdel Nour, Luca (Tanz Akademie Zurich) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uj4j9SR3nE
- Acevedo, Austen (15, Orlando Ballet School) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cmM-Zg6bbg
- Casalinho, Antonio (Conservatorio Annarella Sanchez) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zd2IsDVZNe0
- Figueredo, Gabriel (18, John Cranko Schule) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uj4j9SR3nE
- Lee, Eunsoo (17, YAGP) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0LnTzwyACM

Lucien's Wedding Lavrovsky Variation
Original choreography by Leonid Lavrovsky from Yuri Burlaka's 2008 staging of "Paquita Grand Pas" for the Bolshoi. In the Burlaka version, this variation is used instead of the other Lucien wedding variation above. Music by Riccardo Drigo from the ballet "La Source".

Professional Examples:

- Skvortov, Ruslan (Bolshoi) starts at 01:50 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXujJr61YSw
- Rodkin, Denis (Vaganova) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVEg82po_Ws

Variation from "Le Talisman Pas de Deux"
Original choreography from "Le Talisman Pas de Deux" by Pyotr Gusev in 1955 to music from the male variation in Act 2 of "The Pharaoh's Daughter" by Cesare Pugni.

Professional Example:

- Kim, Kimin (Mariinsky – old production) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFXC5oBKS2Q

Pas de Trois Variation to Music from "The Naiad and the Fisherman"
Original choreography from Marius Petipa's 1881/2 restaging of Joseph Mazilier's "Paquita". Created as part of Petipa's new Pas de Trois for act 1. Today, the Pas de Trois can also be found in the Grand Pas. Music from "The Naiad and the Fisherman" by Cesare Pugni.

Professional Examples:

- Timofeev, Alexei (Mariinsky – old production) starts at 13:30 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7a4GhBD8chk
- Parish, Xander (Mariinsky – current production) starts at 01:59 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UamzIA9XWds
- Thibault, Emmanuel (Paris Opera) starts at 01:48 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxeksClnl7c

Pas de Trois Variation to Music from "Le Diable de Quatre"
Original choreography from Marius Petipa's 1881/2 restaging of Joseph Mazilier's "Paquita". Created as part of Petipa's new Pas de Trois for act 1. Today, the Pas de Trois can also be found in the Grand Pas. Music by Adolphe Adam from Mazilier's 1845 ballet "Le Diable de Quatre".

Professional Examples:

- Parish, Xander (Mariinsky – current production) starts at 06:01 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UamzIA9XWds
- Thibault, Emmanuel (Paris Opera) starts at 05:15 Professional Examples: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxeksClnl7c

Student Example:

- Lee, Kangwon https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbgDUPlSXl0

Sources:

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