

PLOT SYNOPSIS – OPERA AT WESTERN PRODUCTION OF *DIE FLEDERMAUS*
November 14-17, 2024 | Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University

Act I

Adele, the chambermaid of Gabriel and Rosalinda von Eisenstein is invited (or so she believes) by her sister Sally to attend a ball given by Prince Orlofsky. She succeeds in getting the night off by inventing a story about a sick aunt. Her employer, Eisenstein, a man of independent means, has recently been handed an 8-day prison sentence for punching a policeman on the nose. His rather incompetent lawyer, Mr. Blind, has not helped him at all. But rather than reporting to serve the sentence, his friend Dr. Falke persuades Eisenstein to join him for a night of revelry at villa of Prince Orlofsky disguised as a French Marquis. He can even use his beautiful pocket watch to distract and woo the ladies.

Falke is following his own agenda –Eisenstein recently humiliated him by leaving him drunk and dressed as a bat on a park bench, forcing him to return home the next morning in front of the whole town. Falke sees his opportunity for a lighthearted revenge; and so he also invites Eisenstein’s wife Rosalinda to come to the ball disguised as a Hungarian Countess. Rosalinda is already upset at the prospect of her husband in jail when a former colleague from the conservatoire named Alfred shows up and tries to woo her with his charming tenor voice. Eisenstein leaves for the party and Alfred enters and is arrested by prison warden Frank who arrives and takes him for Eisenstein. Frank, who has also been invited then leaves to attend Orlofsky's ball.

Act II

At Prince Orlofsky’s ball, Falke’s machinations fall into place: To Eisenstein’s astonishment he encounters his chambermaid Adele, now presented by her sister Sally, and disguised as Olga a “rising young actress”. He befriends a French ‘chevalier’ – in truth none other than prison warden Frank; and finally he falls in love with and charms his own wife, masked and disguised as a Hungarian countess. Orlofsky, who has been promised an interesting evening certainly gets his wish for laughter. Falke and the entire company sing and dance the night away.

Act III

The action continues the next morning at the prison, a rather interesting place thanks to Frosch, the permanently drunk jailer. One by one, the characters reappear: first prison warden Frank, extremely hungover, then Adele who is hoping to find a patron to foster her dramatic talent, along with her sister Sally, and finally Eisenstein, who is astonished to find that he has already been locked up all night. Then Rosalinda appears and, together with Alfred, demands an interview with a lawyer. Eisenstein dons a disguise and takes the place of the stuttering lawyer Mr. Blind. This trick allows him to get to the bottom of the previous evening’s events. First furious, he quickly changes his tune when Rosalinda shows him the watch with which she took when he attempted to woo her at the ball. Everything was a part of Falke’s successful plot for revenge. Eisenstein convinces his wife that the “champagne was to blame” and so it all ends happily. Adele even finds her patron in the form of Prince Orlofsky.