

Ancestor Suite

As the pure but weakened Madeline enters, the Ancestors shrink against the walls in terror, as vampires from a crucifix. She curtsies to Roderick and gives Poe a flower. Madeline dances with Roderick as the Ancestors clap soundlessly. Then Madeline dances with Poe while the Ancestors join in the dance. Madeline pauses, confused. Poe and the Ancestors stop but Madeline begins again. Only she hears the music, and she alone dances to it, becoming a whirling dervish. Suddenly the music stops, and the Ancestors retreat to watch Madeline who seems dazed. The Ancestors take a step towards Madeline, then another step, and another. Madeline collapses. Doctor Primus indicates that she is dead, and Roderick collapses in grief while a stunned Poe comforts him.