

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Saturday matinee 10 December 2022

The Nutcracker

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; **Choreography** Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon;

Production Peter Wright; **Designs** John Macfarlane; **Lighting** David Finn

The Sugar Plum Fairy Miki Mizutani

The Prince Lachlan Monaghan

Drosselmeyer Kit Holder

a magician

Clara Sofia Liñares

a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Enrique Bejarano Vidal

Clara's Mother Yijing Zhang

a former ballerina

Clara's Father Jonathan Payn

Fritz Matthew Titley

Clara's younger brother

Clara's Dancing Partner Ryan Felix

Grandmother Laura Day

Grandfather Rory Mackay

Butler Hamish Scott

Harlequin Eric Pinto Cata

Columbine Yuki Sugiura

Jack-in-the-Box Gus Payne

Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Children Members of Birmingham Royal Ballet's Dance Track and Elmhurst Ballet School's Young Dancer programmes; students of Elmhurst Ballet School and Royal Ballet Junior Associates

The Nutcracker Doll Enrique Bejarano Vidal

The Rat King Miles Gilliver

Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Lucy Waine

Her Attendants Isabella Howard, Alys Shee,
Lynsey Sutherland, Amelia Thompson

Winds Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng,

Riku Ito, Javier Rojas

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

The Nutcracker 2023: Booking open now!

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ACT II

Spanish Dance	Rosanna Ely, Louis Andreasen, Mason King
Arabian Dance	Daria Stanciulescu, Callum Findlay-White
Chinese Dance	Thomas Hazelby, Eric Pinto Cata
Russian Dance	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Jack Easton, Theo Greenfield
Dance of the Mirlitons	Olivia Chang Clarke, Frieda Kaden, Rachele Pizzillo, Lynsey Sutherland

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	Karla Doorbar
Her Consorts	Ryan Felix, Riku Ito, Gus Payne, Javier Rojas
Leading Flowers	Matilde Rodrigues, Yuki Sugiura, Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine

Grand pas de deux **Miki Mizutani, Lachlan Monaghan**

Students appear by kind permission of the Principal of The Royal Ballet School.

Ex Cathedra was founded in Birmingham by its Artistic Director, Jeffrey Skidmore OBE in 1969. Ex Cathedra is delighted their Academy of Vocal Music are performing in *The Nutcracker* again this year, under the leadership of Rebecca Ledgard, Director of Education. Email education@excathedra.co.uk to find out more and join the choir.

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Paul Murphy; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 30 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 3.10pm

THE STORY

ACT I

It is Christmas Eve and Dr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a party. They have two children, Clara, a ballet student, and her younger brother, Fritz. As well as some of Clara's friends, Mrs Stahlbaum has invited a magician, Drosselmeyer. He brings gifts for the children and gives a Nutcracker doll to Clara.

When the guests have departed, Clara creeps downstairs looking for the Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, the room seems to grow and giant rats, led by their King, attack Clara. The Nutcracker springs to life and, summoning the toy soldiers, defends her.

Realising that the Nutcracker is about to be overpowered, Clara hits the Rat King with her shoe. The Nutcracker falls to the ground, seemingly lifeless and Clara tries to revive him. As he comes back to life, to her amazement, he has turned into a handsome Prince. He dances with her, then leads her to the Land of Snow where the winds transport her into the night sky.

ACT II

Clara flies through the clouds and arrives in a strange place where a fantastic world is conjured up by Drosselmeyer. He shows her the sun, the moon, flowers and dancers from many different lands. The Rat King bursts in, but the Nutcracker Prince and Drosselmeyer banish him forever.

Drosselmeyer now puts on a grand entertainment in Clara's honour as a reward for her bravery. She joins in many of the dances and is finally transformed into the Sugar Plum Fairy, the ballerina of her dreams. The Nutcracker Prince reappears and dances with her. As the dancing reaches its climax the dream-world vanishes and Clara awakens at the foot of the Christmas tree.