

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Friday 12 December 2025
Birmingham Hippodrome

The Nutcracker

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;
Choreography Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon;
Production Peter Wright; **Designs** John Macfarlane; **Lighting** David Finn

*These performances are dedicated to the memory of Derek Purnell,
BRB's Chief Executive (1995 – 2005).*

The Sugar Plum Fairy Miki Mizutani

The Prince Max Maslen

Drosselmeyer Louis Andreasen
a Magician

Clara Maïlène Katoch
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Alfie-Lee Hall

Clara's Mother Daria Stanciulescu
a former ballerina

Clara's Father Dominic Antonucci

Fritz Albert Newton-Smith
Clara's younger brother

Clara's Dancing Partner Javier Rojas

Grandmother Lynsey Sutherland

Grandfather Rory Mackay

Butler Rafael Bejarano Vidal

Harlequin Enrique Bejarano Vidal

Columbine Rosanna Ely

Jack-in-the-Box Riku Ito

Ballet students, Cadets, Guests, Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Children Students of Elmhurst Ballet School and
The Royal Ballet School

The Nutcracker Doll Alfie-Lee Hall

The Rat King Miles Gilliver

Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Frieda Kaden

Her Attendants Lucy Waine, Sofia Liñares,
Ava May Llewellyn, Eilis Small

Winds John Fontanini, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg,
Mason King, Javier Rojas

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

***Spanish Dance* Sophia Liñares**

Marlo Kempsey-Fagg, Javier Rojas

***Arabian Dance* Lucy Waine**

**Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Haoliang Feng,
August Generalli**

***Chinese Dance* John Fontanini, Ted Peng**

***Russian Dance* Yusuke Otake, Oisín Middleton
Luca Mollica**

***Dance of the Mirlitons* Frieda Kaden, Yasemin Kayabay,
Yoli Meurisse, Sophie Walters**

Waltz of the Flowers

***The Rose Fairy* Rosanna Ely**

***Her Consorts* Gabriel Anderson, Ixan Llorca Ferrer,
Riku Ito, Mason King**

***Leading Flowers* Karla Doorbar, Tori Forsyth-Hecken,
Alisa Garkavenko, Ava May Llewellyn**

***Grand pas de deux* Miki Mizutani, Max Maslen**

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

The choristers in Act I are members of Ex Cathedral's Academies of Vocal Music,
Artistic Director Jeffrey Skidmore.

Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes; *Act II* 50 minutes.

The performance will end at approximately 9.40pm.

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Daniel Parkinson

Leader Robert Gibbs

First Violins

Vanessa David
Amanda Brown
Deborah Schlenther
Philip Aird
Timothy Wilford
Jake Rea
Rosemary Henbest
Catherine Hamer
Christopher Hughes

Second Violins

Thomas Grundy
Mary Martin
Fiona Robertson
Robert Simmons
Charlotte Dodwell
Paul Barrett
Suzannah Quirke
Amy Heggart

Violas

Errika Collins
Carys Barnes
May Bardsley
Elizabeth Fryer
Thomas Kirby

Cellos

António Novais
Jane Rainey
Maya Kashif
Danushka Edirisinghe
Toby Turton

Doubles Basses

Vera Pereira
Georgina McGrath
Phoebe Cheng
William Puhr

Flutes

Anna Kondrashina
Hannah Grayson
Sandra Skipper
Piccolo

Oboes

Hannah Condliffe
Louise Hayter
Helen Vigurs
Cor Anglais

Clarinets

Ian Scott
Fiona Mitchell
Harry Penny *Bass*

Bassoons

Luke Tucker
Ruth Rosales

Horns

Joanna Withers
Alexander Hocknull
Alastair Rycroft
Jonathan Farey
Jonathan Bareham

Trumpets

Michael Allen
Julie Ryan

Trombones

Thomas Scaife
David Pitts
Paul Lambert

Tuba

Adam Collins

Timpani

Grahame King

Percussion

Kevin Earley
Paul Parker
John McCutcheon

Harps

Susan Blair
Deian Rowlands

Celeste

Yuria Miki

The Story

Sir Peter Wright

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.

Nutcracker-themed merchandise including Programmes, Mugs, Tote bags and T-shirts is available in the foyer.



Programme £8



Mug £12



Also available from brb.org.uk/Shop or by scanning the QR code

The Nutcracker 2026 – Booking open now!
Birmingham Hippodrome