

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Saturday matinee 2 December 2023

## 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** Yaoqian Shang  
**The Prince** Lachlan Monaghan  
**Drosselmeyer** Max Maslen  
*a magician*  
**Clara** Yuki Sugiura  
*a ballet student*

### ACT I

**The Magician's Assistant** Gus Payne  
**Clara's Mother** Samara Downs  
*a former ballerina*  
**Clara's Father** Rory Mackay  
**Fritz** Uzziah Gray  
*Clara's younger brother*  
**Clara's Dancing Partner** Ryan Felix  
**Grandmother** Karla Doorbar  
**Grandfather** Michael O'Hare  
**Butler** Oscar Kempsey-Fagg  
**Harlequin** August Generalli  
**Columbine** Rachele Pizzillo  
**Jack-in-the-Box** Riku Ito  
**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** Gus Payne  
**The Rat King** Louis Andreasen  
**Soldiers, Rats** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet  
**The Snow Fairy** Lucy Waine  
**Her Attendants** Rosanna Ely, Reina Fuchigami,  
Emma Price, Amelia Thompson  
**Winds** Ryan Felix, Callum Findlay-White,  
Miles Gilliver, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg  
**Snowflakes** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

### INTERVAL

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***The Nutcracker 2024: Booking open now!***

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## ACT II

**Spanish Dance** Rosanna Ely, Miles Gilliver, Javier Rojas  
**Arabian Dance** Isabella Howard,  
Gabriel Anderson, Louis Andreasen, Lennert Steegen  
**Chinese Dance** August Generalli, Hamish Scott  
**Russian Dance** Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Ryan Felix, Eric Pinto Cata  
**Dance of the Mirlitons** Olivia Chang Clarke, Frieda Kaden,  
Sofia Liñares, Rachele Pizzillo

### Waltz of the Flowers

**The Rose Fairy** Reina Fuchigami  
**Her Consorts** Jack Easton, Riku Ito,  
Gus Payne, Shuailun Wu  
**Leading Flowers** Matilde Rodrigues, Daria Stanciulescu,  
Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine

**Grand pas de deux** Yaoqian Shang, Lachlan Monaghan

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

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

## Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Philip Ellis; Leader Robert Gibbs



### Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 30 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 4.40pm

## 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.

### The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2023

**28 November – 5 December**

**Help us raise £49,000 to restore *The Sleeping Beauty***

Every £1 donated during The Big Give will be doubled, supporting the urgent repair of this beautiful Sir Peter Wright ballet, ahead of our performances next year.

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