# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

**Saturday 21 November 2026, Birmingham Hippodrome**

# The Nutcracker

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

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|---|---|
| ***The Sugar Plum Fairy*** | **Beatrice Parma** |
| ***The Prince*** | **Tzu-Chao Chou** |
| ***Drosselmeyer***<br>*a Magician* | **Louis Andreasen** |
| ***Clara***<br>*a ballet student* | **Rosanna Ely** |

**ACT I**

| | |
|---|---|
| ***The Magician's Assistant*** | **Alfie-Lee Hall** |
| ***Clara's Mother***<br>*a former ballerina* | **Samara Downs** |
| ***Clara's Father*** | **Dominic Antonucci** |
| ***Fritz***<br>*Clara's younger brother* | **Charles Law** |
| ***Clara's Dancing Partner*** | **Tom Hazelby** |
| ***Grandmother*** | **Reina Fuchigami** |
| ***Grandfather*** | **Riku Ito** |
| ***Butler*** | **Noah Campbell** |
| ***Harlequin*** | **Enrique Bejarano Vidal** |
| ***Columbine*** | **Yuki Sugiura** |
| ***Jack-in-the-Box*** | **Luciano Ghidoli** |
| ***Ballet students, Cadets, Guests, and Servants*** | **Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet** |
| ***Children*** | **Members of BRB's Dance Track, Elmhurst Ballet School's Young Dancer and Royal Ballet Junior Associates programmes; students of Elmhurst Ballet School.** |
| ***The Nutcracker Doll*** | **Alfie-Lee Hall** |
| ***The Rat King*** | **Haoliang Feng** |
| ***Soldiers, Rats*** | **Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet** |
| ***The Snow Fairy*** | **Lucy Waine** |
| ***Her Attendants*** | **Alisa Garkavenko, Frieda Kaden, Eilis Small, Amelia Thompson** |
| ***Winds*** | **Noah Campbell, Ixan Ferrer, John Fontanini, Tom Hazelby** |
| ***Snowflakes*** | **Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet** |

**INTERVAL**

***The Nutcracker* 2027 – Booking open now!**

## ACT II

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|---|---|
| ***Spanish Dance*** | **Frieda Kaden** |
| | **Gabriel Anderson, August Generalli** |
| ***Arabian Dance*** | **Maïlène Katoch** |
| | **Paul Brando, Noah Campbell, Miles Gilliver** |
| ***Chinese Dance*** | **Mikel Arzak, Samuel Pereria** |
| ***Russian Dance*** | **Jacopo Biancucci, Alfie-Lee Hall,** |
| | **Denis Teixeira** |
| ***Dance of the Mirlitons*** | **Yasemin Kayabay, Yoli Meurisse,** |
| | **Rachele Pizzillo, Matilde Rodrigues** |

### Waltz of the Flowers

| | |
|---|---|
| ***The Rose Fairy*** | **Yuki Sugiura** |
| ***Her Consorts*** | **Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng,** |
| | **Ixan Ferrer, Tom Hazelby** |
| ***Leading Flowers*** | **Olivia Chang-Clarke, Alisa Garkavenko,** |
| | **Lucy Waine, Gillian Whittall** |

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|---|---|
| ***Grand pas de deux*** | **Beatrice Parma, Tzu-Chao Chou** |

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 Cathedra'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* Paul Murphy

**First Violins**
Robert Gibbs *Leader*
Joana Valentinaviciute
Boglarka Gyorgy
Deborah Schlenther
Philip Aird
Caroline Ferriman
Jennifer Thurston
Tim Wilford
Cora-Marina Iordache
Catherine Hamer

**Second Violins**
Sophie Phillips
Mary Martin
Fiona Robertson
Robert Simmons
Charlotte Dodwell
Paul Barrett
Shelley Deacon
Elizabeth Goble

**Violas**
Errika Collins
Jamie Howe
Amy Swain
Alex Wakeling
Matthew Johnstone

**Cellos**
António Novais
Jane Rainey
Maya Kashif
Cormac O'Briain
Helen Edgar

**Double Basses**
Vera Pereira
Fabian Galeana
Joana Subira
Thomas Neil

**Flutes**
Anna Kondrashina
Stefan Cunningham
Sandra Skipper *Piccolo*

**Oboes**
Izy Cheesman
Louise Hayter
Russell Coates
*Cor Anglais*

**Clarinets**
Ian Scott
Fiona Mitchell
Lewis Graham *Bass*

**Bassoons**
Luke Tucker
Liz Trigg

**Horns**
Richard Dilley
Neil Mitchell
Christopher Pointon
Isabella Ward-Ackland
Alex Hocknull

**Trumpets**
Christopher Deacon
Julie Ryan

**Trombones**
Amos Miller
Andrew White
Paul Lambert

**Tuba**
David Gordon Shute

**Timpani**
Grahame King

**Percussion**
Kevin Earley
Lewis Blee
John McCutcheon

**Harps**
Susan Blair
Elin Samuel

**Celeste**
Yuria Miki

## 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.

Sir Peter Wright


# GIFTS AND MORE

**Whether it's the perfect Christmas gift or a souvenir for yourself, we've got you covered with our Nutcracker-themed mugs, t-shirts, bags and souvenir programme.**

Find these in our online shop and a selection at Birmingham Hippodrome's stall in the theatre foyer.

**brb.org.uk/Shop**




**Programme: £8**

# CARLOS'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL!

**Your support will help Carlos Acosta's *The Maiden of Venice* shine for generations to come!**



**brb.org.uk/Christmas Appeal**