BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Sunday matinee 22 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

The Sugar Plum Fairy	**Miki Mizutani**
The Prince	**Enrique Bejarano Vidal**
Drosselmeyer *a Magician*	**Lachlan Monaghan**
Clara *a ballet student*	**Sophie Walters**

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant	**John Fontanini**
Clara's Mother *a former ballerina*	**Daria Stanciulescu**
Clara's Father	**Miles Gilliver**
Fritz *Clara's younger brother*	**Freddie Rae Davenport**
Clara's Dancing Partner	**Ryan Felix**
Grandmother	**Rachele Pizzillo**
Grandfather	**Rory Mackay**
Butler	**Jacopo Biancucci**
Harlequin	**Tom Hazelby**
Columbine	**Frieda Kaden**
Jack-in-the-Box	**Alfie-Lee Hall**
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	**John Fontanini**
The Rat King	**Haoliang Feng**
Soldiers, Rats	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
The Snow Fairy	**Eilis Small**
Her Attendants	**Olivia Chang-Clarke, Ava May Llewellyn, Maïléne Katoch, Yuki Sugiura**
Winds	**Gabriel Anderson, Louis Andreasen, Noah Campbell, Ryan Felix**
Snowflakes	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

INTERVAL

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

ACT II

Spanish Dance	**Rachele Pizzillo** **Ixan Ferrer, Luciano Ghidoli**
Arabian Dance	**Amelia Thompson** **Louis Andreasen, Noah Campbell,** **Marlo Kempsey-Fagg**
Chinese Dance	**John Fontanini, Denis Teixeira**
Russian Dance	**Mikel Arzak, Tom Hazelby, Thomas Kujawa**
Dance of the Mirlitons	**Olivia Chang-Clarke, Frieda Kaden,** **Maïlène Katoch, Airi Kobayashi**

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	**Reina Fuchigami**
Her Consorts	**Gabriel Anderson, Haoliang Feng,** **Miles Gilliver, Riku Ito**
Leading Flowers	**Alexandra Manuel, Matilde Rodrigues,** **Eilis Small, Yuki Sugiura**

Grand pas de deux	**Miki Mizutani, Enrique Bejarano Vidal**

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 3.10pm

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Thomas Jung

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
Caroline Bodimead

Violas
Errika Collins
Jamie Howe
Amy Swain
Alex Wakeling
Matthew Johnstone

Cellos
António Novais
Jane Rainey
Maya Kashif
Cormac O'Briain
Miguel Fernandes

Double Basses
Vera Pereira
Fabian Galeana
Joana Subira
Thomas Neil

Flutes
Anna Wolstenholme
Jane Dixon-Wayne
Sandra Skipper *Piccolo*

Oboes
Izy Cheesman
Louise Hayter
Russell Coates
Cor Anglais

Clarinets
Ian Scott
Fiona Mitchell
Lewis Graham *Bass*

Bassoons
Luke Tucker
Ruth Rosales

Horns
Richard Dilley
Neil Mitchell
Christopher Pointon
Richard Stroud
Alex Hocknull

Trumpets
Christopher Deacon
Julie Ryan

Trombones
Andrew White
Julian Turner
Ed Hilton

Tuba
David Gordon Shute

Timpani
Grahame King

Percussion
Kevin Earley
Lewis Blee
John McCutcheon

Harps
Susan Blair
Elin Samuel

Celeste
Yen Lee

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!

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brb.org.uk/Christmas Appeal