

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday matinee 27 November 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 Yaoqian Shang

The Prince Riku Ito

Drosselmeyer Miles Gilliver
a Magician

Clara Maïlène Katoch
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Louis Andreasen

Clara's Mother Daria Stanciulescu
a former ballerina

Clara's Father Jonathan Payn

Fritz Lawson Hateley
Clara's younger brother

Clara's Dancing Partner Tom Hazelby

Grandmother Laëtitia Lo Sardo

Grandfather Rory Mackay

Butler Rafael Bejarano Vidal

Harlequin Enrique Bejarano Vidal

Columbine Hannah Martin

Jack-in-the-Box Ryan Felix

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

Children Students of Elmhurst Ballet School and
The Royal Ballet School

The Nutcracker Doll Louis Andreasen

The Rat King Haoliang Feng

Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Frieda Kaden

Her Attendants Tori Forsyth-Hecken, Sofia Liñares,
Ava May Llewellyn, Lucy Waine

Winds Gabriel Anderson, Yasiel Hodelín Bello,
Marlo Kempsey-Fagg, Javier Rojas

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL



THE BIG GIVE

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

2 – 9 December

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Don Quixote shine for
generations to come!



ACT II

Spanish Dance Frieda Kaden
Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Ixan Llorca Ferrer

Arabian Dance Amelia Thompson
Louis Andreassen, Haoliang Feng,
Marlo Kempsey-Fagg

Chinese Dance Ryan Felix, Thomas Kujawa

Russian Dance Alfie-Lee Hall, Tom Hazelby,
Luca Mollica

Dance of the Mirlitons Alisa Garkavenko, Yasemin Kayabay,
Airi Kobayashi, Yoli Meurisse

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy Lucy Waine

Her Consorts Gabriel Anderson, Enrique Bejarano Vidal
Yasiel Hodelín Bello, Mason King

Leading Flowers Karla Doorbar, Tori Forsyth-Hecken,
Reina Fuchigami, Ava May Llewellyn

Grand pas de deux Yaoqian Shang, Riku Ito

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 4.10pm

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Jean-Claude Picard
Leader Robert Gibbs

First Violins

Joana Valentinaviciute
Vanessa David
Amanda Brown
Deborah Schlenther
Philip Aird
Caroline Ferriman
Jennifer Thurston
Timothy Wilford
Jake Rea

Second Violins

Thomas Grundy
Fiona Robertson
Charlotte Dodwell
Suzannah Quirke
Cora-Marina Iordache
Risa Sekine
Chris Hughes
Ivor McGregor

Violas

Errika Collins
Carys Barnes
Emily Clarke
Wei Wei Tan
Elizabeth Fryer

Cellos

António Novais
Jane Rainey
Alessandro Sanguineti
Gen Li
Samuel Vincent

Doubles Basses

Alexander Verster
Phoebe Clarke
Phoebe Cheng
William Pühr

Flutes

Anna Wolstenholme
Jimena de Vicente
Alvarez
Sandra Skipper
Piccolo

Oboes

Amy Turner
Odette Cotton
Vanessa Howells
Cor Anglais

Clarinets

Harry Penny
Maria Gomes
James Maltby *Bass*

Bassoons

Luke Tucker
Ruth Rosales

Horns

Andrew Littermore
Jo Withers
Richard Dilley
Richard Stroud
Alex Hocknull

Trumpets

Michael Allen
Steven Walton

Trombones

Andrew White
Christopher Hickman
Ed Hilton

Tuba

David Gordon Shute

Timpani

Grahame King

Percussion

Aidan Hammond
Paul Parker
John McCutcheon

Harp

Susan Blair
Elin Samuel

Celeste

Jeanette Wong

The Nutcracker 2026 – Booking open now!

Birmingham Hippodrome

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