

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Friday 28 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 Miki Mizutani

The Prince Max Maslen

Drosselmeyer August Generali
a Magician

Clara Reina Fuchigami
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Louis Andreasen

Clara's Mother Samara Downs
a former ballerina

Clara's Father Gabriel Anderson

Fritz Lawson Hateley
Clara's younger brother

Clara's Dancing Partner Enrique Bejarano Vidal

Grandmother Daria Stanciulescu

Grandfather Rory Mackay

Butler Rafael Bejarano Vidal

Harlequin Tom Hazelby

Columbine Karla Doorbar

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 Louis Andreasen

The Rat King Haoliang Feng

Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Amelia Thompson

Her Attendants Olivia-Chang-Clarke, Ava May Llewellyn,
Hannah Martin, Yuki Sugiura

Winds John Fontanini, Miles Gilliver,

Yasiel Hodelín Bello, Marlo Kempesy-Fagg

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL



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CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

2 – 9 December

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generations to come!



ACT II

Spanish Dance Olivia Chang-Clarke
Ixan Llorca Ferrer, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg

Arabian Dance Yuki Sugiura
Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Killian Rudd,
Yasiel Hodelin Bello

Chinese Dance Alfie-Lee Hall, Tom Hazelby

Russian Dance John Fontanini, Oisin Middleton
Thomas Kujawa

Dance of the Mirlitons Alisa Garkavenko, Maïlène Katoch,
Airi Kobayashi, Hannah Martin

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy Yaoqian Shang

Her Consorts Louis Andreassen, Yasiel Hodelín Bello,
Riku Ito, Javier Rojas

Leading Flowers Rosanna Ely, Tori Forsyth-Hecken,
Frieda Kaden, Eilis Small

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 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 Jean-Claude Picard

Leader Robert Gibbs

First Violins

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

Second Violins

Thomas Grundy
Mary Martin
Fiona Robertson
Robert Simmons
Charlotte Dodwell
Suzannah Quirke
Cora-Marina Iordache
Vladimir Naoumov

Violas

Errika Collins
Carys Barnes
Emily Clarke
Hannah Horton
Wei Wei Tan

Cellos

António Novais
Jane Rainey
Alessandro Sanguineti
Gen Li
Samuel Vincent

Doubles Basses

Vera Pereira
Georgina McGrath
Alexander Verster
William Puhr

Flutes

Frederico Paixao
Jimena de Vicente
Alvarez
Sandra Skipper *Piccolo*

Oboes

Amy Turner
Odette Cotton
Vanessa Howells
Cor Anglais

Clarinets

Ian Scott
Maria Gomes
Harry Penny *Bass*

Bassoons

Luke Tucker
Alex Davidson

Horns

Andrew Littermore
Jo Withers
Richard Dilley
Richard Stroud
Alex Hocknull

Trumpets

Michael Allen
Julie Ryan

Trombones

Andrew White
Christopher Hickman
Ed Hilton

Tuba

David Gordon Shute

Timpani

Grahame King

Percussion

Aidan Hammond
Paul Parker
John McCutcheon

Harp

Elin Samuel
Deian Rowlands

Celeste

Yuria Miki

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