

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Saturday evening 29 October 2022

## Coppélia

**Music** Léo Delibes; **Choreography** Marius Petipa, Enrico Cecchetti and Peter Wright;

**Production** Peter Wright; **Scenery and costumes** Peter Farmer;

**Lighting** Johnny Westall-Eyre (based on the original design by Peter Teigen);

**Guest Répétiteur** Denis Bonner

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <i>Swanilda</i>     | Samara Downs     |
| <i>Franz</i>        | Brandon Lawrence |
| <i>Dr Coppélius</i> | Jonathan Payn    |

### ACT I

|                            |                                                                                           |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Swanilda's Friends</i>  | Rosanna Ely, Matilde Rodrigues, Yuki Sugiura,<br>Lynsey Sutherland, Alys Shee, Lucy Waine |
| <i>Burgomaster</i>         | Kit Holder                                                                                |
| <i>Innkeeper</i>           | Rory Mackay                                                                               |
| <i>Coppélia</i>            | Frieda Kaden                                                                              |
| <i>A doll</i>              |                                                                                           |
| <i>Gypsy</i>               | Daria Stanciulescu                                                                        |
| <i>Mazurka and Czárdás</i> | Eilis Small, Yijing Zhang,<br>Ryan Felix, Riku Ito                                        |

### INTERVAL

### ACT II

|                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Chinese Doll</i>  | Frieda Kaden                        |
| <i>Spanish Doll</i>  | Olivia Chang Clarke                 |
| <i>Scottish Doll</i> | Mason King                          |
| <i>Soldier Dolls</i> | Oscar Kempsey-Fagg, Lennert Steegen |

### INTERVAL

## The Nutcracker

★★★★★ *The Sunday Times*

**19 November – 10 December**

Birmingham Hippodrome  
[birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

Birmingham Royal Ballet returns to Birmingham Hippodrome this Christmas with Sir Peter Wright's incredible *Nutcracker* after its £1m refresh!

## ACT III

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b><i>The Duke</i></b>    | <b>Callum Findlay-White</b> |
| <b><i>The Duchess</i></b> | <b>Tori Forsyth-Hecken</b>  |
| <b><i>His Aide</i></b>    | <b>Jack Easton</b>          |

### Festival of the Bell

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Father Time</i></b>        | <b>Rory Mackay</b>                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b><i>Dance of the Hours</i></b> | <b>Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet</b>                                                                                                                                         |
| <b><i>Dawn</i></b>               | <b>Beatrice Parma</b>                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b><i>Prayer</i></b>             | <b>Rachele Pizzillo</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b><i>Work</i></b>               | <b>Tessa Hogge, Regan Hutsell, Frieda Kaden,<br/>Sofia Linares, Yuki Sugiura, Lynsey Sutherland,<br/>Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine</b>                                              |
| <b><i>Betrothal</i></b>          | <b>Rosanna Ely, Ryan Felix</b>                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b><i>Call to Arms</i></b>       | <b>Miles Gilliver<br/>and<br/>Louis Andreassen, Enrique Bejarano Vidal,<br/>Haoliang Feng, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg, Mason King,<br/>Javier Rojas, Eric Pinto Cata, Lennert Steegen</b> |

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Peace</i></b> | <b>Samara Downs, Brandon Lawrence</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|

### Royal Ballet Sinfonia

**Conductor Paul Murphy; Leader Robert Gibbs**



#### Approximate timings

*Act I* 36 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes;

*Act II* 29 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes; *Act III* 31 minutes

*The performance will end at approximately 10.05pm*

## The story

### **ACT I** *The square of a village in eastern Europe*

Dr Coppélius has spent his life developing his mystical powers, which sometimes work but more often than not don't! His ambition is to bring Coppélia, one of his mechanical dolls, to life. One day Coppélius puts Coppélia out on the balcony; he is delighted when everyone believes she is a real person. However, Swanilda is not so pleased when she is ignored by Coppélia but Franz, her sweetheart, gets plenty of Coppélia's attention. The Burgomaster arrives and suggests that Swanilda tests Franz's faithfulness with an ear of corn – if it rattles she will know his love is true. The Burgomaster announces that the Duke has invited everyone to a fête, where the 'Masque of the Bell' will be performed to celebrate his gift of a new bell to the church. After everyone has departed, Swanilda and her friends return to decorate the square for the festivities. They decide to enter Coppélius's house to look for the mysterious girl on the balcony. Franz then returns with the same idea.

### **ACT II** *Dr Coppélius's workshop, later the same night*

Inside the workshop Swanilda and her companions discover Coppélia and are astonished to find that she is only a doll. Coppélius returns and drives them all out, except Swanilda who hides. Franz appears; Coppélius threatens to punish him. He then has second thoughts and, by putting a sleeping draught in some wine he offers Franz, he makes him fall asleep. With the help of a book of magic, he tries to bring Coppélia to life using Franz's spirit.

### **ACT III** *The village square, the following evening*

The bell is presented by the Duke, who presents gifts to Franz and Swanilda and another couple who have announced their wedding. Coppélius arrives, angry that his doll has been ruined, but the Duke placates him with a gift. The masque begins with dances that illustrate the uses to which the bell will be put: the call to prayer, work, the announcement of a marriage, the call to arms and, finally, the declaration of peace, in which we see Swanilda and Franz express their true love. They all enjoy the festivities, including Dr Coppélius – all is forgiven!