

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Saturday matinee 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

Swanilda	Momoko Hirata
Franz	Tzu-Chao Chou
Dr Coppélius	Rory Mackay

ACT I

Swanilda's Friends	Karla Doorbar, Reina Fuchigami, Sofia Linares, Rachele Pizzillo, Lucy Waine, Yijing Zhang
Burgomaster	Kit Holder
Innkeeper	Jonathan Payn
Coppélia	Olivia Chang Clarke
<i>A doll</i>	
Gypsy	Eilis Small
Mazurka and Czárdás	Rosanna Ely, Alys Shee
	Callum Findlay-White, Miles Gilliver

INTERVAL

ACT II

Chinese Doll	Olivia Chang Clarke
Spanish Doll	Amelia Thompson
Scottish Doll	Louis Andreasen
Soldier Dolls	Oscar Kempsey-Fagg, Mason King

INTERVAL

The Nutcracker

★★★★★ *The Sunday Times*

19 November – 10 December

Birmingham Hippodrome
birminghamhippodrome.com

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

ACT III

<i>The Duke</i>	Callum Findlay-White
<i>The Duchess</i>	Daria Stanciulescu
<i>His Aide</i>	Jack Easton

Festival of the Bell

<i>Father Time</i>	Jonathan Payn
<i>Dance of the Hours</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Dawn</i>	Rosanna Ely
<i>Prayer</i>	Lucy Waine
<i>Work</i>	Olivia Chang Clarke, Tessa Hogge, Regan Hutsell, Matilde Rodrigues, Eilis Small, Yuki Sugiura, Lynsey Sutherland, Amelia Thompson
<i>Betrothal</i>	Reina Fuchigami, Gus Payne
<i>Call to Arms</i>	Enrique Bejarano Vidal and Gabriel Anderson, Louis Andreasen, Haoliang Feng, Riku Ito, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg, Mason King, Eric Pinto Cata, Javier Rojas
<i>Peace</i>	Momoko Hirata, Tzu-Chao Chou

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Philip Ellis; 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 5.35pm

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!