

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Monday 29 December 2025

Royal Albert Hall

The Nutcracker

Choreography Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon; **Music** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;
Production David Bintley; **Additional choreography** David Bintley, Marion Tait;
Costumes and props John Macfarlane; **Setting and additional props** Dick Bird;
Lighting Peter Teigen; **Projection designs** 59 Productions; **Sound design** Bobby Aitken

with Simon Callow as the Voice of Drosselmeyer

The Sugar Plum Fairy Yaoqian Shang

The Prince Riku Ito

Drosselmeyer Louis Andreasen

Clara's Godfather

Clara Katherine Ochoa

a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Ryan Felix

Clara's Mother Samara Downs
a former ballerina

Clara's Father Rory Mackay

Fritz Albert Newton-Smith
Clara's younger brother

Clara's Dancing Partner Javier Rojas

Grandmother Daria Stanciulescu

Grandfather Jonathan Payn

Butler Rafael Bejarano Vidal

Harlequin Tom Hazelby

Columbine Karla Doorbar

Jack-in-the-Box Enrique Bejarano Vidal

Ballet students, Cadets, Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Guests, Children Students of Elmhurst Ballet School and
The Royal Ballet School

The Nutcracker Doll Ryan Felix

The Rat King Miles Gilliver

Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Yuki Sugiura

Her Attendants Maïlène Katoch, Ava May Llewellyn,
Eilis Small, Amelia Thompson

Winds John Fontanini, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg,
Mason King, Javier Rojas

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Olivia Chang-Clarke
	Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Javier Rojas
<i>Arabian Dance</i>	Lucy Waine
	Haoliang Feng, August Generalli, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg
<i>Chinese Dance</i>	Thomas Kujawa, Yusuke Otake
<i>Russian Dance</i>	John Fontanini, Alfie-Lee Hall
	Luca Mollica
<i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i>	Maïlène Katoch, Yasemin Kayabay, Yuki Sugiura, Sophie Walters

Waltz of the Flowers

<i>The Rose Fairy</i>	Reina Fuchigami
<i>Her Consorts</i>	Gabriel Anderson, Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Ixan Llorca Ferrer, Mason King
<i>Leading Flowers</i>	Karla Doorbar, Tori Forsyth-Hecken, Matilde Rodrigues, Elis Small
<i>Grand pas de deux</i>	Yaoqian Shang, Riku Ito

Students appear by kind permission of the Principal of The Royal Ballet School.

Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes; *Act II* 50 minutes.

The performance will end at approximately 9.10pm

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Thomas Jung
Leader Robert Gibbs

First Violins	Cellos	Bassoons	Percussion
Joana Valentinaviciute	António Novais	Luke Tucker	Kevin Earley
Vanessa David	Abi Hyde Smith	Ruth Rosales	Paul Parker
Amanda Brown	Jane Rainey		Thomas Edwards
Deborah Schlenther	Danushka Edirisinghe	Horns	
Philip Aird		Andrew Littlemore	Harps
Caroline Ferriman	Vera Pereira	Neil Mitchell	Susan Blair
Jennifer Thurston	Georgina McGrath	Christopher Pointon	Elin Samuel
Timothy Wilford	James Trowbridge	Andrew Sutton	Celeste
Second Violins		Richard Dilley	Yen Lee
Thomas Grundy	Flutes	Trumpets	
Mary Martin	Anna Wolstenholme	Michael Allen	
Fiona Robertson	Holly Melia	Christopher Deacon	
Robert Simmons	Sandra Skipper <i>Piccolo</i>	Trombones	
Charlotte Dodwell		Amos Miller	
Shelly Deacon	Oboes	Andrew White	
Suzannah Quirke	Peter Facer	Ed Hilton	
Violas	Vanessa Howells	Tuba	
Errika Collins	Helen Vigurs <i>Cor Anglais</i>	David Gordon Shute	
James Flannery	Clarinets	Timpani	
May Dolan	Ian Scott	Grahame King	
Christopher Pitsillides	Beth Crouch		
Mark Gibbs	Harry Penny <i>Bass</i>		

The Story

Sir Peter Wright and Sir David Bintley

ACT I

It is Christmas Eve, and Dr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a party. They have invited Herr Drosselmeyer, godfather to their two children, Clara and her younger brother Fritz, to provide a magic show. Drosselmeyer is a gifted toymaker and he brings presents for the young children: a Nutcracker doll for Clara and a Rat King puppet for Fritz. Clara is fascinated by the Nutcracker, and her belief that it has magical powers is confirmed when her brother breaks it and the doll strangely mends itself. The party comes to an end, the guests depart and the family goes to bed.

Unable to sleep, Clara creeps downstairs looking for the Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen. The whole room seems to grow and grow, and a horde of giant rats led by their King attacks Clara. The Nutcracker springs to life and, summoning the toysoldiers, defends her – and a huge battle breaks out.

Realising that the Nutcracker is about to be overpowered, Clara hits the Rat King with her shoe and he collapses. The Nutcracker falls exhausted to the ground, seemingly lifeless. Sadly, Clara takes him in her arms and tries to revive him. He gradually comes back to life and, to her amazement, 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 fantastic world, conjured up by godfather Drosselmeyer, where she is greeted by a host of dolls from many different lands who seem familiar from Drosselmeyer's toy shop. The doll's festivities are cut short when the Rat King bursts in. The Nutcracker Prince and Drosselmeyer restore order, by banishing him forever.

The celebrations continue as the dolls perform their national dances, culminating in the Waltz of the Flowers. Finally, the glittering Sugar Plum Fairy dances a sparkling pas de deux with the Nutcracker Prince.

Clara grows sleepy and the dolls slowly fade from her mind. Finding herself back at the foot of the Christmas tree alone she wonders, 'Was it all a magical dream?'