

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

**Waltz of the Flowers**

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

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**

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

**Second Violins**

Thomas Grundy  
Mary Martin  
Fiona Robertson  
Robert Simmons  
Charlotte Dodwell  
Shelly Deacon  
Suzannah Quirke

**Violas**

Errika Collins  
James Flannery  
May Dolan  
Christopher Pitsillides  
Mark Gibbs

**Cellos**

António Novais  
Abi Hyde Smith  
Jane Rainey  
Danushka Edirisinghe

**Doubles Basses**

Vera Pereira  
Georgina McGrath  
James Trowbridge

**Flutes**

Anna Wolstenholme  
Holly Melia  
Sandra Skipper *Piccolo*

**Oboes**

Peter Facer  
Vanessa Howells  
Helen Vigurs  
*Cor Anglais*

**Clarinets**

Ian Scott  
Beth Crouch  
Harry Penny *Bass*

**Bassoons**

Luke Tucker  
Ruth Rosales

**Horns**

Andrew Littlemore  
Neil Mitchell  
Christopher Pointon  
Andrew Sutton  
Richard Dilley

**Trumpets**

Michael Allen  
Christopher Deacon

**Trombones**

Amos Miller  
Andrew White  
Ed Hilton

**Tuba**

David Gordon Shute

**Timpani**

Grahame King

**Percussion**

Kevin Earley  
Paul Parker  
Thomas Edwards

**Harps**

Susan Blair  
Elin Samuel

**Celeste**

Yen Lee

# 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 toy soldiers, 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?'