

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Monday matinee 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 Beatrice Parma
The Prince Tzu-Chao Chou
Drosselmeyer August Generalli
Clara's Godfather
Clara Rosanna Ely
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Alfie-Lee Hall
Clara's Mother Daria Stanciuлесcu
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Jonathan Payn
Fritz Lawson Hateley
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Enrique Bejarano Vidal
Grandmother Karla Doorbar
Grandfather Rory Mackay
Butler Rafael Bejarano Vidal

Harlequin Tom Hazelby
Columbine Yuki Sugiura
Jack-in-the-Box Javier Rojas
Ballet students, Cadets, Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
Guests, Children Students of Elmhurst Ballet School and
The Royal Ballet School

The Nutcracker Doll Alfie-Lee Hall
The Rat King Mason King
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Yu Kurihara
Her Attendants Frieda Kaden, Amelia Thompson
Eilis Small, Lucy Waine

Winds Gabriel Anderson, Enrique Bejarano Vidal,
Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Olivia Chang-Clarke Gabriel Anderson, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg
<i>Arabian Dance</i>	Eilis Small Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Ixan Llorca Ferrer, Yasiel Hodelín Bello
<i>Chinese Dance</i>	John Fontanini, Thomas Kujawa
<i>Russian Dance</i>	Louis Andreasen, Alfie-Lee Hall, Javier Rojas
<i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i>	Alisa Garkavenko, Frieda Kaden, Hannah Martin, Mailene Katoch
Waltz of the Flowers	
<i>The Rose Fairy</i>	Amelia Thompson
<i>Her Consorts</i>	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver
<i>Leading Flowers</i>	Reina Fuchigami, Yuki Sugiura, Ava May Llewellyn, Lucy Waine
<i>Grand pas de deux</i>	Beatrice Parma, Tzu-Chao Chou

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 6.10pm

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Paul Murphy
Leader Robert Gibbs

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