

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Saturday matinee 3 December 2022

The Nutcracker

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; **Choreography** Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon;

Production Peter Wright; **Designs** John Macfarlane; **Lighting** David Finn

The Sugar Plum Fairy Yaoqian Shang

The Prince Max Maslen

Drosselmeyer Jonathan Payn
a magician

Clara Rachele Pizzillo
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Gus Payne

Clara's Mother Samara Downs
a former ballerina

Clara's Father Rory Mackay

Fritz Joshua McKenzie
Clara's younger brother

Clara's Dancing Partner Riku Ito

Grandmother Rosanna Ely

Grandfather Kit Holder

Butler Hamish Scott

Harlequin Javier Rojas

Columbine Reina Fuchigami

Jack-in-the-Box Enrique Bejarano Vidal

Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Children Members of Birmingham Royal Ballet's Dance Track and
Elmhurst Ballet School's Young Dancer programmes;
students of Elmhurst Ballet School and Royal Ballet
Junior Associates

The Nutcracker Doll Gus Payne

The Rat King Gabriel Anderson

Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Isabella Howard

Her Attendants Regan Hutsell, Lynsey Sutherland,
Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine

Winds Louis Andreasen, Callum Findlay-White,
Riku Ito, Lennert Steegen

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

The Nutcracker 2023: Booking open now!

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ACT II

Spanish Dance	Beatrice Parma, Kit Holder, Javier Rojas
Arabian Dance	Isabella Howard, Lennert Steegen
Chinese Dance	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Ryan Felix
Russian Dance	Guillem Cabrera, Gus Payne, Eric Pinto Cata
Dance of the Mirlitons	Olivia Chang Clarke, Tessa Hogge, Frieda Kaden, Sofia Liñares

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	Céline Gittens
Her Consorts	Gabriel Anderson, Callum Findlay-White, Miles Gilliver, Lachlan Monaghan
Leading Flowers	Matilde Rodrigues, Alys Shee, Daria Stanciulescu, Lynsey Sutherland

Grand pas de deux **Yaoqian Shang, Max Maslen**

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

Ex Cathedra was founded in Birmingham by its Artistic Director, Jeffrey Skidmore OBE in 1969. Ex Cathedra is delighted their Academy of Vocal Music are performing in *The Nutcracker* again this year, under the leadership of Rebecca Ledgard, Director of Education. Email education@excathedra.co.uk to find out more and join the choir.

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Martin Georgiev; Leader Robert Gibbs



Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 30 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 4.40pm

THE STORY

ACT I

It is Christmas Eve and Dr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a party. They have two children, Clara, a ballet student, and her younger brother, Fritz. As well as some of Clara's friends, Mrs Stahlbaum has invited a magician, Drosselmeyer. He brings gifts for the children and gives a Nutcracker doll to Clara.

When the guests have departed, Clara creeps downstairs looking for the Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, the room seems to grow and giant rats, led by their King, attack Clara. The Nutcracker springs to life and, summoning the toy soldiers, defends her.

Realising that the Nutcracker is about to be overpowered, Clara hits the Rat King with her shoe. The Nutcracker falls to the ground, seemingly lifeless and Clara tries to revive him. As he comes back to life, to her amazement, he 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 strange place where a fantastic world is conjured up by Drosselmeyer. He shows her the sun, the moon, flowers and dancers from many different lands. The Rat King bursts in, but the Nutcracker Prince and Drosselmeyer banish him forever.

Drosselmeyer now puts on a grand entertainment in Clara's honour as a reward for her bravery. She joins in many of the dances and is finally transformed into the Sugar Plum Fairy, the ballerina of her dreams. The Nutcracker Prince reappears and dances with her. As the dancing reaches its climax the dream-world vanishes and Clara awakens at the foot of the Christmas tree.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2022

Help our trail-blazing Freefall Dance Company, a company of talented adults with learning difficulties, expand their work.

29 November – 6 December

Visit brb.org.uk/biggive for details