

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Tuesday 30 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 Céline Gittens
The Prince Yasiel Hodelín Bello
Drosselmeyer Gabriel Anderson
Clara's Godfather
Clara Sofia Liñares
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Alfie-Lee Hall
Clara's Mother Eilis Small
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Miles Gilliver
Fritz Lawson Hateley
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Ryan Felix
Grandmother Daria Stanciulescu
Grandfather August Generalli
Butler Rafael Bejarano Vidal

Harlequin Enrique Bejarano Vidal
Columbine Hannah Martin
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 Louis Andreassen
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Lucy Waine
Her Attendants Rosanna Ely, Tori Forsyth-Hecken,
Mailène Katoch, Matilde Rodrigues,
Winds Haoliang Feng, Ixan Llorca Ferrer,
John Fontanini, Mason King
Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Rosanna Ely Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Ixan Llorca Ferrer
<i>Arabian Dance</i>	Lucy Waine August Generalli, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg, Mason King
<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>	Frieda Kaden, Hannah Martin, Matilde Rodrigues, Sophie Walters

Waltz of the Flowers

<i>The Rose Fairy</i>	Amelia Thompson
<i>Her Consorts</i>	Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver, Javier Rojas
<i>Leading Flowers</i>	Tori Forsyth-Hecken, Alisa Garkavenko, Eilis Small, Yuki Sugiura
<i>Grand pas de deux</i>	Céline Gitten, Yasiel Hodelín Bello

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 Dille

Trumpets

Michael Allen
Christopher Deacon

Trombones

Andrew White
Thomas Scaife
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?'