

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Tuesday matinee 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** Miki Mizutani

**The Prince** Max Maslen

**Drosselmeyer** August Generali

*Clara's Godfather*

**Clara** Reina Fuchigami

*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** Albert Newton-Smith

*Clara's younger brother*

**Clara's Dancing Partner** Tom Hazelby

**Grandmother** Karla Doorbar

**Grandfather** Riku Ito

**Butler** Rafael Bejarano Vidal

**Harlequin** Enrique Bejarano Vidal

**Columbine** Hannah Martin

**Jack-in-the-Box** John Fontanini

**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** Amelia Thompson

**Her Attendants** Rosanna Ely, Maïlène Katoch,

Matilde Rodrigues, Yuki Sugiura

**Winds** Gabriel Anderson, Haoliang Feng,

Marlo Kempsey-Fagg, Javier Rojas

**Snowflakes** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

### INTERVAL

## ACT II

<b>Spanish Dance</b>	<b>Rosanna Ely</b>
	<b>Ixan Llorca Ferrer, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg</b>
<b>Arabian Dance</b>	<b>Eilis Small</b>
	<b>Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Juilian Pecoraro, Haoliang Feng</b>
<b>Chinese Dance</b>	<b>Thomas Kujawa, Yusuke Otake</b>
<b>Russian Dance</b>	<b>Alfie-Lee Hall, Louis Andreasen, Javier Rojas</b>
<b>Dance of the Mirlitons</b>	<b>Frieda Kaden, Hannah Martin, Matilde Rodrigues, Sophie Walters</b>

### Waltz of the Flowers

<b>The Rose Fairy</b>	<b>Yu Kurihara</b>
<b>Her Consorts</b>	<b>Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Gabriel Anderson, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver</b>
<b>Leading Flowers</b>	<b>Alisa Garkavenko, Yuki Sugiura, Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine</b>

<b>Grand pas de deux</b>	<b>Miki Mizutani, Max Maslen</b>
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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 4.10pm

### Royal Ballet Sinfonia

*Conductor* Paul Murphy

*Leader* Robert Gibbs

<b>First Violins</b>	<b>Cellos</b>	<b>Bassoons</b>	<b>Percussion</b>
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	<b>Horns</b>	
Philip Aird		Andrew Littlemore	<b>Harps</b>
Caroline Ferriman	Vera Pereira	Neil Mitchell	Susan Blair
Jennifer Thurston	Georgina McGrath	Christopher Pointon	Elin Samuel
Timothy Wilford	James Trowbridge	Andrew Sutton	<b>Celeste</b>
<b>Second Violins</b>		Richard Dilley	Yen Lee
Thomas Grundy	<b>Flutes</b>	<b>Trumpets</b>	
Mary Martin	Anna Wolstenholme	Michael Allen	
Fiona Robertson	Holly Melia	Christopher Deacon	
Robert Simmons	Sandra Skipper <i>Piccolo</i>	<b>Trombones</b>	
Charlotte Dodwell		Andrew White	
Shelly Deacon	<b>Oboes</b>	Thomas Scaife	
Suzannah Quirke	Peter Facer	Ed Hilton	
<b>Violas</b>	Vanessa Howells	<b>Tuba</b>	
Errika Collins	Helen Vigurs <i>Cor Anglais</i>	David Gordon Shute	
James Flannery	<b>Clarinets</b>	<b>Timpani</b>	
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?'