

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Saturday 31 December 2022

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 Brandon Lawrence
Drosselmeyer Jonathan Payn
Clara's Godfather
Clara Reina Fuchigami
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Eric Pinto Cata
Clara's Mother Yijing Zhang
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Miles Gilliver
Fritz Matthew Titley
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Ryan Felix
Grandmother Laura Day
Grandfather Kit Holder
Butler Hamish Scott

Harlequin Gus Payne
Columbine Rosanna Ely
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
Royal Ballet Junior Associates
The Nutcracker Doll Eric Pinto Cata
The Rat King Gabriel Anderson
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Lucy Waine
Her Attendants Isabella Howard, Regan Hutsell,
Lynsey Sutherland, Amelia Thompson
Winds Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng,
Riku Ito, Lennert Steegen
Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance	Rosanna Ely, Louis Andreasen, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg
Arabian Dance	Alys Shee, Miles Gilliver
Chinese Dance	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Eric Pinto Cata
Russian Dance	Jack Easton, Thomas Hazelby, Gus Payne
Dance of the Mirlitons	Olivia Chang Clarke, Tessa Hogge, Matilde Rodrigues, Lynsey Sutherland

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	Yaoqian Shang
Her Consorts	Gabriel Anderson, Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng, Javier Rojas
Leading Flowers	Isabella Howard, Sofia Liñares, Lucy Waine, Yijing Zhang
Grand pas de deux	Céline Gittens, Brandon Lawrence

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

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Paul Murphy; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 25 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 6.10pm

THE STORY

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 toy maker 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 dolls come to life and dance for her but the 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?'