

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Wednesday 31 December 2025, 4pm
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 **Louis Andreasen**

Clara's Godfather

Clara **Rosanna Ely**
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant **Alfie-Lee Hall**

Clara's Mother **Daria Stanciulescu**
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 **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 **Yu Kurihara**

Her Attendants **Mailene Katoch, Frieda Kaden,**
Amelia Thompson, Tori Forysth-Hecken

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

Snowflakes **Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance	Olivia Chang-Clarke
	Gabriel Anderson, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg
Arabian Dance	Lucy Waine
	Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Ixan Llorca Ferrer, Yasiel Hodelin Bello
Chinese Dance	John Fontanini, Thomas Kujawa
Russian Dance	Alfie Lee-Hall, Luca Mollica
	Javier Rojas
Dance of the Mirlitons	Alisa Garkavenko, Frieda Kaden, Hannah Martin, Yuki Sugira

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	Amelia Thompson
Her Consorts	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver
Leading Flowers	Reina Fuchigami, Karla Doorbar, Ava May Llewellyn, Tori Forsyth-Hecken
Grand pas de deux	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 Danushka Edirisinghe Sophie Gledhill Doubles Basses Vera Pereira Georgina McGrath James Trowbridge	Bassoons Luke Tucker Ruth Rosales Horns Andrew Littlemore Flutes Anna Wolstenholme Holly Melia Sandra Skipper <i>Piccolo</i>	Percussion Kevin Earley Paul Parker Thomas Edwards Harps Susan Blair Elin Samuel Celeste Yen Lee
Second Violins Thomas Grundy Mary Martin Fiona Robertson Robert Simmons Charlotte Dodwell Shelly Deacon Suzannah Quirke	Trombones Andrew White Thomas Scaife Ed Hilton	Trumpets Michael Allen Christopher Deacon	
Violas Errika Collins James Flannery May Dolan Christopher Pitsillides Mark Gibbs	Oboes Amy Turner Vanessa Howells Helen Vigurs <i>Cor Anglais</i>	Tuba David Gordon Shute	
	Clarinets Ian Scott Beth Crouch Stephen Morris <i>Bass</i>	Timpani Grahame King	

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?'