

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Wednesday matinee 31 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 Yaoqian Shang
The Prince Riku Ito
Drosselmeyer August Generalli
Clara's Godfather
Clara Katherine Ochoa
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Ryan Felix
Clara's Mother Samara Downs
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Rory Mackay
Fritz Albert Newton-Smith
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Javier Rojas
Grandmother Daria Stanculescu
Grandfather Jonathan Payn
Butler Marlo Kempsey-Fagg

Harlequin Tom Hazelby
Columbine Karla Doorbar
Jack-in-the-Box Enrique Bejarano Vidal
Ballet students, Cadets, Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
Guests, Children Students of Elmhurst Ballet School and
The Royal Ballet School

The Nutcracker Doll Ryan Felix
The Rat King Miles Gilliver
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Yuki Sugiura
Her Attendants Tori Forsyth-Hecken, Ava May Llewellyn,
Matilde Rodrigues, Lucy Waine
Winds Gabriel Anderson, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg,
Mason King, Javier Rojas
Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

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| <i>Spanish Dance</i> | Olivia Chang-Clarke Gabriel Anderson, Rafael Bejarano Vidal |
| <i>Arabian Dance</i> | Lucy Waine Julian Pecoraro, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg, Mason King |
| <i>Chinese Dance</i> | Thomas Kujawa, Yusuke Otake |
| <i>Russian Dance</i> | Louis Andreasen, John Fontanini, Alfie-Lee Hall |
| <i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i> | Mailène Katoch, Yasemin Kayabay, Yuki Sugiura, Matilde Rodrigues |

Waltz of the Flowers

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| <i>The Rose Fairy</i> | Yu Kurihara |
| <i>Her Consorts</i> | Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng, Ixan Llorca Ferrer, Javier Rojas |
| <i>Leading Flowers</i> | Karla Doorbar, Tori Forsyth-Hecken, Alisa Garkavenko, Amelia Thompson |
| <i>Grand pas de deux</i> | Yaoqian Shang, Riku Ito |

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 2.10pm

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
Danushka Edirisinghe
Sophie Gledhill

Doubles Basses

Vera Pereira
Georgina McGrath
James Trowbridge

Flutes

Anna Wolstenholme
Holly Melia
Sandra Skipper *Piccolo*

Oboes

Amy Turner
Vanessa Howells
Helen Vigurs
Cor Anglais

Clarinets

Ian Scott
Beth Crouch
Stephen Morris *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?'