

# 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 Generali

*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 Stanciulescu

**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

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

### Waltz of the Flowers

*The Rose Fairy* **Yu Kurihara**

*Her Consorts* **Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng,  
Ixan Llorca Ferrer, Javier Rojas**

*Leading Flowers* **Karla Doorbar, Tori Forsyth-Hecken,  
Alisa Garkavenko, Amelia Thompson**

*Grand pas de deux* **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

<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	Danushka Edirisinghe		Thomas Edwards
Deborah Schlenther	Sophie Gledhill		
Philip Aird		<b>Horns</b>	<b>Harps</b>
Caroline Ferriman	Vera Pereira	Andrew Littlemore	Susan Blair
Jennifer Thurston	Georgina McGrath	Neil Mitchell	Elin Samuel
Timothy Wilford	James Trowbridge	Christopher Pointon	
<b>Second Violins</b>		Andrew Sutton	<b>Celeste</b>
Thomas Grundy		Richard Dilley	Yen Lee
Mary Martin	<b>Flutes</b>		
Fiona Robertson	Anna Wolstenholme	<b>Trumpets</b>	
Robert Simmons	Holly Melia	Michael Allen	
Charlotte Dodwell	Sandra Skipper <i>Piccolo</i>	Christopher Deacon	
Shelly Deacon			
Suzannah Quirke	<b>Oboes</b>	<b>Trombones</b>	
	Amy Turner	Andrew White	
	Vanessa Howells	Thomas Scaife	
	Helen Vigurs <i>Cor Anglais</i>	Ed Hilton	
<b>Violas</b>			
Errika Collins	<b>Clarinets</b>	<b>Tuba</b>	
James Flannery	Ian Scott	David Gordon Shute	
May Dolan	Beth Crouch		
Christopher Pitsillides	Stephen Morris <i>Bass</i>	<b>Timpani</b>	
Mark Gibbs		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?'