

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Wednesday 6 December 2023

The Nutcracker

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; **Choreography** Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon;
Production Peter Wright; **Designs** John Macfarlane; **Lighting** David Finn

The Sugar Plum Fairy Céline Gittens
The Prince Haoliang Feng
Drosselmeyer Miles Gilliver
a magician
Clara Reina Fuchigami
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Ryan Felix
Clara's Mother Eilis Small
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Jonathan Payn
Fritz Matthew Titley
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Shuailun Wu
Grandmother Rosanna Ely
Grandfather Rory Mackay
Butler Hamish Scott

Harlequin August Generalli
Columbine Tessa Hogge
Jack-in-the-Box Riku Ito
Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
Children Members of Birmingham Royal Ballet's Dance Track and
Elmhurst Ballet School's Young Dancer programmes;
students of Elmhurst Ballet School and Royal Ballet
Junior Associates

The Nutcracker Doll Ryan Felix
The Rat King Gabriel Anderson
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Lucy Waine
Her Attendants Isabella Howard, Rachelle Pizzillo,
Matilde Rodrigues, Yuki Sugiura

Winds Louis Andreasen, Jack Easton,
Callum Findlay-White, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance Rachele Pizzillo, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg, Javier Rojas

Arabian Dance Eilis Small,
Nasrullah Abdur-Rahman, Lennert Steegen,
Alfie Shacklock

Chinese Dance Riku Ito, Tom Hazelby

Russian Dance Louis Andreasen, Ryan Felix, Gus Payne

Dance of the Mirlitons Rosanna Ely, Tessa Hogge,
Hannah Martin, Matilde Rodrigues

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy Miki Mizutani

Her Consorts Gabriel Anderson, Jack Easton,
Callum Findlay-White, Mason King

Leading Flowers Isabella Howard, Daria Stanciulescu,
Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine

Grand pas de deux Céline Gittens, Haoliang Feng

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

The choristers in Act I are members of Ex Cathedra's Academies of Vocal Music, Artistic Director Jeffrey Skidmore.

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Koen Kessels; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 30 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 9.40pm

THE STORY

ACT I

It is Christmas Eve and Dr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a party. They have two children, Clara, a ballet student, and her younger brother, Fritz. As well as some of Clara's friends, Mrs Stahlbaum has invited a magician, Drosselmeyer. He brings gifts for the children and gives a Nutcracker doll to Clara.

When the guests have departed, Clara creeps downstairs looking for the Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, the room seems to grow and giant rats, led by their King, attack Clara. The Nutcracker springs to life and, summoning the toy soldiers, defends her.

Realising that the Nutcracker is about to be overpowered, Clara hits the Rat King with her shoe. The Nutcracker falls to the ground, seemingly lifeless and Clara tries to revive him. As he comes back to life, to her amazement, he 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 strange place where a fantastic world is conjured up by Drosselmeyer. He shows her the sun, the moon, flowers and dancers from many different lands. The Rat King bursts in, but the Nutcracker Prince and Drosselmeyer banish him forever.

Drosselmeyer now puts on a grand entertainment in Clara's honour as a reward for her bravery. She joins in many of the dances and is finally transformed into the Sugar Plum Fairy, the ballerina of her dreams. The Nutcracker Prince reappears and dances with her. As the dancing reaches its climax the dream-world vanishes and Clara awakens at the foot of the Christmas tree.