

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday 7 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** Yaoqian Shang  
**The Prince** Lachlan Monaghan  
**Drosselmeyer** Gabriel Anderson  
*a magician*  
**Clara** Yuki Sugiura  
*a ballet student*

### ACT I

**The Magician's Assistant** Shuailun Wu  
**Clara's Mother** Samara Downs  
*a former ballerina*  
**Clara's Father** Dominic Antonucci  
**Fritz** Matthew Titley  
*Clara's younger brother*  
**Clara's Dancing Partner** Ryan Felix  
**Grandmother** Karla Doorbar  
**Grandfather** Kit Holder  
**Butler** Oscar Kempsey-Fagg  
**Harlequin** Javier Rojas  
**Columbine** Rosanna Ely  
**Jack-in-the-Box** Hamish Scott  
**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** Shuailun Wu  
**The Rat King** Mason King  
**Soldiers, Rats** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet  
**The Snow Fairy** Isabella Howard  
**Her Attendants** Reina Fuchigami, Tessa Hogge,  
Matilde Rodrigues, Eilis Small  
**Winds** Louis Andreassen, Jack Easton,  
Callum Findlay-White, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg  
**Snowflakes** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

### INTERVAL

---

***The Nutcracker 2024: Booking open now!***

**H** BIRMINGHAM  
HIPPODROME

---

## ACT II

<b><i>Spanish Dance</i></b>	<b>Tessa Hogge, Jack Easton, Miles Gilliver</b>
<b><i>Arabian Dance</i></b>	<b>Daria Stanciulescu, Nasrullah Abdur-Rahman, August Generalli, Lennert Steegen</b>
<b><i>Chinese Dance</i></b>	<b>Tom Hazelby, Hamish Scott</b>
<b><i>Russian Dance</i></b>	<b>Louis Andreassen, Javier Rojas, Taira Watanbe</b>
<b><i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i></b>	<b>Olivia Chang Clarke, Maïlène Katoch, Hannah Martin, Matilde Rodrigues</b>

### Waltz of the Flowers

<b><i>The Rose Fairy</i></b>	<b>Reina Fuchigami</b>
<b><i>Her Consorts</i></b>	<b>Ryan Felix, Callum Findlay-White, Yasiel Hodelín Bello, Mason King</b>
<b><i>Leading Flowers</i></b>	<b>Rosanna Ely, Eilis Small, Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine</b>

<b><i>Grand pas de deux</i></b>	<b>Yaoqian Shang, Lachlan Monaghan</b>
---------------------------------	--

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

The choristers in Act I are members of Ex Cathedral'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.