

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Friday 9 December 2022

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 Brandon Lawrence
Drosselmeyer Jonathan Payn
a magician
Clara Reina Fuchigami
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Gus Payne
Clara's Mother Isabella Howard
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Miles Gilliver
Fritz Joshua McKenzie
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Ryan Felix
Grandmother Yvette Knight
Grandfather Hamish Scott
Butler Oscar Kempsey-Fagg
Harlequin Riku Ito
Columbine Rosanna Ely
Jack-in-the-Box Enrique Bejarano Vidal
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 Gus Payne
The Rat King Louis Andreasen
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
The Snow Fairy Yijing Zhang
Her Attendants Rachele Pizzillo, Lynsey Sutherland,
Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine
Winds Gabriel Anderson, Jack Easton,
Callum Findlay-White, Lennert Steegen
Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

The Nutcracker 2023: Booking open now!

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ACT II

Spanish Dance	Rachele Pizzillo, Gabriel Anderson, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg
Arabian Dance	Alys Shee, Miles Gilliver
Chinese Dance	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Eric Pinto Cata
Russian Dance	Louis Andreasen, Guillem Cabrera, Callum Findlay-White
Dance of the Mirlitons	Rosanna Ely, Frieda Katoch, Matilde Rodrigues, Lynsey Sutherland

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	Yaoqian Shang
Her Consorts	Ryan Felix, Riku Ito, Max Maslen, Gus Payne
Leading Flowers	Isabella Howard, Sofia Liñares, Yuki Sugiura, Amelia Thompson

Grand pas de deux Céline Gittens, Brandon Lawrence

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

Ex Cathedra was founded in Birmingham by its Artistic Director, Jeffrey Skidmore OBE in 1969. Ex Cathedra is delighted their Academy of Vocal Music are performing in *The Nutcracker* again this year, under the leadership of Rebecca Ledgard, Director of Education. Email education@excathedra.co.uk to find out more and join the choir.

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Paul Murphy; *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.