

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Saturday 9 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 Kit Holder
a magician
Clara Yuki Sugiura
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Eric Pinto Cata
Clara's Mother Emma Price
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Dominic Antonucci
Fritz Uzziah Gray
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Ryan Felix
Grandmother Karla Doorbar
Grandfather Rory Mackay
Butler Oscar Kempsey-Fagg
Harlequin August Generalli
Columbine Tessa Hogge
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 Eric Pinto Cata
The Rat King Mason King
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
The Snow Fairy Isabella Howard
Her Attendants Rosanna Ely, Sofia Liñares,
Emma Price, Lucy Waine
Winds Ryan Felix, Riku Ito,
Gus Payne, Lennert Steegen
Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

The Nutcracker 2024: Booking open now!

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ACT II

Spanish Dance Emma Price, August Generalli, Miles Gilliver
Arabian Dance Daria Stanciulescu,
Callum Findlay-White, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg, Lennert Steegen
Chinese Dance Tom Hazelby, Hamish Scott
Russian Dance Louis Andreassen, Gus Payne, Javier Rojas
Dance of the Mirlitons Olivia Chang Clarke, Tessa Hogge,
Frieda Kaden, Hannah Martin

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy Miki Mizutani
Her Consorts Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Yasiel Hodelín Bello,
Riku Ito, Shuailun Wu
Leading Flowers Reina Fuchigami, Isabella Howard,
Rachele Pizzillo, Eilis Small

Grand pas de deux Yaoqian Shang, Lachlan Monaghan

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 Thomas Jung; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 30 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 8.10pm

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.