

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday matinee 23 November 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 Lucy Waine
The Prince Haoliang Feng
Drosselmeyer Kit Holder
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 Miles Gilliver
Fritz Matthew Titley
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Enrique Bejarano Vidal
Grandmother Rosanna Ely
Grandfather Rory Mackay
Butler Hamish Scott

Harlequin Javier Rojas
Columbine Tessa Hogge
Jack-in-the-Box Gus Payne
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, Rachele Pizzillo,
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!

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HIPPODROME

ACT II

<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Tessa Hogge, August Generalli, Javier Rojas
<i>Arabian Dance</i>	Tori Forsyth-Hecken, Nasrullah Abdur-Rahman, Alfie Shacklock, Lennert Steegen
<i>Chinese Dance</i>	Tom Hazelby, Hamish Scott
<i>Russian Dance</i>	Louis Andreassen, Ryan Felix, Gus Payne
<i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i>	Reina Fuchigami, Alisa Garkavenko, Frieda Katoch, Sofia Liñares

Waltz of the Flowers

<i>The Rose Fairy</i>	Miki Mizutani
<i>Her Consorts</i>	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Miles Gilliver, Riku Ito, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg
<i>Leading Flowers</i>	Rosanna Ely, Rachele Pizzillo, Emma Price, Daria Stanciulescu
<i>Grand pas de deux</i>	Lucy Waine, 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 Philip Ellis; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 30 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 4.10pm

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.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2023

28 November – 5 December

Help us raise £49,000 to restore *The Sleeping Beauty*

Every £1 donated during The Big Give will be doubled, supporting the urgent repair of this beautiful Sir Peter Wright ballet, ahead of our performances next year.

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