

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday 29 December 2022

## The Nutcracker

**Choreography** Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon; **Music** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;  
**Production** David Bintley; **Additional choreography** David Bintley, Marion Tait;  
**Costumes and props** John Macfarlane; **Setting and additional props** Dick Bird; **Lighting** Peter Teigen;  
**Projection designs** 59 Productions; **Sound design** Bobby Aitken

*with Simon Callow as the Voice of Drosselmeyer*

**The Sugar Plum Fairy** Céline Gittens  
**The Prince** Brandon Lawrence  
**Drosselmeyer** Jonathan Payn  
*Clara's Godfather*  
**Clara** Reina Fuchigami  
*a ballet student*

### ACT I

**The Magician's Assistant** Eric Pinto Cata  
**Clara's Mother** Yijing Zhang  
*a former ballerina*  
**Clara's Father** Miles Gilliver  
**Fritz** Matthew Titley  
*Clara's younger brother*  
**Clara's Dancing Partner** Ryan Felix  
**Grandmother** Emma Price  
**Grandfather** Kit Holder  
**Butler** Hamish Scott  
  
**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  
Royal Ballet Junior Associates  
**The Nutcracker Doll** Eric Pinto Cata  
**The Rat King** Gabriel Anderson  
**Soldiers, Rats** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet  
  
**The Snow Fairy** Lucy Waine  
**Her Attendants** Isabella Howard, Alys Shee,  
Lynsey Sutherland, Amelia Thompson  
**Winds** Jack Easton, Ryan Felix,  
Callum Findlay-White, Javier Rojas  
**Snowflakes** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

## ACT II

<b>Spanish Dance</b>	<b>Rosanna Ely, Louis Andreasen, August Generalli</b>
<b>Arabian Dance</b>	<b>Alys Shee, Miles Gilliver</b>
<b>Chinese Dance</b>	<b>Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Eric Pinto Cata</b>
<b>Russian Dance</b>	<b>Jack Easton, Callum Findlay-White, Thomas Hazelby</b>
<b>Dance of the Mirlitons</b>	<b>Olivia Chang Clarke, Rachele Pizzillo, Rachel Pizzillo, Yuki Sugiura</b>

### Waltz of the Flowers

<b>The Rose Fairy</b>	<b>Sofia Liñares</b>
<b>Her Consorts</b>	<b>Riku Ito, Lachlan Monaghan, Gus Payne, Javier Rojas</b>
<b>Leading Flowers</b>	<b>Isabella Howard, Yu Kurihara, Lynsey Sutherland, Lucy Waine</b>
<b>Grand pas de deux</b>	<b>Céline Gittens, Brandon Lawrence</b>

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

### Royal Ballet Sinfonia

*Conductor* Paul Murphy; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



#### Approximate timings

*Act I* 50 minutes

*Interval* 25 minutes

*Act II* 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 9.10pm

## THE STORY

### ACT I

It is Christmas Eve and Dr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a party. They have invited Herr Drosselmeyer, Godfather to their two children, Clara and her younger brother Fritz, to provide a magic show. Drosselmeyer is a gifted toy maker and he brings presents for the young children; a Nutcracker doll for Clara and a Rat King puppet for Fritz. Clara is fascinated by the Nutcracker and her belief that it has magical powers is confirmed when her brother breaks it and the doll strangely mends itself. The party comes to an end, the guests depart and the family goes to bed.

Unable to sleep, Clara creeps downstairs looking for the Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen. The whole room seems to grow and grow, and a horde of giant rats led by their King attacks Clara. The Nutcracker springs to life and, summoning the toy soldiers, defends her – and a huge battle breaks out.

Realising that the Nutcracker is about to be overpowered, Clara hits the Rat King with her shoe and he collapses. The Nutcracker falls exhausted to the ground, seemingly lifeless. Sadly, Clara takes him in her arms and tries to revive him. He gradually comes back to life and, to her amazement, 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 fantastic world, conjured up by Godfather Drosselmeyer, where she is greeted by a host of dolls from many different lands who seem familiar from Drosselmeyer's toy shop. The dolls come to life and dance for her but the festivities are cut short when the Rat King bursts in. The Nutcracker Prince and Drosselmeyer restore order, by banishing him forever.

The celebrations continue as the dolls perform their national dances culminating in the Waltz of the Flowers. Finally, the glittering Sugar Plum Fairy dances a sparkling pas de deux with the Nutcracker Prince.

Clara grows sleepy and the dolls slowly fade from her mind. Finding herself back at the foot of the Christmas tree alone she wonders, 'Was it all a magical dream?'