

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday matinee 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 Miki Mizutani
The Prince César Morales
Drosselmeyer Gabriel Anderson
Clara's Godfather
Clara Rachele Pizzillo
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Ryan Felix
Clara's Mother Emma Price
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Rory Mackay
Fritz Joshua Mckenzie
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Riku Ito
Grandmother Yvette Knight
Grandfather Max Maslen
Butler Hamish Scott

Harlequin Eric Pinto Cata
Columbine Lynsey Sutherland
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
Royal Ballet Junior Associates
The Nutcracker Doll Ryan Felix
The Rat King Callum Findlay-White
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Alys Shee
Her Attendants Rosanna Ely, Regan Hutsell,
Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine
Winds Louis Andreasen, Haoliang Feng,
Miles Gilliver, Riku Ito
Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance	Beatrice Parma, Jack Easton, Kit Holder
Arabian Dance	Yijing Zhang, Haoliang Feng
Chinese Dance	Ryan Felix, Thomas Hazelby
Russian Dance	Guillem Cabrera, Gus Payne, Eric Pinto Cata
Dance of the Mirlitons	Olivia Chang Clarke, Tessa Hogge, Matilde Rodrigues, Lynsey Sutherland

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	Yaoqian Shang
Her Consorts	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Callum Findlay-White, Max Maslen, Lennert Steegen
Leading Flowers	Rosanna Ely, Sofia Liñares, Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine
Grand pas de deux	Miki Mizutani, César Morales

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 4.10pm

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?'