

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday matinee 30 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 Rachele Pizzillo
The Prince Riku Ito
Drosselmeyer Max Maslen
a magician
Clara Reina Fuchigami
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Eric Pinto Cata
Clara's Mother Samara Downs
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Rory Mackay
Fritz Matthew Titley
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Gus Payne
Grandmother Daria Stanciulescu
Grandfather Kit Holder
Butler Hamish Scott

Harlequin Shuailun Wu
Columbine Tessa Hogge
Jack-in-the-Box Ryan Felix
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 Miles Gilliver
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Isabella Howard
Her Attendants Sofia Liñares, Emma Price,
Yuki Sugiura, Lucy Waine
Winds Callum Findlay-White, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg
Mason King, Lennert Steegen
Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

The Nutcracker 2024: Booking open now!

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ACT II

Spanish Dance	Rosanna Ely, Gabriel Anderson, August Generalli
Arabian Dance	Isabella Howard, Nasrullah Abdur-Rahman, Mason King, Lennert Steegen
Chinese Dance	Ryan Felix, Gus Payne
Russian Dance	Callum Findlay-White, Tom Hazelby, Javier Rojas
Dance of the Mirlitons	Olivia Chang-Clarke, Frieda Kaden, Sofia Liñares, Yuki Sugiura

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	Yaoqian Shang
Her Consorts	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Jack Easton, Eric Pinto Cata, Shuailun Wu
Leading Flowers	Emma Price, Matilde Rodrigues, Daria Stanciulescu, Lucy Waine
Grand pas de deux	Rachele Pizzillo, Riku Ito

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 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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