

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Friday 30 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** Matthew Titley  
*Clara's younger brother*  
**Clara's Dancing Partner** Riku Ito  
**Grandmother** Laura Day  
**Grandfather** Kit Holder  
**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

<b>Spanish Dance</b>	<b>Beatrice Parma, Jack Easton, Kit Holder</b>
<b>Arabian Dance</b>	<b>Yijing Zhang, Haoliang Feng</b>
<b>Chinese Dance</b>	<b>Eric Pinto Cata, Thomas Hazelby</b>
<b>Russian Dance</b>	<b>Louis Andreasen, Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Guillem Cabrera</b>
<b>Dance of the Mirlitons</b>	<b>Olivia Chang Clarke, Reina Fuchigami, Tessa Hogge, Yuki Sugiura</b>

### Waltz of the Flowers

<b>The Rose Fairy</b>	<b>Sofia Liñares</b>
<b>Her Consorts</b>	<b>Ryan Felix, Riku Ito, Gus Payne, Javier Rojas</b>
<b>Leading Flowers</b>	<b>Rosanna Ely, Alys Shee, Daria Stanciulescu, Lynsey Sutherland</b>
<b>Grand pas de deux</b>	<b>Miki Mizutani, César Morales</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?'