

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Tuesday matinee 6 December 2022

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 Laura Rodríguez*

The Prince Riku Ito

Drosselmeyer Jonathan Payn

a magician

Clara Rachele Pizzillo

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 Max Maslen

Grandmother Yvette Knight

Grandfather Kit Holder

Butler Oscar Kempsey-Fagg

Harlequin Gus Payne

Columbine Rosanna Ely

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 Gabriel Anderson

Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Lucy Waine

Her Attendants Reina Fuchigami, Sofia Liñares,

Alys Shee, Lynsey Sutherland

Winds Louis Andreasen, Enrique Bejarano Vidal,

Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

The Nutcracker 2023: Booking open now!

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ACT II

<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Sofia Liñares, Louis Andreasen, Oscar Kempsey-Fagg
<i>Arabian Dance</i>	Yaoqian Shang, Gabriel Anderson
<i>Chinese Dance</i>	Guillem Cabrera, Gus Payne
<i>Russian Dance</i>	Jack Easton, Callum Findlay-White, Thomas Hazelby
<i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i>	Olivia Chang Clarke, Tessa Hogge, Matilde Rodrigues, Lynsey Sutherland

Waltz of the Flowers

<i>The Rose Fairy</i>	Reina Fuchigami
<i>Her Consorts</i>	Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Haoliang Feng, Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan
<i>Leading Flowers</i>	Rosanna Ely, Daria Stanciulescu, Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine
<i>Grand pas de deux</i>	Laura Rodríguez, Riku Ito

*Laura Rodríguez is a guest principal from Acosta Danza.

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 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.