



BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET



BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Saturday matinee 1 December 2018

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

THE NUTCRACKER

Choreography Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Designs John F. Macfarlane

Lighting David A. Finn

The Sugar Plum Fairy Yijing Zhang

The Prince Brandon Lawrence

Drosselmeyer, a magician Rory Mackay

Clara, a ballet student Arancha Baselga

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Gus Payne

Clara's Mother, a former ballerina Yvette Knight

Clara's Father Wolfgang Stollwitzer

Fritz, Clara's younger brother Joseph Burdett

Clara's Dancing Partner Aitor Galende

Grandmother Laura Purkiss

Grandfather James Barton

Butler Harry Wright

Harlequin Kit Holder

Columbine Rosanna Ely

Jack-in-the-Box Hamish Scott

Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Children Elmhurst Young Dancers and Junior Associates of the Royal Ballet School

The Nutcracker Doll Gus Payne

The Rat King Tom Rogers

Soldiers Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Brooke Ray

Her Attendants Beatrice Parma, Rachele Pizzillo, Laura Purkiss, Lynsey Sutherland

Winds August Generali, Miles Gilliver, Edivaldo Souza da Silva, Harry Wright

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

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Students on the Robin Cadbury Studentship programme appear by kind permission of the Director of the Royal Ballet School. Students on the John Pinder Studentship programme appear by kind permission of the Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst 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 Philip Ellis

Leader Robert Gibbs



APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 20 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

This performance will end at approximately 4.40pm

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

If you have enjoyed this performance, why not play your part in the refurbishment of *Nutcracker* costumes. Donations will be doubled until midday 4 December, so please support us if you can. Thank you. brb.org.uk/biggive

theBigGive.org.uk
helping your donations go further

O.K.A. OFFICIAL INTERIOR DESIGN PARTNER