BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Thursday matinee 12 December 2019

Sir Peter Wright's production of

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	**Miki Mizutani**
The Prince	**Max Maslen**
Drosselmeyer, a magician	**Yasuo Atsuji**
Clara, a ballet student	**Beatrice Parma**

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant	**Gus Payne**
Clara's Mother, *a former ballerina*	**Daria Stanciulescu**
Clara's Father	**Tom Rogers**
Fritz, *Clara's younger brother*	**Wesley Mpakati**
Clara's Dancing Partner	**Lachlan Monaghan**
Grandmother	**Emma Price**
Grandfather	**Michael O'Hare**
Butler	**Callum Findlay-White**
Harlequin	**Aitor Galende**
Columbine	**Lynsey Sutherland**
Jack-in-the-Box	**Tzu-Chao Chou**
Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
The Nutcracker Doll	**Max Maslen**
The Rat King	**Gabriel Anderson**
Soldiers	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
Rats	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
The Snow Fairy	**Samara Downs**
Her Attendants	**Laura Day, Karla Doorbar, Rosanna Ely, Reina Fuchigami**
Winds	**Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng, Gus Payne, Hamish Scott**
Snowflakes	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

INTERVAL

THE NUTCRACKER 2020 20 November – 12 December
Ensure next year's Christmas gets off to a cracking start **BOOKING OPEN NOW**

ACT II

Spanish Dance	**Rosanna Ely,**
	Gabriel Anderson, Damen Axtens
Arabian Dance	**Eilis Small,**
	Haoliang Feng, Lennert Steegen, Alexander Yap
Chinese Dance	**Hamish Scott, Joseph Taylor**
Russian Dance	**Louis Andreasen, Ryan Felix, Callum Findlay-White**
Dance of the Mirlitons	**Laura Day, Reina Fuchigami**
	Juliette Itou, Emma Price

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	**Karla Doorbar**
Her Consorts	**Tzu-Chao Chou, Aitor Galende,**
	Max Maslen, Gus Payne
Leading Flowers	**Yu Kurihara, Rachele Pizzillo,**
	Yuki Sugiura, Lynsey Sutherland
Grand pas de deux	**Miki Mizutani, Max Maslen**

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 and Cecil King Memorial Foundation 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 Jonathan Lo; *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 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.