



**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**

Director David Bintley CBE

**H BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME**

Wednesday 13 December 2017

Sir Peter Wright's production of

The Nutcracker

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;

Choreography Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon;

Designs John F. Macfarlane; *Lighting* David A. Finn

<i>The Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	Yaoqian Shang
<i>The Prince</i>	Mathias Dingman
<i>Drosselmeyer, a magician</i>	Iain Mackay
<i>Clara, a ballet student</i>	Laura Day

ACT I

<i>The Magician's Assistant</i>	Max Maslen
<i>Clara's Mother, a former ballerina</i>	Daria Stanciulescu
<i>Clara's Father</i>	Wolfgang Stollwitzer
<i>Fritz, Clara's younger brother</i>	Archie Mathias
<i>Clara's Dancing Partner</i>	Tzu-Chao Chou
<i>Butler</i>	Harry Wright
<i>Harlequin</i>	Aitor Galende
<i>Columbine</i>	Ruth Brill
<i>Jack-in-the-Box</i>	Hamish Scott
<i>Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Children</i>	Junior Associates of the Royal Ballet School, Students and Birmingham Associates of Elmhurst Ballet School
<i>The Nutcracker Doll</i>	Max Maslen
<i>King Rat</i>	Tom Rogers
<i>Soldiers</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Rats</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>The Snow Fairy</i>	Jenna Roberts
<i>Her Attendants</i>	Miki Mizutani, Brooke Ray, Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang
<i>Winds</i>	Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver, Brandon Lawrence, Edivaldo Souza da Silva
<i>Snowflakes</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET GIFTS

LIMITED EDITION PRINTS | MUGS | KEY RINGS
and more...

Available in the foyer, in front of the Box Office

THE NUTCRACKER 2018

23 November – 13 December

Ensure next year's Christmas gets off to a cracking start

Booking open now

ACT II

<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Ruth Brill, Gabriel Anderson, Miles Gilliver
<i>Arabian Dance</i>	Delia Mathews, Haoliang Feng, Brandon Lawrence, Harry Wright
<i>Chinese Dance</i>	Gus Payne, Hamish Scott
<i>Russian Dance</i>	Laurence Elliott, Aitor Galende, Aaron Venegas
<i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i>	Karla Doorbar, Rosanna Ely Jade Heusen, Beatrice Parma,

Waltz of the Flowers

<i>The Rose Fairy</i>	Momoko Hirata
<i>Her Consorts</i>	Tzu-Chao Chou, Tim Dutson, Max Maslen, Brogan McKelvey,
<i>Leading Flowers</i>	Reina Fuchigami, Brooke Ray, Alys Shee, Daria Stanciulescu
<i>Grand pas de deux</i>	Yaoqian Shang, Mathias Dingman

Tonight is the last performance on the Birmingham Hippodrome stage by Principal Iain Mackay before his retirement in January 2018. His last performances with the Company will be at Symphony Hall, Birmingham on 19 January and Royal & Derngate, Northampton on 20 January. Tonight is also the last performance after 37 years with the Company of Royal Ballet Sinfonia principal bassoon David McKee.

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 the Cecil King Memorial Foundation Studentship 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 25 minutes; Act II 50 minutes
The performance will end at approximately 9.40pm

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.

AN EVENING OF MUSIC & DANCE

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia, share the stage with our dancers for these fabulous performances.

19 January: Symphony Hall, Birmingham

20 January: Royal & Derngate, Northampton

www.brb.org.uk