



**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**

Director David Bintley CBE

**H BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME**

Friday 24 November 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>	Momoko Hirata
<i>The Prince</i>	César Morales
<i>Drosselmeyer, a magician</i>	Jonathan Payn
<i>Clara, a ballet student</i>	Karla Doorbar

ACT I

<i>The Magician's Assistant</i>	Kit Holder
<i>Clara's Mother, a former ballerina</i>	Delia Mathews
<i>Clara's Father</i>	Wolfgang Stollwitzer
<i>Fritz, Clara's younger brother</i>	Max Blackwell
<i>Clara's Dancing Partner</i>	Lachlan Monaghan
<i>Grandmother</i>	Jade Heusen
<i>Grandfather</i>	Michael O'Hare
<i>Butler</i>	Harry Wright
<i>Harlequin</i>	Max Maslen
<i>Columbine</i>	Maureya Lebowitz
<i>Jack-in-the-Box</i>	Tzu-Chao Chou
<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>	Kit Holder
<i>King Rat</i>	Yasuo Atsuji
<i>Soldiers</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Rats</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>The Snow Fairy</i>	Yijing Zhang
<i>Her Attendants</i>	Yvette Knight, Brooke Ray, Yaoqian Shang, Alys Shee
<i>Winds</i>	Miles Gilliver, Brandon Lawrence, Tom Rogers, Edivaldo Souza da Silva
<i>Snowflakes</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET GIFTS

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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>	Maureya Lebowitz, Gabriel Anderson, Kit Holder
<i>Arabian Dance</i>	Yvette Knight, Tim Dutson, Tom Rogers, Harry Wright
<i>Chinese Dance</i>	Aitor Galende, Hamish Scott
<i>Russian Dance</i>	Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan, Gus Payne
<i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i>	Ruth Brill, Laura Day, Reina Fuchigami, Miki Mizutani

Waltz of the Flowers

<i>The Rose Fairy</i>	Céline Gittens
<i>Her Consorts</i>	Yasuo Atsuji, Miles Gilliver, Brandon Lawrence, Edivaldo Souza da Silva
<i>Leading Flowers</i>	Jade Heusen, Brooke Ray, Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang
<i>Grand pas de deux</i>	Momoko Hirata, César Morales

*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 Koen Kessels; *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.

THE BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

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