BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
Director David Bintley CBE

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Saturday matinee 26 November 2016

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

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

The Sugar Plum Fairy
Nao Sakuma

The Prince
Chi Cao

Drosselmeyer, a magician
Valentin Olovyannikov

Clara, a ballet student
Beatrice Parma

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Kit Holder
Clara's Mother, a former ballerina
Yijing Zhang
Clara's Father Dominic Antonucci
Fritz, Clara's younger brother
Max Blackwell
Clara's Dancing Partner Tzu-Chao Chou
Grandmother Marion Tait
Grandfather Michael O'Hare
Butler Harry Wright

Harlequin Alexander Bird
Columbine Reina Fuchigami
Jack-in-the-Box James Barton
Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants
Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
Children
Junior Associates of the Royal Ballet School and Elmhurst Birmingham Associates

The Nutcracker Doll Kit Holder
King Rat Tom Rogers

Soldiers
Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
Rats
Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Alys Shee

Her Attendants
Ruth Brill, Maureya Lebowitz, Miki Mizutani, Brooke Ray

Winds
Alexander Bird, Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan, Lewis Turner
Snowflakes
Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance
Jade Heusen
William Bracewell, Miles Gilliver

Arabian Dance
Delia Mathews
Gabriel Anderson, Brandon Lawrence, Fraser Roach

Chinese Dance
James Barton, Kit Holder

Russian Dance
Feargus Campbell, Albion Gjorllaku, Fernando Martin-Gullans

Dance of the Mirlitons
Karla Doorbar, Miki Mizutani, Anna Monleon, Rachele Pizzillo

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy Samara Downs
Her Consorts
Alexander Bird, Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan, Lewis Turner
Leading Flowers
Ruth Brill, Reina Fuchigami, Maureya Lebowitz, Yaoqian Shang
Grand pas de deux
Nao Sakuma, Chi Cao

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 School for Dance. The choristers in Act I are members of Ex Cathedra's Academies of Vocal Music, Artistic Director Jeffrey Skidmore.

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Nicolette Fraillon
Leader Robert Gibbs

Approximate timings
***Act I* 50 minutes**
***Interval* 25 minutes**
***Act II* 50 minutes**
The 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, unable to sleep, 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 staging Stanton Welch's amazing *La Bayadère*. Donations through The Big Give will be doubled from midday 29 November to midday 2 December, so please support us if you can – thank you.

www.brb.org.uk/BigGive theBigGive.org.uk

The Nutcracker 2017

24 November – 13 December

Booking open! Tickets from £19*

Ensure next year's Christmas gets off to a cracking start – buy now.

* Prices and discounts subject to change, 5% transaction charge applies (excl. cash sales in person), postage from £1.