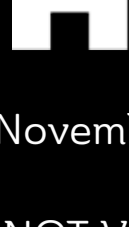




BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET



BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Tuesday 27 November 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* Max Maslen**

***Clara's Mother, a former ballerina* Yvette Knight**

***Clara's Father* Tom Rogers**

***Fritz, Clara's younger brother* Harry Hincks**

***Clara's Dancing Partner* Aitor Galende**

***Grandmother* Laura Purkiss**

***Grandfather* Michael O'Hare**

***Butler* Harry Wright**

***Harlequin* James Barton**

***Columbine* Beatrice Parma**

***Jack-in-the-Box* Tzu-Chao Chou**

***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* Max Maslen**

***The Rat King* Miles Gilliver**

***Soldiers* Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

***Rats* Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

***The Snow Fairy* Samara Downs**

***Her Attendants* Maureya Lebowitz, Rachele Pizzillo, Laura Purkiss, Lynsey Sutherland**

***Winds* Gabriel Anderson, Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Alexander Yap**

***Snowflakes* Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

INTERVAL

ACT II

***Spanish Dance* Rachele Pizzillo, James Barton, Kit Holder**

***Arabian Dance* Delia Mathews, Tim Dutson, Edivaldo Souza da Silva, Alexander Yap**

***Chinese Dance* Hamish Scott, Joseph Taylor**

***Russian Dance* Louis Andreasen, Aitor Galende, Callum Findlay-White**

***Dance of the Mirlitons* Rosanna Ely, Yu Kurihari, Emma Price, Lynsey Sutherland**

***Waltz of the Flowers* The Rose Fairy Beatrice Parma**

***The Rose Fairy* Beatrice Parma**

***Her Consorts* Gabriel Anderson, Miles Gilliver, Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan**

***Leading Flowers* Karla Doorbar, Maureya Lebowitz, Miki Mizutani, Laura Purkiss**

***Grand pas de deux* Yijing Zhang, Brandon Lawrence**

Yijing Zhang, Brandon Lawrence

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 Matthew Rowe

Leader Robert Gibbs



APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 20 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

This 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

If you have enjoyed this performance, why not play your part in the refurbishment of *Nutcracker* costumes. Donations will be doubled from 27 November until midday 4 December, so please support us if you can. Thank you. brb.org.uk/biggive

theBigGive.org.uk
helping your donation go further

TUNE IN ON THURSDAY EVENING...

In what could be a broadcasting first, The Commentators (characters of Stan's Cafe theatre company), will describe all the action of *Nutcracker* as it unfolds on stage on Thursday 29 November, as if they are watching a sporting event! Once the curtain goes up The Commentators, in their sheepskin coats and wielding lip-microphones, will be invisible and inaudible in the auditorium but at home, listeners will be treated to their valiant attempts to describe the famous spectacle. Listen at stanscafe.co.uk

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