



**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**

Director David Bintley CBE

Thursday 28 December 2017, 7pm



Royal Albert Hall

THE NUTCRACKER

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; *Choreography* Peter Wright,
Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon; *Production* David Bintley;
Additional choreography David Bintley, Marion Tait;
Setting and additional props Dick Bird; *Lighting* Peter Teigen;
Projection designs 59 Productions; *Sound design* Bobby Aitken

with **Simon Callow** as the *Voice of Drosselmeyer*

<i>The Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	Momoko Hirata
<i>The Prince</i>	César Morales
<i>Drosselmeyer, Clara's Godfather</i>	Jonathan Payn
<i>Clara</i>	Karla Doorbar

ACT I

<i>Drosselmeyer's Assistant</i>	Kit Holder
<i>Clara's Mother</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>	Marion Tait
<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>The Nutcracker Doll</i>	Kit Holder
<i>The Rat King</i>	Yasuo Atsuji
<i>Soldiers</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Rats</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

<i>The Snow Fairy</i>	Samara Downs
<i>Her Attendants</i>	Yvette Knight, Brooke Ray, Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang
<i>Winds</i>	Tim Dutson, Brandon Lawrence, Tom Rogers, Edivaldo Souza da Silva
<i>Snowflakes</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance	Maureya Lebowitz, Kit Holder, Brogan McKelvey
Arabian Dance	Yvette Knight, Feargus Campbell, Tim Dutson, Harry Wright
Chinese Dance	Aitor Galende, Hamish Scott
Russian Dance	Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan, Gus Payne
Dance of the Mirlitons	Ruth Brill, Reina Fuchigami, Jade Heusen, Miki Mizutani

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy Céline Gittens

Her Consorts Yasuo Atsuji, Brandon Lawrence,
Tom Rogers, Edivaldo Souza da Silva

Leading Flowers Brooke Ray, Yaoqian Shang,
Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang

Grand pas de deux 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 children in this performance are
Delilah Bennett-Cardy, Aimee Fuller, Amileigh O'Hagan, Valentina Sanna, Evan Allport, Scott Milne, Luca Mollica, Cory White

Conductor Philip Ellis; Leader Gina McCormack



Approximate timings

*Act I 50 minutes; Interval 25 minutes; Act II 50 minutes
The performance will end at approximately 9.10pm*

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THE STORY

ACT I

It is Christmas Eve, and Dr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a party. They have invited Herr Drosselmeyer, Godfather to their two children, Clara and her younger brother Fritz, to provide a magic show. Drosselmeyer is a gifted toy maker and he brings presents for the young children; a Nutcracker doll for Clara and a Rat King puppet for Fritz. Clara is fascinated by the Nutcracker and her belief that it has magical powers is confirmed when her brother breaks it and the doll strangely mends itself. The party comes to an end, the guests depart and the family goes to bed.

Unable to sleep, Clara creeps downstairs looking for the Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen. The whole room seems to grow and grow, and a horde of giant rats, led by their King, attacks Clara. The Nutcracker springs to life and, summoning the toy soldiers, defends her – and a huge battle breaks out.

Realising that the Nutcracker is about to be overpowered, Clara hits the Rat King with her shoe and he collapses. The Nutcracker falls exhausted to the ground, seemingly lifeless. Sadly, Clara takes him in her arms and tries to

revive him. He gradually comes back to life and, to her amazement, 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 fantastic world, conjured up by Godfather Drosselmeyer, where she is greeted by a host of dolls from many different lands who seem familiar from Drosselmeyer's toy shop. The dolls come to life and dance for her but the festivities are cut short when the Rat King bursts in. The Nutcracker Prince and Drosselmeyer restore order by banishing him forever.

The celebrations continue as the dolls perform dances, including the Waltz of the Flowers, and, finally, the glittering Sugar Plum Fairy dances a sparkling *pas de deux* with the Nutcracker.

Suddenly, the dolls fade from Clara's mind and she finds herself back at the foot of the Christmas tree alone. Was it all a wonderful dream?