

Royal Albert Hall

Thursday 28 December 2017, 7pm

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

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

The Sugar Plum Fairy Momoko Hirata

The Prince César Morales

Drosselmeyer, Clara's Godfather Jonathan Payn

Clara Karla Doorbar

ACT I

Drosselmeyer's Assistant Kit Holder

Clara's Mother Delia Mathews

Clara's Father Wolfgang Stollwitzer

Fritz, Clara's younger brother Max Blackwell

Clara's Dancing Partner Lachlan Monaghan

Grandmother Marion Tait

Grandfather Michael O'Hare

Butler Harry Wright

Harlequin Max Maslen

Columbine Maureya Lebowitz

Jack-in-the-Box Tzu-Chao Chou

Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Nutcracker Doll Kit Holder

The Rat King Yasuo Atsuji

Soldiers Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Samara Downs

Her Attendants

Yvette Knight, Brooke Ray,

Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang

Winds

Tim Dutson, Brandon Lawrence,

Tom Rogers, Edivaldo Souza da Silva

Snowflakes

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,

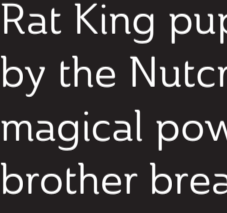
Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang

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

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?