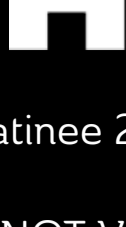




BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET



BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Thursday matinee 29 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 Samara Downs
The Prince Yasuo Atsuji
Drosselmeyer, a magician Tom Rogers
Clara, a ballet student Laura Purkiss

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Gus Payne
Clara's Mother, a former ballerina Daria Stanculescu
Clara's Father Wolfgang Stollwitzer
Fritz, Clara's younger brother Harry Hincks
Clara's Dancing Partner Max Maslen
Grandmother Laura Day
Grandfather Kit Holder
Butler Harry Wright

Harlequin Aitor Galende
Columbine Rachele Pizzillo
Jack-in-the-Box Hamish Scott
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 Gus Payne
The Rat King Tom Rogers
Soldiers Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Brooke Ray
Her Attendants Arancha Baselga, Karla Doorbar, Maureya Lebowitz, Miki Mizutani
Winds August Generali, Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan, Harry Wright
Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance Maureya Lebowitz, Max Maslen, Valentin Olovyannikov
Arabian Dance Alys Shee, Brandon Lawrence, Lennert Steegen, Harry Wright
Chinese Dance Aitor Galende, Gus Payne
Russian Dance Matthew Bates, Callum Findlay White, Lachlan Monaghan
Dance of the Mirlitons Karla Doorbar, Rachele Pizzillo, Emma Price, Yuki Sugiura

Waltz of the Flowers
The Rose Fairy Miki Mizutani
Her Consorts Gabriel Anderson, Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver
Leading Flowers Arancha Baselga, Brooke Ray, Daria Stanculescu, Lynsey Sutherland
Grand pas de deux Samara Downs, Yasuo Atsuji

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 4.10pm

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 until midday 4 December, so please support us if you can. Thank you. brb.org.uk/biggive

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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