



**BIRMINGHAM  
ROYAL BALLET**

*Director David Bintley CBE*

Friday matinee 29 December 2017, 2pm



**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>	<b>Céline Gittens</b>
<i>The Prince</i>	<b>Brandon Lawrence</b>
<i>Drosselmeyer, Clara's Godfather</i>	<b>Valentin Olovyannikov</b>
<i>Clara</i>	<b>Arancha Baselga</b>

## ACT I

<i>Drosselmeyer's Assistant</i>	<b>Tzu-Chao Chou</b>
<i>Clara's Mother</i>	<b>Yvette Knight</b>
<i>Clara's Father</i>	<b>Jonathan Payn</b>
<i>Fritz, Clara's younger brother</i>	<b>Archie Mathias</b>
<i>Clara's Dancing Partner</i>	<b>Max Maslen</b>
<i>Grandmother</i>	<b>Ruth Brill</b>
<i>Grandfather</i>	<b>Feergus Campbell</b>
<i>Butler</i>	<b>Harry Wright</b>
<i>Harlequin</i>	<b>Gus Payne</b>
<i>Columbine</i>	<b>Reina Fuchigami</b>
<i>Jack-in-the-Box</i>	<b>Lachlan Monaghan</b>
<i>Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants</i>	<b>Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet</b>

<i>The Nutcracker Doll</i>	<b>Tzu-Chao Chou</b>
<i>The Rat King</i>	<b>Tom Rogers</b>
<i>Soldiers</i>	<b>Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet</b>
<i>Rats</i>	<b>Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet</b>

<i>The Snow Fairy</i>	<b>Delia Mathews</b>
<i>Her Attendants</i>	<b>Brooke Ray, Yaoqian Shang, Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang</b>
<i>Winds</i>	<b>Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver, Edivaldo Souza da Silva</b>
<i>Snowflakes</i>	<b>Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet</b>

**INTERVAL**

## ACT II

<b>Spanish Dance</b>	<b>Jade Heusen, Tim Dutson, Brogan McKelvey</b>
<b>Arabian Dance</b>	<b>Daria Stanciulescu, Yasuo Atsuji, Edivaldo Souza da Silva, Harry Wright</b>
<b>Chinese Dance</b>	<b>Kit Holder, Gus Payne</b>
<b>Russian Dance</b>	<b>Aitor Galende, Hamish Scott, Aaron Venegas</b>
<b>Dance of the Mirlitons</b>	<b>Rosanna Ely, Miki Mizutani, Rachele Pizzillo, Yaoqian Shang</b>
<b>Waltz of the Flowers</b>	
<b>The Rose Fairy</b>	<b>Beatrice Parma</b>
<b>Her Consorts</b>	<b>Tzu-Chao Chou, Haoliang Feng, Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan</b>
<b>Leading Flowers</b>	<b>Ruth Brill, Karla Doorbar, Reina Fuchigami, Maureya Lebowitz</b>
<b>Grand pas de deux</b>	<b>Céline Gittens, Brandon Lawrence</b>

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  
Abigail Bloomfield, Meesha Garbett, Lola Hartley-Drewe, Chloë Nataf-Pesonen, Ayan Hull Jurkovic, Edward Neill, Denis Teixeira, Callum Thurlow

*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 4.10pm*

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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?