

Saturday 29 December 2018, 7pm

THE NUTCRACKER*Choreography* Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon; *Music* Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;*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 Aitkenwith **Simon Callow** as the *Voice of Drosselmeyer*

<i>The Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	Delia Mathews
<i>The Prince</i>	Tyrone Singleton
<i>Drosselmeyer, Clara's Godfather</i>	Valentin Olovyannikov
<i>Clara</i>	Beatrice Parma

ACT I

<i>Drosselmeyer's Assistant</i>	Aitor Galende
<i>Clara's Mother</i>	Daria Stanciulescu
<i>Clara's Father</i>	Tom Rogers
<i>Fritz, Clara's younger brother</i>	Joseph Burdett
<i>Clara's Dancing Partner</i>	Max Maslen
<i>Grandmother</i>	Marion Tait
<i>Grandfather</i>	Rory Mackay
<i>Butler</i>	Harry Wright
<i>Harlequin</i>	Hamish Scott
<i>Columbine</i>	Rachele Pizzillo
<i>Jack-in-the-Box</i>	Lachlan Monaghan
<i>Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>The Nutcracker Doll</i>	Aitor Galende
<i>The Rat King</i>	Miles Gilliver
<i>Soldiers</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Rats</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>The Snow Fairy</i>	Yijing Zhang
<i>Her Attendants</i>	Karla Doorbar, Maureya Lebowitz, Miki Mizutani, Lynsey Sutherland
<i>Winds</i>	Gabriel Anderson, Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Alexander Yap
<i>Snowflakes</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance	Ruth Brill, James Barton, Kit Holder
Arabian Dance	Yijing Zhang, Tom Rogers, Lennert Steegen, Harry Wright
Chinese Dance	Aitor Galende, Gus Payne
Russian Dance	Matthew Bates, Lachlan Monaghan, Joseph Taylor
Dance of the Mirlitons	Rosanna Ely, Yu Kurihara, Emma Price, Lynsey Sutherland

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy	Yaoqian Shang
Her Consorts	Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver, Alexander Yap
Leading Flowers	Rachele Pizzillo, Laura Purkiss, Brooke Ray, Daria Stanculescu
Grand pas de deux	Delia Matthews, Tyrone Singleton

Students on the Robin Cadbury Studentship programme appear by kind permission of the Director of the Royal Ballet School and the Director of English National 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 children in this performance are

Lola-Leigh Buchanan, Oscar Court, Sasha Drobnyin-Lait, Kenzie Galea, Georgia Gunning, Logan James, Audrey Nataf-Pesonen, Denis Teixeira

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor Koen Kessels; *Leader* Kevin Lin



Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes; *Act II* 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 9.10pm

Share your experience: @BRB @RoyalAlbertHall #BRBNutcracker

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 their national dances culminating in the Waltz of the Flowers. Finally, the glittering Sugar Plum Fairy dances a sparkling *pas de deux* with the Nutcracker Prince.

Clara grows sleepy and the dolls slowly fade from her mind. Finding herself back at the foot of the Christmas tree alone she wonders, 'was it all a magical dream?'