

Saturday matinee 29 December 2018, 2pm

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>	Céline Gittens
<i>The Prince</i>	Brandon Lawrence
<i>Drosselmeyer, Clara's Godfather</i>	Rory Mackay
<i>Clara</i>	Aranca Baselga

ACT I

<i>Drosselmeyer's Assistant</i>	James Barton
<i>Clara's Mother</i>	Yvette Knight
<i>Clara's Father</i>	Jonathan Payn
<i>Fritz, Clara's younger brother</i>	Harry Hincks
<i>Clara's Dancing Partner</i>	Aitor Galende
<i>Grandmother</i>	Ruth Brill
<i>Grandfather</i>	Kit Holder
<i>Butler</i>	Harry Wright
<i>Harlequin</i>	Gus Payne
<i>Columbine</i>	Reina Fuchigami
<i>Jack-in-the-Box</i>	Max Maslen
<i>Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>The Nutcracker Doll</i>	James Barton
<i>The Rat King</i>	Tom Rogers
<i>Soldiers</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Rats</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>The Snow Fairy</i>	Alys Shee
<i>Her Attendants</i>	Maureya Lebowitz, Miki Mizutani, Laura Purkiss, Lynsey Sutherland
<i>Winds</i>	Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Harry Wright, Alexander Yap
<i>Snowflakes</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance	Laura Purkiss, Tim Dutson, Valentin Olovyannikov
Arabian Dance	Daria Stanciulescu, Miles Gilliver, Edivaldo Souza da Silva, Harry Wright
Chinese Dance	Louis Andreasen, August Generali
Russian Dance	Callum Findlay-White, Aitor Galende, Joseph Taylor
Dance of the Mirlitons	Rosanna Ely, Rachele Pizzillo, Yuki Sugiura, Lynsey Sutherland
Waltz of the Flowers	
The Rose Fairy	Beatrice Parma
Her Consorts	Gabriel Anderson, Tzu-Chao Chou, Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan
Leading Flowers	Ruth Brill, Reina Fuchigami, Maureya Lebowitz, Brooke Ray
Grand pas de deux	Céline Gittens, Brandon Lawrence

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
Alexander Aimet, Lily-Maire Le Blanc, Cohen Hart, Rin Miyoshi, Izabelle Pitt, Eli Warmington, Isla Washbourne, Harry Withers

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 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 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?'