



**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**

Director David Bintley CBE

**H BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME**

Thursday matinee 30 November 2017

Sir Peter Wright's production of

The Nutcracker

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;

Choreography Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon;

Designs John F. Macfarlane; *Lighting* David A. Finn

<i>The Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	Yvette Knight
<i>The Prince</i>	Yasuo Atsuji
<i>Drosselmeyer, a magician</i>	Tom Rogers
<i>Clara, a ballet student</i>	Miki Mizutani

ACT I

<i>The Magician's Assistant</i>	Max Maslen
<i>Clara's Mother, a former ballerina</i>	Delia Mathews
<i>Clara's Father</i>	Jonathan Payn
<i>Fritz, Clara's younger brother</i>	Archie Mathias
<i>Clara's Dancing Partner</i>	Lachlan Monaghan
<i>Grandmother</i>	Marion Tait
<i>Grandfather</i>	Kit Holder
<i>Butler</i>	Harry Wright
<i>Harlequin</i>	Aitor Galende
<i>Columbine</i>	Ruth Brill
<i>Jack-in-the-Box</i>	Hamish Scott
<i>Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Children</i>	Junior Associates of the Royal Ballet School, Students and Birmingham Associates of Elmhurst Ballet School
<i>The Nutcracker Doll</i>	Max Maslen
<i>King Rat</i>	Valentin Olovyannikov
<i>Soldiers</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Rats</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>The Snow Fairy</i>	Brooke Ray
<i>Her Attendants</i>	Karla Doorbar, Reina Fuchigami, Maureya Lebowitz, Yaoqian Shang
<i>Winds</i>	Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver, Edivaldo Souza da Silva
<i>Snowflakes</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET GIFTS

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THE NUTCRACKER 2018

23 November – 13 December

Ensure next year's Christmas gets off to a cracking start

Booking open now

ACT II

<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Jade Heusen, Tim Dutson, Valentin Olovyanikov
<i>Arabian Dance</i>	Alys Shee, Feargus Campbell, Miles Gilliver, Edivaldo Souza da Silva
<i>Chinese Dance</i>	Kit Holder, Gus Payne
<i>Russian Dance</i>	Laurence Elliott, Aitor Galende, Hamish Scott
<i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i>	Karla Doorbar, Rosanna Ely, Rachele Pizzillo, Yaoqian Shang

Waltz of the Flowers

<i>The Rose Fairy</i>	Beatrice Parma
<i>Her Consorts</i>	Haoliang Feng, Max Maslen, Brogan McKelvey, Lachlan Monaghan
<i>Leading Flowers</i>	Ruth Brill, Reina Fuchigami, Maureya Lebowitz, Brooke Ray
<i>Grand pas de deux</i>	Yvette Knight, 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 and the Cecil King Memorial Foundation Studentship 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 Koen Kessels; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



Approximate timings

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

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