



**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**

Director David Bintley CBE

Saturday 30 December 2017, 7pm



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

ACT I

<i>Drosselmeyer's Assistant</i>	Tzu-Chao Chou
<i>Clara's Mother</i>	Yvette Knight
<i>Clara's Father</i>	Jonathan Payn
<i>Fritz, Clara's younger brother</i>	Archie Mathias
<i>Clara's Dancing Partner</i>	Max Maslen
<i>Grandmother</i>	Ruth Brill
<i>Grandfather</i>	Feergus Campbell
<i>Butler</i>	Harry Wright
<i>Harlequin</i>	Gus Payne
<i>Columbine</i>	Reina Fuchigami
<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>	Tzu-Chao Chou
<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>	Delia Mathews
<i>Her Attendants</i>	Brooke Ray, Yaoqian Shang, Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang
<i>Winds</i>	Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver, Edivaldo Souza da Silva
<i>Snowflakes</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance	Jade Heusen, Tim Dutson, Brogan McKelvey
Arabian Dance	Daria Stanciulescu, Yasuo Atsuji, Edivaldo Souza da Silva, Harry Wright
Chinese Dance	Kit Holder, Gus Payne
Russian Dance	Laurence Elliott, Aitor Galende, Hamish Scott
Dance of the Mirlitons	Laura Day, Rosanna Ely, Beatrice Parma, Rachele Pizzillo
Waltz of the Flowers	
The Rose Fairy	Yaoqian Shang
Her Consorts	Tzu-Chao Chou, Haoliang Feng, Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan
Leading Flowers	Ruth Brill, Karla Doorbar, Reina Fuchigami, Maureya Lebowitz
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.
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 9.10pm

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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?