



Royal Albert Hall

Monday matinee 31 December 2018, 12 noon

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

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 Aitken

with **Simon Callow** as the *Voice of Drosselmeyer*

The Sugar Plum Fairy Delia Mathews

The Prince Tyrone Singleton

Drosselmeyer, Clara's Godfather

Valentin Olovyanikov

Clara Beatrice Parma

ACT I

Drosselmeyer's Assistant Aitor Galende

Clara's Mother Daria Stanculescu

Clara's Father Tom Rogers

Fritz, Clara's younger brother Joseph Burdett

Clara's Dancing Partner Max Maslen

Grandmother Laura Purkiss

Grandfather Rory Mackay

Butler Harry Wright

Harlequin Hamish Scott

Columbine Rachele Pizzillo

Jack-in-the-Box Lachlan Monaghan

Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Nutcracker Doll Aitor Galende

The Rat King Miles Gilliver

Soldiers Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Yijing Zhang

Her Attendants

Karla Doorbar, Maureya Lebowitz,

Miki Mizutani, Lynsey Sutherland

Winds

Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng,

Harry Wright, Alexander Yap

Snowflakes

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 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 Drobynin-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 2.10pm

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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?'