



Wednesday 5 December 2018

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

THE NUTCRACKER

Choreography Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Designs John F. Macfarlane

Lighting David A. Finn

***The Sugar Plum Fairy* Samara Downs**

***The Prince* Yasuo Atsuji**

***Drosselmeyer, a magician* Rory Mackay**

***Clara, a ballet student* Laura Purkiss**

ACT I

***The Magician's Assistant* Lachlan Monaghan**

***Clara's Mother, a former ballerina* Yijing Zhang**

***Clara's Father* Tom Rogers**

***Fritz, Clara's younger brother* Joseph Burdett**

***Clara's Dancing Partner* Max Maslen**

***Grandmother* Marion Tait**

***Grandfather* Kit Holder**

***Butler* Harry Wright**

***Harlequin* Kit Holder**

***Columbine* Rosanna Ely**

***Jack-in-the-Box* Max Maslen**

***Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants* Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Children

Elmhurst Young Dancers and Junior Associates of the Royal Ballet School

***The Nutcracker Doll* Gus Payne**

***The Rat King* Brandon Lawrence**

***Soldiers* Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

***Rats* Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

***The Snow Fairy* Samara Downs**

Her Attendants

Brooke Ray, Alys Shee,

Daria Stanciulescu, Yijing Zhang

Winds

August Generali, Miles Gilliver,

Lachlan Monaghan, Harry Wright

Snowflakes

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance

Ruth Brill,

Tim Dutson, Valentin Olovyannikov

Arabian Dance

Delia Mathews,

Lennert Steegen, Harry Wright,

Alexander Yap

Chinese Dance

Louis Andreasen, August Generali

Russian Dance

Callum Findlay-White, Max Maslen,

Joseph Taylor

Dance of the Mirlitons

Rosanna Ely, Yu Kurihara,

Emma Price, Lynsey Sutherland

Waltz of the Flowers

***The Rose Fairy* Céline Gittens**

Her Consorts

Haoliang Feng, Brandon Lawrence,

Tom Rogers, Edivaldo Souza da Silva

Leading Flowers

Brooke Ray, Alys Shee,

Daria Stanciulescu, Yijing Zhang

Grand pas de deux

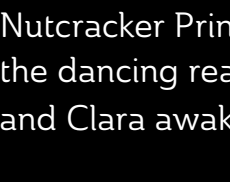
Samara Downs, Yasuo Atsuji

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 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 Philip Ellis

Leader Robert Gibbs



APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 20 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

This performance will end at approximately 9.40pm

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.