



**BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET**

Director David Bintley CBE

**H BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME**

Thursday 7 December 2017

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

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

**The Sugar Plum Fairy** Karla Doorbar

**The Prince** Tzu-Chao Chou

**Drosselmeyer, a magician** Yasuo Atsuji

**Clara, a ballet student** Laura Day

## ACT I

**The Magician's Assistant** Aitor Galende

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

Daria Stanculescu

**Clara's Father** Jonathan Payn

**Fritz, Clara's younger brother** Archie Mathias

**Clara's Dancing Partner** Lachlan Monaghan

**Grandmother** Ruth Brill

**Grandfather** Feargus Campbell

**Butler** Harry Wright

**Harlequin** Kit Holder

**Columbine** Rachele Pizzillo

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

**Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants**

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

**Children**

Junior Associates of the Royal Ballet School,

Students and Birmingham Associates of

Elmhurst Ballet School

**The Nutcracker Doll** Aitor Galende

**King Rat** Brandon Lawrence

**Soldiers** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

**Rats** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

**The Snow Fairy** Brooke Ray

**Her Attendants**

Reina Fuchigami, Jade Heusen

Miki Mizutani, Yijing Zhang

**Winds**

Tim Dutson, Brogan McKelvey,

Lachlan Monaghan, Gus Payne

**Snowflakes**

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

## INTERVAL

## ACT II

**Spanish Dance**

Jade Heusen,

Max Maslen, Brogan McKelvey

**Arabian Dance**

Yijing Zhang,

Gabriel Anderson, Miles Gilliver,

Brandon Lawrence

**Chinese Dance**

Aitor Galende, Gus Payne

**Russian Dance**

Laurence Elliott, Lachlan Monaghan, Hamish Scott

**Dance of the Mirlitons**

Reina Fuchigami, Maureya Lebowitz,

Beatrice Parma, Rachele Pizzillo

**Waltz of the Flowers**

**The Rose Fairy** Céline Gittens

**Her Consorts**

Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng,

Tom Rogers, Edivaldo Souza da Silva

**Leading Flowers**

Ruth Brill, Yvette Knight,

Brooke Ray, Alys Shee

**Grand pas de deux**

Karla Doorbar, Tzu-Chao Chou

*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 Jonathan Lo

Leader Robert Gibbs

### Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 25 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

The 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, unable to sleep, 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 NUTCRACKER 2018

23 November – 13 December

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

**Booking open now**

## BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET GIFTS

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## AN EVENING OF MUSIC & DANCE

Our acclaimed orchestra, the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, share the stage with our leading dancers for performances that include show-stopping *pas de deux* and other short excerpts from our repertory, alongside spectacular music

19 January: Symphony Hall, Birmingham

20 January: Royal & Derngate, Northampton