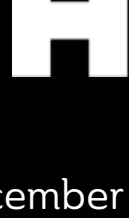




BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET



BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Friday 7 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* Céline Gittens**

***The Prince* Brandon Lawrence**

Drosselmeyer, a magician

Valentin Olovyannikov

***Clara, a ballet student* Arancha Baselga**

ACT I

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

Clara's Mother, a former ballerina

Yvette Knight

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

***Fritz, Clara's younger brother* Harry Hincks**

***Clara's Dancing Partner* Aitor Galende**

***Grandmother* Laura Day**

***Grandfather* Kit Holder**

***Butler* Gabriel Anderson**

***Harlequin* Max Maslen**

***Columbine* Beatrice Parma**

***Jack-in-the-Box* James Barton**

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* Lachlan Monaghan**

***The Rat King* Miles Gilliver**

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

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

***The Snow Fairy* Delia Mathews**

Her Attendants

Brooke Ray, Yaoqian Shang,

Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang

Winds

Gabriel Anderson, Tim Dutson,

Haoliang Feng, Alexander Yap

Snowflakes

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance

Rachele Pizzillo,

James Barton, Kit Holder

Arabian Dance

Yijing Zhang,

Tim Dutson, Tom Rogers,

Edivaldo Souza da Silva

Chinese Dance

Louis Andreasen, August Generalli

Russian Dance

Matthew Bates, Gus Payne, Joseph Taylor

Dance of the Mirlitons

Laura Day, Rosanna Ely,

Laura Purkiss, Lynsey Sutherland

Waltz of the Flowers

***The Rose Fairy* Momoko Hirata**

Her Consorts

Gabriel Anderson, Tzu-Chao Chou,

Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan

Leading Flowers

Ruth Brill, Maureya Lebowitz,

Brooke Ray, Alys Shee

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 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 20 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

This performance will end at approximately 9.10pm

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.