

Things to look out for...



● Who's who?



● Draw a picture of your favourite part of the ballet.

CREDITS

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon

Production Peter Wright

Designs John F. Macfarlane

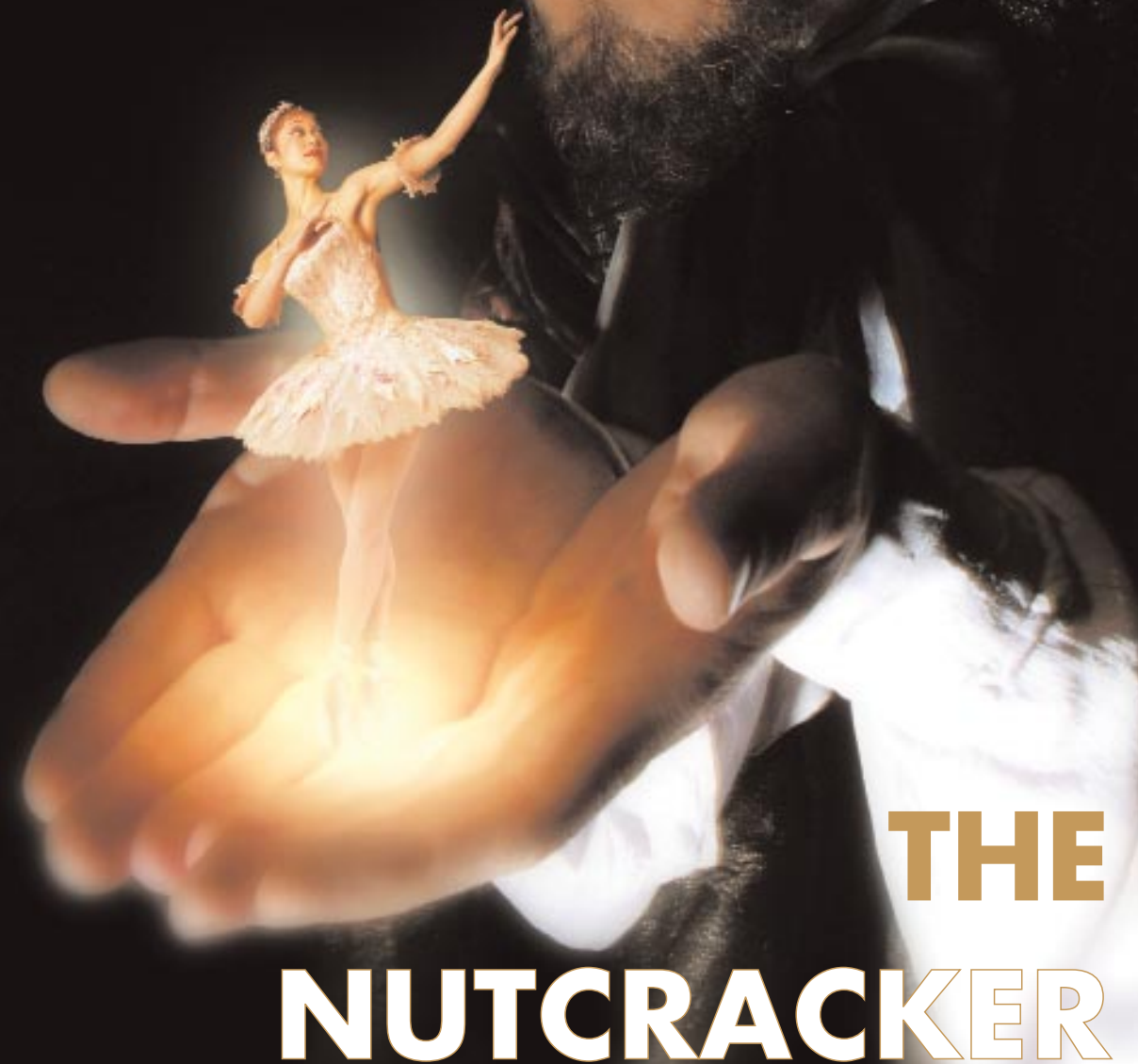
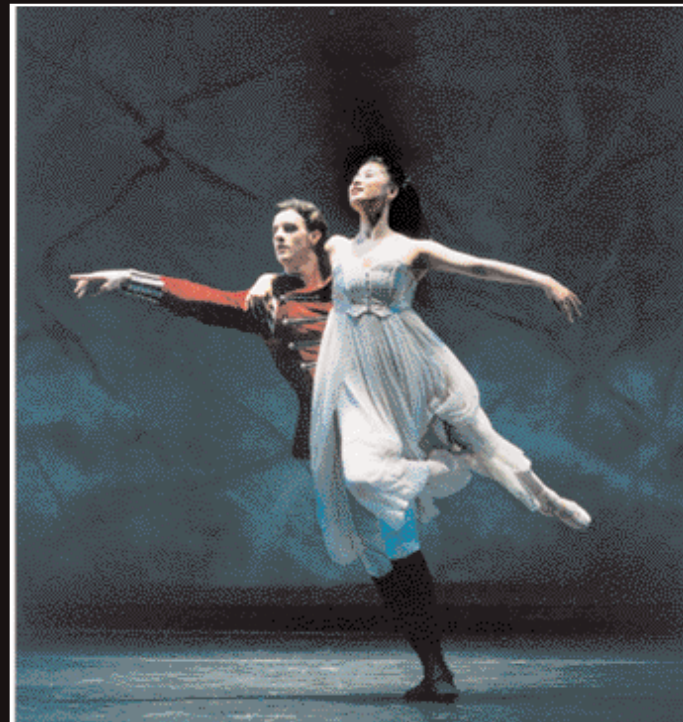
Lighting David A. Finn

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Photos: Bill Cooper

This storybook is designed to introduce children and adults to BRB's production of *The Nutcracker*



THE NUTCRACKER



The story...

ACT I

On Christmas Eve Clara, her brother Fritz and her parents get ready for a big party. They decorate the Christmas tree and put on their best clothes.

Clara is training to be a ballet dancer and all her friends are invited. As the guests arrive the family waits by the door to greet them. Adults bring presents and children run to find their friends. Grandma and Grandpa sit by the fire.

The last two guests arrive to much excitement they are the magician Drosselmeyer and his assistant. They go straight to the back of the house to get their show ready for the children.

The whole family and all the guests dance at the party. First Clara and her ballet dancer friends, then the adults led by Clara's mother. The children are next and even Grandma and Grandpa dance.



The magician is ready and he brings out some strange boxes; nobody knows what is inside. Out step two life-size wooden dolls that the magician makes dance. Then out springs a jack-in-the-box who jumps all over the house.

Drosselmeyer gives Clara her Christmas gift – a Nutcracker doll. The party is over and everyone goes to bed. Clara sneaks back downstairs to check on her Nutcracker.

The clock strikes midnight and some strange things begin to happen. Giant rats run across the stage and attack her. Clara either gets very small or all around her everything gets very big and the toy soldiers and Clara's Nutcracker come to life to save her.

The Nutcracker is about to lose the battle when Clara takes off her shoe and throws it at the King Rat to frighten him away.



Clara and her Nutcracker Prince, travel to the land of snow. They dance with the Snow Fairy and her Snowflakes.



ACT II

Clara flies through the clouds on the back of a beautiful white bird. She visits new worlds. Drosselmeyer is there and he shows her the sun, the moon, flowers and dancers from different worlds: Spain, Arabia, China and Russia.

The King Rat returns but in the daylight he is not so scary and the Nutcracker helps banish him forever. Drosselmeyer rewards Clara for her bravery in the battle by turning her into her dream ballerina the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Clara dances with her Nutcracker Prince. Their first movements are slow and grand. They then dance faster and leap high into the air. Clara whirls faster and faster and suddenly turns back into herself again.



The magic world melts away and Clara is back at home asleep. She wakes to find her Nutcracker beside her and wonders was it really just a dream.