



# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET



## BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Wednesday 28 November 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* Momoko Hirata**

***The Prince* César Morales**

**Drosselmeyer, a magician** Jonathan Payn

**Clara, a ballet student** Karla Doorbar

## ACT I

***The Magician's Assistant* James Barton**

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

***Clara's Father* Dominic Antonucci**

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

***Clara's Dancing Partner* Lachlan Monaghan**

***Grandmother* Marion Tait**

***Grandfather* Michael O'Hare**

***Butler* Gabriel Anderson**

***Harlequin* Kit Holder**

***Columbine* Maureya Lebowitz**

***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* James Barton**

***The Rat King* Valentin Olovyannikov**

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

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

***The Snow Fairy* Delia Mathews**

***Her Attendants* Brooke Ray, Alys Shee, Daria Stanciulescu, Yijing Zhang**

***Winds* Miles Gilliver, Tom Rogers, Edivaldo Souza da Silva, Alexander Yap**

***Snowflakes* Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

## INTERVAL

## ACT II

***Spanish Dance* Laura Purkiss, Gabriel Anderson, Tim Dutson**

***Arabian Dance* Daria Stanciulescu, Miles Gilliver, Lennert Steegen, Harry Wright**

***Chinese Dance* James Barton, Kit Holder**

***Russian Dance* Max Maslen, Callum Findlay-White, Joseph Taylor**

***Dance of the Mirlitons* Rosanna Ely, Beatrice Parma, Rachele Pizzillo, Yuki Sugiura**

***Waltz of the Flowers* The Rose Fairy Céline Gittens**

***Her Consorts* Haoliang Feng, Brandon Lawrence, Tom Rogers, Edivaldo Souza da Silva**

***Leading Flowers* Maureya Lebowitz, Brooke Ray, Alys Shee, Lynsey Sutherland**

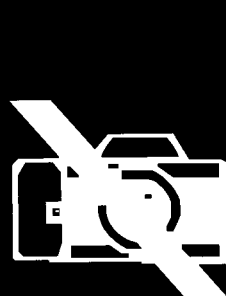
***Grand pas de deux* Momoko Hirata, César Morales**

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* Matthew Rowe

*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.

## THE BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

If you have enjoyed this performance, why not play your part in the refurbishment of *Nutcracker* costumes. Donations will be doubled from 27 November until midday 4 December, so please support us if you can. Thank you. [brb.org.uk/biggive](http://brb.org.uk/biggive)

[theBigGive.org.uk](http://theBigGive.org.uk)  
helping your donations go further

## TUNE IN ON THURSDAY EVENING...

In what could be a broadcasting first, The Commentators (characters of Stan's Cafe theatre company), will describe all the action of *Nutcracker* as it unfolds on stage on Thursday 29 November, as if they are watching a sporting event! Once the curtain goes up The Commentators, in their sheepskin coats and wielding lip-microphones, will be invisible and inaudible in the auditorium but at home, listeners will be treated to their valiant attempts to describe the famous spectacle. Listen at [stanscafe.co.uk](http://stanscafe.co.uk)

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