BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

PRESS RELEASE
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BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET'S BELOVED PRODUCTION RETURNS THIS CHRISTMAS

Sir Peter Wright's
THE NUTCRACKER

In an epic conclusion to celebrations marking the 100th birthday of **Birmingham Royal Ballet**'s Founding Director Laureate, **Sir Peter Wright,** one of ballet's most influential directors, the Company presents his acclaimed and beloved production of ***The Nutcracker***.

Returning to its home of Birmingham Hippodrome once again this Christmas, the production will run from 20 November to 12 December 2026 with tickets on sale now at brb.org.uk.

Created as a gift for Birmingham by Sir Peter Wright in 1990, the production remains widely regarded as one of the finest productions of *The Nutcracker* in the world. Beloved by generations, *The Nutcracker* features a sumptuous design by the acclaimed artist John Macfarlane and Tchaikovsky's glorious score, performed live by the 60-strong Royal Ballet Sinfonia. This timeless production boasts daring swordfights, falling snow, magic, and a 30-foot Christmas tree in a magical journey for all ages.

Birmingham Royal Ballet Director, **Carlos Acosta** said: *"As always, it is a pleasure to see* The Nutcracker *return to Birmingham Hippodrome, now in its 36th year since the production's world premiere here in the city.*

"Every year I delight in seeing generations come together to enjoy this magical production, some of them for the very first time and some in a long tradition of enjoying our glorious Nutcracker every festive season.

"This season is made even more special as we celebrate the 100th birthday years of our Founding Director Laureate, Sir Peter Wright. His production of The Nutcracker *is widely regarded as one of the finest in the world and can only be found in Birmingham this Christmas."*

Principal casting includes: Céline Gittens, Momoko Hirata, Yu Kurihara, Sofia Liñares, Miki Mizutani, Katherine Ochoa, Beatrice Parma, Yaoqian Shang and Lucy Waine in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy; Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Tzu-Chao Chou, Mathias Dingman, Haoliang Feng, Yasiel Hodelín, Riku Ito, Mason King, Max Maslen and Lachlan Monaghan in the role of The Prince; Olivia Chang Clarke, Rosanna Ely, Reina Fuchigami, Alisa Garkavenko, Maïlène Katoch, Sofia Liñares, Katherine Ochoa, Rachele Pizzillo and Sophie Walters in the role of Clara; Olivia Chang Clarke, Rosanna Ely, Reina Fuchigami, Alisa Garkavenko, Céline Gittens, Miki Mizutani, Beatrice Parma, Rachele Pizzillo, Lucy Waine, Yuki Sugiura and Amelia Thompson in the role of Rose Fairy. The Royal Ballet Sinfonia will be conducted by Giovanni Fanizza, Thomas Jung, Subin Kim, Paul Murphy and Yi Wei.

To check cast performance dates and for tickets visit brb.org.uk/Nutcracker.

Media Enquiries:

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Press tickets:

Press Night - Friday 20 November, Birmingham Hippodrome, 7.30pm
For press ticket requests please email louis@breadandbutterpr.uk

LISTINGS

Birmingham Royal Ballet
Sir Peter Wright's
The Nutcracker

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Choreography Sir Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon
Production Peter Wright
Designs John Macfarlane
Lighting David Finn

Birmingham Hippodrome
Friday 20 November – Saturday 12 December 2026

Audio-described performance and touch tour
Saturday 28 November, 2.30pm (touch tour 12.15pm)

Audio-described, signed, relaxed performance
Tuesday 1 December, 12.45pm

www.brb.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Birmingham Royal Ballet
Based at Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Royal Ballet is the United Kingdom's leading touring ballet company performing a range of traditional, classical and heritage ballets as well as ground-breaking new works with the aim of encouraging choreographers of the future. The Company's Director since January 2020 is the internationally renowned Carlos Acosta. Birmingham Royal Ballet standardly performs at Birmingham Hippodrome for approximately ten weeks of the year and the remainder of the year tours throughout the United Kingdom and overseas. On average, the Company performs over 100 shows a year nationally and internationally.

Birmingham Royal Ballet is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia is Birmingham Royal Ballet's permanent orchestra, it is also Britain's busiest ballet orchestra. The Sinfonia also plays frequently for The Royal Ballet and other leading ballet companies, including performances with Paris Opéra Ballet, New York City Ballet, Australian Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Kirov, Norwegian Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and La Scala Ballet**. www.brb.org.uk**